

Valley Center Community Planning Group

Approved Minutes for a regular meeting held on **September 8, 2025** at 7:00 p.m. in the Valley Center Community Hall, 28246 Lilac Road, Valley Center, California 92082.

Dori Rattray, **Chair**; Lisa Adams, **Vice-Chair**; James Garritson, **Secretary**

A=Absent; **Ab**=Abstention; **DRB**=Valley Center Design Review Board; **N**=Nay; **P**=Present; **R**=Recused; **VCCPG**=Valley Center Community Planning Group; **VCPRD**=Valley Center Parks & Recreation District; **Y**=Yea

Zoom Link: Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8641906365?pwd=cQx1luZiawbph9bFa6DGVxP27l7bGt.1&omn=81077738529>

A. Roll Call

- The Meeting was called to order at **7:00 p.m.** and a Quorum was established with **13 members present**. Michelle Bothof attended via Zoom. Ms. Fajardo arrived at 7:05 p.m. and Mrs. ChavezHarmes arrived at 7:10 p.m.
- Lisa Adams - **P**
- Chris Barber - **P**
- Michelle Bothof - **P***
- Delores ChavezHarmes-**P***
- Vlad Ciupitu - **P**
- Susan Fajardo - **P***
- James Garritson - **P**
- Mary Hodson - **P**
- Steve Hutchison - **P**
- Karen Lieber - **P**
- ~~Bob Littlejohn~~ - **A**
- ~~Matt Matthews~~ - **A**
- LaVonne Norwood - **P**
- Dori Rattray - **P**
- Tom Stinson - **P**

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Adams

C. Approval of August 11, 2025 Minutes

- The Planning Group will vote on the August 11, 2025 Minutes at the October 13, 2025 meeting.

D. Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda.

1. Mobility Update, Michael Kenny, Traffic Engineer, SD County, Department of Public Works

- Michael Kenny provided an update about the red light pilot program that will be operational on September 16. The controller manufacturer will report back at a future meeting.
- The traffic signal at the intersection of Valley Center Rd and Lilac Rd has not gone to a flashing light since August 7, 2025. There was a software issue. The speed limit was reduced at Old Castle Rd from 45 MPH to 40 MPH. The flashing beacons that operate at the school site work year-round.
- Mr. Hutchison asked a question about the speed limits at Old Castle and Lilac Rd. The County identifies roads where they can establish a lower speed limit. There was discussion about the enforcement of these lower speed limits in some areas.

- Mr. Barber asked Michael Kenny a number of mobility questions. Information was provided about guardrails, u-turns, and crosswalks.
- Mrs. ChavezHarmes shared that a number of residents would like reductions in the speed limit on Lilac Rd.
- Mr. Garritson asked how the County will prevent future traffic delays along Lilac Rd and Woods Valley Rd when a traffic signal is not working in the future.
- Eddie Lane (audience) asked a question related to dark skies ordinances. He would like the County to address the temperature and shielding of traffic lights. The County differentiates safety lights and street lights. Michael Kenny agreed to meet with Eddie Lane and discuss the lighting glare, position, shielding, and other concerns.

2. Building Code Update & Electric Vehicle Charge Program: 2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation, Meghan Kelly & Chad Spoon, San Diego County, Sustainability Planning

- Chad Spoon introduced Meghan Kelly and presented slides via Zoom. He shared information about the Climate Action Plan. This was adopted in September 2024. There are 21 measures and 70 actions. The County desires to advance equity-based outcomes. Two initiatives include Green Building Incentives and Public Electric Vehicle Charging. The County code will be brought up to date with the State codes.
- The goal is to expand incentive options for green building practices. The timeline of the building code is in Phase I. Phase II begins in the Fall and focuses on Refinement. Phase III begins in early 2026 and focuses on Adoption.
- Public electric vehicle charging stations is a two-year pilot program that will allow privately owned properties to provide EV charging. A key objective is to make this an equity-focused program by providing certain communities a higher rebate program.
- Mr. Garritson asked how the community of Valley Center will benefit from equity programs. He wanted to know how much the County is investing into these programs.
- Mr. Hutchison asked a question about the implementation of these programs in cities throughout the County.
- Chair Rattray asked a question about the types of fire-hardening programs that the County will bring to Valley Center.
- Kathleen Lippit (Zoom) pointed out that the program seems to use outdated models and ignores a lot of current data about the failure of net-zero programs.
- Mr. Barber asked a question about how EV charging stations will work. Does the County have any intent on placing stations at tribal locations? Tribal communities are outside of County jurisdiction.
- Ms. Norwood asked a question related to the maintenance of the EV chargers. The program will require that chargers are available at certain times of the day.

