

Final Minutes: August 20, 2014 meeting of the

TWIN OAKS VALLEY COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

Roll Call and Advisory Role Statement

Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Present: Sandra Farrell (Chair), Gil Jemmott (Co-Vice Chair), Karen Binns (Co-Vice chair), Tom Kumura, Rob Peterson. Eric Chapman was out on military assignment.

Review of Minutes Farrell said she had not had time to finish the minutes and asked for someone to step forward and take on the role of Secretary. Gil Jemmott said he would help with the minutes.

Public Communications:

Kastari Rangan from Montrose said they have received copies of scoping letter for EIR to be prepared by ADJ holdings on the North County Resources project. He said the community is very concerned about this project and wanted to keep the Sponsor Group informed on what they communicate with the county. Farrell responded that communications and sending documents via email is fine and if the community could attend Sponsor Group meetings and provide updates.

Byron Marler expressed his concerns about ADJ holdings on North County Resources project and said the public scoping meeting for the project could be held Sept. 24

Nancie Froning a resident asked if the Sponsor Group had received copies of the scoping letter and associated documents and Kumura said they had not been mailed to the Sponsor Group. Nancie said she would email those documents to the group.

Presentations and Announcements:

Fire Protection: San Marcos Fire Chief Brett Van Wey and Tony Mecham, Fire Chief for Calfire, San Diego County and under contract for Deer Springs Fire Protection District addressed the concerns of the public. Van Wey said preparation was the key to a successful outcome in a wildfire incident as they had in the Coco's fire. The district is 27 square miles with four fire stations. They share resources with other fire districts. Proper clearance around the home is critical. He said during the May fires they had some of the lowest relative humidity ever recorded. They prioritize by life, property, and environment. He said the fire department is staffed only with what they can handle on a daily basis in terms of response. Van Wey said 2/3rds of the department's budget went to public safety.

Van Wey said in California we tend to cut the top of hills off and put houses on them making them vulnerable to fire which tends to burn rapidly uphill. In Coronado Hills they used convict fire crews to clear exit routes just prior to the Coco's fire. Van Wey stressed the importance of having defensible space. Use non-combustible materials in construction where possible. He also recommended people close their windows and blinds when leaving their homes and during a wildfire, to remove any flammable window coverings which could ignite inside the house. He also said healthy trees; even pines are fine as long as they are cleared up from the ground 10 feet, so fire cannot travel up from the ground and into the crown of the tree.

Van Wey said residents have to be self-sufficient for the first 48 to 72 hours in a major fire emergency. If asked to evacuate do so right away and have an emergency plan in place. He encouraged people to know where they could go with their family and encouraged people to take food and water with them since evacuation sites may take a while to set up and may become full.

Van Wey said that when people refuse to evacuate when ordered, it slows down evacuation efforts, and firefighting efforts and puts people and fire fighters at risk. He said in a major fire exit routes can become congested and people may have trouble getting out. In San Elijo for instance, he said, the fire plan shows there is a one to two hour delay if one of the roads out of the area is cut off. He felt the project could have been better designed but the fire department is looking at better ways to manage traffic to evacuate the area. Van Wey said that in the May fire, because there was also a fire in Carlsbad, it was difficult to evacuate people in San Elijo by using Rancho Santa Fe as an exit road because one direction took people into the other fire area.

A resident complained about an open space easement for the protection of California Sage through his property less than 100 feet from his house. He asked if the fire department could help remove the easement. Van Wey said no because state and federal laws may be protecting the habitat but they will make their best effort to help in those situations. He said that they are working on plans for the different areas like Twin Oaks and would like to have dozer lines to create fire breaks through wildlands areas. Fire Chief Mecham said recent changes in the public resources code now require 100 foot clearance from a structure even if it means clearing a portion on an adjacent property. He said this change gives them authority to require clearing on an adjacent property or easement if not doing so is a threat to an adjacent residence. Farrell recommended calling the County and getting their advice on how to handle clearing of habitat easements. She said she had a similar challenge and managed the wildlands by thinning and cutting back the plants once they have dried out. This allowed her to leave the root system in place which prevented erosion and preserved the plant. She felt this solution was less costly and had fewer problems than using a dozer to clear areas.

