

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2024, at Dehesa School (Cafeteria/Auditorium), 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA 92021.

A. ROLL CALL. Chair Ron Nehring called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Planning Group members Ulm, Nehring, Griffin, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Geiger and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Michael Rich and Christina Becker were absent, but excused. Seat 5, Seat 7, Seat 11, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Planning Group member Diana Griffin requested a correction of the misspelling of her name as “Griffen” in Item A of the minutes for the meeting of 10 September 2024, to the correct spelling as “Griffin.” The Planning Group voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of 10 September 2024, as so corrected. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Planning Group member Diana Griffin reported that a group of Crest residents are close to submitting a Fire Wise Community application for their homes.

Dehesa resident Paul Healy reported seeing a notice concerning a proposed Battery Farm Project on Sycuan Truck Trail in the Alpine Planning Area near the existing San Diego Gas and Electric Substation; and that the Alpine Planning Group has tabled action on this project to a future meeting, to get more information about potential problems associated with battery fires.

Planning Group member Ron Nehring mentioned his concerns arising from recent fires at two separate battery farm projects in the County, including the issues of difficulties in extinguishing these self-generating, thermal runaway events that create serious pollution problems; and that he thinks it makes sense for the Planning Group to address these issues, and to support the Alpine Planning Group efforts in this regard.

E. ACTION ITEMS. Discretionary projects, tasks, motions, proposals requiring a decision or vote.

E1. Amendments to standing rules. Member Tim Lucas provided everyone with a handout of the Group’s Standing Rules of Order, which included proposed changes to Sections 5.4, 5.7 and 5.8, pertaining to the election of Group officers and the filling of officer vacancies. He explained the proposed changes, and urged the Group to consider them for approval at the November meeting.

F. GROUP BUSINESS. Reports, updates, announcements, administrative, discussions.

F1. Announcements and Correspondence Received. Chair Nehring informed the Group of the need for it to consider the Policy I-1 rules covering the County’s payment

for allowable Group expenses, which will be an item on the agenda of the November meeting.

Chair Nehring reported that the County has set a deadline of 2 December 2024 for receiving the Group's input concerning proposed changes to Policy I-1 regarding County Sunset Clauses; and that these proposed changes also can be considered at the November meeting.

Chair Nehring reported that the County will not take actions to fill vacant Group seats during November and December; but that the Group can take action at its 18 November 2024 meeting to vote on its approval of recommending the appointment of applicant Paul Healy to fill the Group's vacant Seat 7.

Chair Nehring also reported that Planning Group member Michael Rich did not apply for re-election to Seat 1 in the upcoming General Election, so that now the appointment process path will need to be pursued for filling Seat 1.

F2. Discussion.

F2a. Dehesa November 2024 \$3.3M bond measure. Chair Nehring introduced Dehesa Elementary School District Supervisor, Mr. Bradley Johnson, and invited him to give a presentation to the Group explaining the proposed \$3.3 million General Obligation bond program (Measure "Y") which is included on the ballot of the upcoming General Election in November. The presentation included the school district's needs for upgrades and renovations of its facilities, current funding challenges, possible support from the Sycuan Tribe, and responses to questions from the Group concerning the District's previous bond measure project performances and debts, Dehesa School's capacity, and cooperation with the Sycuan Academy currently underway.

Chair Nehring concluded this discussion item by expressing thanks to Supervisor Johnson on behalf of the Group, for the District's support of hosting Planning Group meetings.

F2b. Legislative Update – Office of Supervisor Anderson. Chair Nehring introduced Alexis, intern representative from the Office of Supervisor Anderson, and invited her to give a presentation about Supervisor Anderson's recent legislative actions and accomplishments. She provided a handout, "2023 Legislative Actions & Accomplishments, Joel Anderson, Supervisor, District 2," to all; she talked to the Group and took questions about the various grant programs and internship program that he has supported; and that he is concerned about addressing the problems of homelessness, and the need to revise the existing legislation and ordinances to better control the community impacts of the homeless population.