3. Community Update, Laurie Gonzales, Counsel Member, Rincon Band of Luiséno Indians

- Chair Rattray introduced Laurie Gonzales. The Rincon Fire Department receives more calls from Valley Center and Pauma Valley than their own reservation. The tribe has added two new water storage tanks that will provide an additional 250,000 gallons of water.
- Mr. Garritson asked about EV charging stations that are currently located on tribal property.

E. Action items (VCCPG advisory vote may be taken on the following items)

1. Old Castle Road Bicycle Lanes Project, Cynthia Curtis, Project Manager, SD County, Capital Improvements Projects (VOTE) [APPENDIX]

- **Motion: To OPPOSE the Old Castle Road Bicycle Lanes Project.**
 - **Maker/Second:** ChavezHarmes/Garritson
 - **Motion CARRIES 9-4-0 (Y-N-Ab)**
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Lisa Adams - N | • Susan Fajardo - Y | • Bob Littlejohn - A |
| • Chris Barber - N | • James Garritson - Y | • Matt Matthews - A |
| • Michelle Bothof - Y | • Mary Hodson - N | • LaVonne Norwood - Y |
| • Delores ChavezHarmes-Y | • Steve Hutchison - N | • Dori Rattray - Y |
| • Vlad Ciupitu - Y | • Karen Lieber - Y | • Tom Stinson - Y |
-
- Cynthia Curtis delivered a presentation about the large bicycle lane gap between Cedar Trails Rd and Costalota Rd. It would add additional pavement to the edge of the roadbed. She shared images of proposed designs. The operational budget is \$1,371,000. The bid and award phase is sometime in the Spring 2026. Construction would begin in the Summer 2026.
 - The Advisory Board Statement requested the approval of this project. Mrs. ChavezHarmes asked a question related to the two separate projects. The water district would work on their project after the completion of the County project.
 - Mr. Barber asked if the residents in this area were notified about this project. Mr. Hutchison asked if there are plans to extend this bicycle lane up the grade. Ms. Norwood asked if the County currently has easements to expand this roadway.
 - Mr. Stinson asked about the number of cyclists who currently use Lilac Road. There was a lot of discussion about building class II bicycle lanes along this short stretch of road.
 - Mr. Hutchison shared that the community of Valley Center should consider how the government works when funding road projects.
 - Mr. Barber shared that Old Castle is a poor road, but he thinks it might be a first step.
 - Mrs. ChavezHarmes shared that this plan does not make sense. Chair Rattray asked about the greenhouse gas goals. These proposed bicycle lanes are a part of the Climate Action Plan.
 - Kathleen Lippitt (audience) shared that this project is not consistent with the needs of our community. Mr. Stinson shared that these bicycle lanes go from nowhere to nowhere.

2. Public Comment Rancho Lilac Resource Management Plan, Mary Hodson, Parks, Rec & Trails Subcommittee Chair (VOTE)

- **Motion: To approve the Rancho Lilac Resource Management Plan.**
- **Maker/Second:** Norwood/Hutchison
- **Motion CARRIES 13-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)**

- Ms. Hodson shared that since the draft went out, there was a small change to the space that needed to be provided for the equestrian community. Chair Rattray shared that one of her concerns was lighting fires.
- Mr. Garritson asked a question related to eliminating the use of e-bikes. This technology is evolving and he has concerns that the definition is too broad.
- Mr. Hutchison shared that the County has looked at a potential road from Cole Grade Rd to this location, but elevation issues and building a bridge are expenses that the County does not have the funds to provide.

3. Ratification of new subcommittee roles: Enhancement, Board of Supervisors, Water, Dori Rattray, Chair (VOTE)

- **Motion: To add additional subcommittee roles to the Valley Center Community Planning Group.**
- **Maker/Second:** ChavezHarmes/Barber
- **Motion CARRIES 13-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)**

- Chair Rattray shared that we should be looking at other parts of the County. She has asked for members to look into stepping into these subcommittee chair roles. Ms. Adams would like our Planning Group to actively look into upcoming County projects.
- There was discussion about the new subcommittee roles.