Another resident raised concerns of what will happen when a fire is in the Deer Springs road area. Wey responded that the fire department works with other agencies that had been trained to handle disasters such as staff from local schools as well as the police, to be able to evacuate areas effectively.

Kumura asked about using foam and gel. Mecham responded that they are good but depend upon someone being there to apply them at the time they are needed. The biggest thing you can do, he said, is to have proper brush clearing around your home. Mecham said they will be hiring people to work with San Diego County Planning to review projects to weigh in on fire protection issues of proposed projects.

Allen Binns noted that Wey had criticized the layout of the San Elijo development regarding fire protection and asked who signed off on the project and the fire protection plan. Wey replied, he wasn't there at the time but he knew the Fire Chief then did weigh in. Van Wey said the Fire Department provides input all the time but they are dealing with a lot of development in San Marcos and the developers want what they want. Van Wey said the Fire Marshall works hard to make sure the consolidated and strict County Codes are in place on new development projects. Mr. Binns expressed problems with developments that were too dense in rural areas, where there is limited access to exit roads. He said insufficient parking in large development left streets filled with cars He was concerned that during a major fire event people will panic and also that "shelter in place" won't work. Mr. Binns said the developers should be made to put in enough parking and streets should have a no parking policy so if there is a major fire event there is enough space to get people out as well as get emergency people in. Wey responded Binns concern came with every new project which is why the Fire Department required a minimum of 24 feet for streets. But, Van Wey said some BMPs and design of new center roadway mediums are problematic and he and the Fire Marshall are making sure there is a sound fire plan in place.

Big, dense, developments in rural areas Mr. Binns said, endanger other nearby older developments because they add to street congestion and other residents may not be able to get out. Wey said he understood. Mr. Binns said he appreciated Wey being there and new blood and new thinking was a welcome change.

Update San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Drought Status: Gina Molise of SDCWA reported the desalination plant in Carlsbad was on schedule and looks like it will be online by fall of next year (2015). She also said the relining of the pipelines that carry the water from the desalination plant in Carlsbad to the Twin Oaks Valley Treatment plant will be completed by spring of next year.

Teresa Penunuri, Public Affairs Supervisor, from San Diego County Water Authority covered the second stage of the drought measures and said the recent rains didn't do much to help with the drought. She emphasized it had been one of the worst droughts in California on record. In addition, our area had some of the highest temperatures recorded. Storage was low, dropping all over California and in the southwest. Teresa said there was enough water for this year and there would always be enough water for health and safety but now is the time people had to get serious about conservation. She said they would leave behind materials for fire wise/water wise landscapes. Teresa said that 80% of the state is in an exceptional drought—where the ground is so dry it is not taking moisture. 80% of our water is imported and what we really need to see is snow to build up the snowpack. She emphasized that the May measurement of snowpack showed only 7% water content from normal, and she showed lakes in northern California that are almost dry and people on well water are being told to truck water in.

Teresa reported the standard restrictions in place by water agencies throughout most of San Diego reflect the conservation methods needed to meet the mandatory restrictions that were implemented Statewide last month. Farrell said she received a notice from Vista Irrigation District saying it was a mandatory restriction and watering was limited to 10 minutes a station. She said for those of the community in agriculture who already have drip systems in place 10 minutes wouldn't keep the trees alive. Farrell said these restrictions really hurt local farmers who depend upon their crops to supplement their retirement income. Tom Humphrey, an avocado farmer and his wife Sue who are both retired, agreed. Teresa replied that people in that situation should call the water district and see if there are special regulations for agriculture.