F2c. Fire resolutions implementation. Chair Nehring reported on his meeting with Fire Agencies' representatives concerning steps needed to reduce the fire threats existing on the County's Stoneridge Preserve, noting that these conditions on the Preserve are recognized as a "tinderbox" and a potential "fuse" for setting Crest on fire; that there is recognition of the urgent need to reduce vegetative fuel loads on the Preserve, to create the possibility for greater fire fighting effectiveness there; that Suncrest Truck Trail cannot be made available for accommodating the traffic that would be necessary for

evacuating Crest in the event of a wildfire emergency, without securing the remaining voluntary easements needed from a couple of private property owners; and that it is an urgent priority to determine an alternative plan for making Suncrest Truck Trail available as an evacuation route without obtaining all needed voluntary easements.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin stated that she thought Supervisor Anderson could be helpful by becoming more involved in supporting the community's actions and efforts on fire emergency response planning, recognizing it as a more a serious issue of concern than homelessness for the community. Supervisor Anderson's intern Alexis agreed to provide this input from the community to him.

Group discussion included recognition that the County's Stoneridge Preserve includes sensitive habitat for the endangered California Gnatcatcher, so that the County's management regarding fire threats there must avoid disturbances during the birds' nesting season; that CalFire could conduct appropriate fuel reduction on the County's Stoneridge Preserve at no cost to the County when it is not nesting season; that the Crestridge Ecological Preserve is State Land, with similar sensitive habitat issues to be respected, while addressing fire threats there; and that the Crest Fire Safe Council has received a letter from Supervisor Anderson's office indicating that he is receptive to having discussions with the community concerning fire issues.

F2d. Discussion on steps to increase Planning Group public engagement. Chair Nehring initiated discussion about the importance of increasing community awareness of, and involvement in, the Planning Group's existence, in order to increase local public engagement with its activities related to Subregional community planning and development actions. Group discussion included: 1) challenges/problems associated with having the regular monthly public meeting move between three different locations (Dehesa, Crest and Harbison Canyon) during the calendar year, with the exclusion of having any meetings in Granite Hills; 2) the challenges/problems associated with providing appropriate public notifications for the meetings, beyond just using the existing roadside community bulletin boards in Crest and Harbison Canyon; 3) the possibilities/opportunities provided by utilizing the website established recently by Chair Nehring, as well as other social media such as NextDoor and FaceGroup, for creating greater contact with the Subregional communities; 4) the value of producing and promoting a 2025 Calendar of Future Planning Group Meeting Schedule with determined dates and locations; 5) the value of creating a specific Group website section devoted to advertising, and assisting the application process for filling, Planning Group vacant open seats; and 6) the value of inviting more persons to appear and give informational presentations on topics of community interest, as a routine part of the Planning Group's regular meeting agendas.

F2e. Recommended updates to County Policy I-1. See Agenda Item F1 above, paragraphs 1 and 2.

F2f. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 5, 7, 11, 13 and 14. No new applicants' applications to consider. See Agenda Item F1 above, paragraphs 3 and 4.

F2g. Status/reports – Association of Planning Groups. None to consider.

F2h. Community Plan update – progress report. None to consider.

F2i. 2025 Planning Group meeting schedule and venues. None to consider.

F3. Meeting updates.

F3a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings. None to consider.

F3b. Next meeting date, To Be Determined (TBD). Chair Nehring announced that the next regular meeting of the Group will be on Monday, 18 November 2024, at 6:30 PM at Dehesa School; and that Vice Chair Tim Lucas will chair it. At this meeting the Group needs to form a nominating committee for 2025 Group Officer elections, which will occur as an agenda action item at the regular meeting scheduled for 9 December 2024 at Dehesa School.

G. ADJOURNMENT. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved adjournment at 7:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)