4. Project Summary Reports, a current list of all projects proposed for Valley Center, Dori Rattray, Chair

- Chair Rattray and subcommittee chairs provided updates about a number of projects. Mr. Ciupitu has a meeting scheduled at the VC County Library that will provide discussion between SDG&E and the County about water mitigation and safety concerns.
- Ms. Lieber shared that Chipotle is waiting for the Albertson's anchor store across the street before it will begin construction. There was discussion if Chipotle has worked with the DRB to get design approval.
- Becky Rapp (Zoom) encourages the Planning Group to attend Supervisor meetings or follow what agenda items are discussed at these meetings.

F. Subcommittee Reports

Association of Planning – Mr. Hutchison

- Mr. Hutchison shared that there was a lot of discussion about the expansion of San Diego International Airport. The County is looking to install European-style crosswalks.

Board of Supervisors - Ms. Norwood

- There was discussion about the installation of billboards. Ms. Norwood explained the three methods people can use when making comments to County Supervisors. Chair Rattray shared that the easiest method to make comments to the Board is through writing e-comments.

Cannabis – Dr. Matthews

- Chair Rattray shared that it is very important for the Planning Group to remain focused on cannabis issues throughout the County and State.

Community Plan Update - Ciupitu

- Mr. Ciupitu provided a brief update.

Enhancement – Ms. Lieber

- Ms. Lieber is the new chair of this subcommittee now that Ms. Norwood has taken over the Board of Supervisors subcommittee.

Design Review Board – Mrs. Bothoff

- No report.

Energy – Mr. Littlejohn

- No report.

Emergency Evacuation – Mrs. ChavezHarmes

- The next meeting is on October 30, 2025.

Government – Mr. Stinson

- Mr. Stinson provided a number of updates about bills that failed and bills that will probably pass and become state law. SB 255 will probably pass. SB 79 will override local zoning authority to determine land use near transit centers.
- Cities could be eventually forced to allow property owners the right to build seven story structures near transit centers.

Mobility – Mr. Barber

- A brief update was shared.

Nominations – Mrs. ChavezHarmes

- No update.

Parks, Rec & Trails – Mrs. Hodson

- There is an Open House at Butterfield Trails Ranch on October 11, 2025 that will plant trees at this new park.

Quarterly Chair CPG Update - Rattray

- This report was shared with the Project Summary Reports.

Revitalization – Mr. Barber

- Mr. Barber shared a brief update.

Tribal – Mrs. Rattray

- Chair Rattray invited Laurie Gonzales, Counsel Member of the Rincon Band of Luiséno Indians to present at the beginning of the meeting tonight.

Water - TBD

- No update.


G. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: **October 13, 2025 at 7 p.m.**
- **The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.**
- **Minutes were approved on October 13, 2025.**

James Garritson, Secretary

Appendix VCCPG September 8, 2025 Minutes

Old Castle Road Bicycle Lanes Project

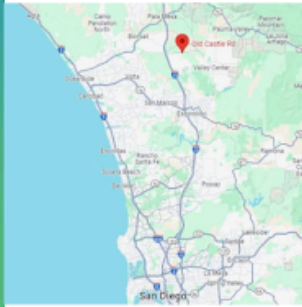
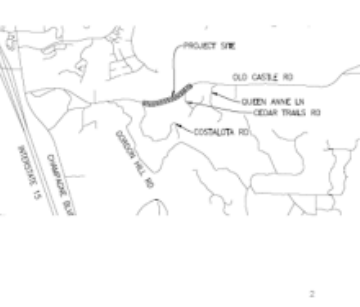


COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS


OLD CASTLE ROAD BICYCLE LANES PROJECT

Valley Center Community Planning Group
September 8, 2025
Presented by: Cynthia Curtis, County DPW

Project Location

Objective & Components



- New Class II bicycle lanes between Cedar Trails Rd & Costalota Rd
- Add pavement to edge of existing roadbed, new curb, resurface, restripe, and reconnect driveways.

Current Conditions



Proposed Rendering of Future Design



Project Funding & Schedule



FY 2025-26
Operational Plan Budget -
\$1,371,000

- Bid and Award – Spring 2026
- Construction Start – Summer 2026
- Construction Complete – Fall 2026

Advisory Board Statement

“On September 8, 2025, Department of Public Works staff met with the Valley Center Community Planning Group (VC CPG) to present the proposed project, and VC CPG voted # in favor, # opposed, # abstain, # absent and # vacant positions to recommend <Board of Supervisors> approval of the project.”



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD
A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
FOR OLD CASTLE ROAD BICYCLE LANES PROJECT
AND RELATED CEQA FINDINGS
(District: 5)**