Teresa said if residents were metered as a home and not as agricultural, they would need to change to meet the restrictions and get creative. She recommended watering five minutes and then going back awhile later and watering another five minutes. Farrell replied that it was not a workable option. She said since water rates had doubled in the past few years and most everyone has already taken all the water conservation measures possible just because of the cost. She said she had taken out all but one small area of lawn, and now reserved watering for fruit trees—just trying to keep them alive!

Another resident who has over 600 acres in production, including avocados and organic crops asked how we were supposed to handle the restrictions. She didn't understand why she was being told to stop using the water she needs to stay in business and keep her farm going while Vallecitos Water District is telling large developments that there is plenty of water for 3,000 homes in the Merriam Mountains. She wants someone to explain this. Teresa responded that she didn't understand and was not familiar with Vallecitos policies. Teresa said that depending upon how a District is run, by a county or a city, the jurisdiction running the water district would make decisions on what development was approved. The Water Authority's duty is not to sign off on development but to make sure the water is available when it is approved. Teresa said that the SD County Water Authority purpose was to provide input on how to scale back in a drought. She encouraged people to use the free programs to have your property evaluated. Under the Pay For Performance Program the Water District will pay you if you make certain changes.

K. Binns asked why they didn't use the County and City General Plans to determine if there is enough water for development and by just saying they will provide water they are placing other people at risk. She reported how in her neighborhood people had stopped watering landscape and it was all dying, creating a fire risk.

Rob Peterson said he wondered why all the agencies didn't just follow the County General Plan. He felt water agencies should not approve development until they knew there would be enough water. Several residents felt they

were being asked to cut back and let their farms, back yard gardens, and landscape die so that large projects could be approved.

Mike Hunsaker, who said he had attended Vallecitos Water District meetings, said that he learned that water from desalination for rate stabilization, however he felt it is being used to supply water for other purposes. Hunsaker felt the projections of water are not based on reality since none of the Water Plans covered the agricultural use of water in our area. He learned from the water district meetings that the San Diego Area is due for a 100 year drought after the last 100 years being the wettest on record.

A resident asked for an explanation of what Stage 3 would be. Teresa responded that if the drought continued each Water District decides how they wanted to address the situation. They could limit water meters which cut down on development. Teresa said Water Districts had to walk a fine line because cities need new development to generate income and give the next generation a place to live so they couldn't stop building. Teresa said SDCWA had a long term plan to look at water reuse, but water prices will increase. She said San Diego County was in competition not only with additional people moving to the area but also with other cities and other states for "our water supply".

Teresa stressed the need to eliminate waste and become water efficient. Kumura asked what would get us into drought critical. Teresa responded that if we get to the point where reservoir levels dropped quickly, then more measures would need to be taken but right now there was enough water for this year. Kumura asked about aquifer storage. Teresa replied that the county only received about 5% of water from aquifers. But what is happening with underground water aquifers? Teresa said they had a lot of rebates available for outside landscape modifications including turf replacement at \$3.50 sq foot. She recommended using a hose nozzle to wash a car, to stop watering during the day, and to check sprinkler systems to eliminate waste.

Options to Promote Beekeeping Operations: Update by County on new proposed setback distances for beekeeping. Dr David Kellum, entomologist and also a member of the SD beekeeping society gave a presentation as said their goal was to promote and protect beekeeping in SD County. Current ordinance adopted in 1964 was for commercial beekeeping but many are now in residential areas. SD allow 2 colonies on property 15 feet from property line. They are working to create a tiered ordinance for managing beekeeping. Sponsor group members and residents of the community responded positively to the presentation and Farrell asked if Kellum needed a vote by the group. Kellum said no, their purpose was to keep the community up to date.

Sunset Review of Twin Oaks Valley Community Sponsor Group: County is requesting recommendations for continuance, deletion or revision of the Sponsor Group. Farrell asked for help to prepare a response. Binns said she would write a response and give it to Farrell by the next meeting.

GROUP BUSINESS

Farrell reported that thanks to Binns work, we found out that Eric Antman was approved by the Board of Supervisors.
Meeting adjourned at 9pm
Farrell adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Farrell, Acting Secretary