

**CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON**  
**SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**  
**FINAL AGENDA - February 10, 2025**

**DATE:** February 10, 2025  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Crest Community Association Clubhouse  
 113 North Park Drive, El Cajon CA 92021

**A. ROLL CALL**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional)**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Meeting of January 13, 2025

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

An opportunity for members of the public and Planning Group to speak on items within the jurisdiction of the Planning Group and not on the agenda. Time limit 3 minutes. No group discussion, action, or vote.

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

1. Presentation by San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation and CalFire concerning hazardous condition and wildfire threat posed by Stoneridge County Preserve
  - a. Resolution Calling for Increased Fuel Reduction, Fire Breaks, Controlled Burns, plus CEQA reform to Mitigate Wildfire Risk in Rural San Diego County
2. Adoption of capital improvement and maintenance projects for county-maintained areas.

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

1. Announcements and Correspondence Received.
2. Discussion
  - a. Presentation concerning Firewise USA program in the subregion
  - b. Zoning and code compliance issues concerning ADU's
  - c. Community plan, fire resolutions and related actions update
  - d. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 5, 11, 13 and 14.
3. Meeting updates.
  - a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings.
  - b. Chairman's/Vice Chairman's Report
  - c. Member reports
  - d. Next meeting date **Monday, March 10, 6:30 PM at Crest Community Association**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

Planning Group Members:

<b>Crest</b>	1. Michael Rich	2. Pat Ulm	3. Ron Nehring	4. Diana Griffin
<b>Dehesa</b>	5. Vacant	6. Christina Becker	7. Paul Healy	8. Bill Bretz
<b>Harbison Cyn.</b>	9. Mary Manning	10. Robert Lutz-Partain	11. Vacant	12. Dave Geiger
<b>Granite Hills</b>	13. Vacant	14. Vacant	15. Tim Lucas	

**Chair**

Ron Nehring, 619-743-6402

**Vice-chair**

Tim Lucas

The Final Agenda will be posted at meeting site, 72 hours prior to meeting.

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## CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP.

Minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2025, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N Park Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021.

- A. **ROLL CALL.** Chair Ron Nehring called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM, and the roll call was conducted. Planning Group members Rich, Ulm, Nehring, Griffin, Becker, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Geiger, and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 9. Member Bretz was absent, but excused. Incoming Member Healy was present, but needs to complete CPGSG training prior to officially being seated. Seats 5, 11, 13 and 14 are vacant.
- B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Member Diana Griffin provided corrections to the 9 December 2024 meeting minutes, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. Corrections noted F2b. – spelling of Bonnie Burchill, presentation date is 16 January 2025 and amount should be \$2,640.80 (vs. \$2,500). Member Becker made a motion to approve the minutes with these corrections incorporated, and the motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).
- D. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.** Ms. Bazoo from Supervisor Joel Anderson’s office presented and distributed the 2023 Legislative Actions & Accomplishments along with 2024 Neighborhood/Community grant programs. Ms. Janet Farala from Assemblyperson Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins office introduced herself. Kandhy Franklin-Collins asked Ms. Bazoo if Supervisor Anderson plans to hold any community meetings in the near future, she replied she will get back with us. Mr. Russell Walsh presented his concerns regarding Loveland Reservoir and reread his initial complaint from November 2020 to the California EPA regarding draining below currently established emergency levels. Member Manning presented information regarding hard-of-hearing phone program to be held @ 2/6 in Old Ironside Park. Kandhy Franklin-Collins mentioned that she requested fire chief to inspect fire hydrants on La Cresta Road for readiness. Member Griffin provided information on various upcoming programs: 2025 Prepare in a Year Campaign on 18 January 9-10:30 @ Harbison Canyon Fire Station, Evacuation/Emergency Preparedness Clinic on 18 January from 10-12 @ Crest Community Clubhouse, and the Wildfire Safety Expo Town Hall on 8 February from 10-12 @ Alpine Community Center. Crest resident McDonald presented his concerns regarding the lack of maintenance/fuels reduction of various local trails.
- E. **ACTION ITEMS - Discretionary projects, tasks, motions, proposals requiring a decision or vote**
- E.1. Review and Response to County of San Diego Concerning Stoneridge County Preserve condition.** Chairman Nehring reminded group about the time/work that went into the 7 Resolutions that were approved advising the County of San Diego concerning action to reduce Wildfire Risk and Improve Evacuation in CREST, DEHESA, GRANITE HILLS AND HARBISON CANYON, in particular the Stoneridge Country Preserve. After the 2 site visits to the Preserve with CalFire and DPR to inspect this unmaintained area and to demonstrate the urgent need for fuels reduction initiatives with new action, Chairman Nehring read a followup letter from DPR of 5 December 2024 stating that no new actions were planned. Chairman Nehring then read his Jan 8 message to Supervisor Anderson’s office referencing DPR’s lack of action, which stated that the status quo they

are recommending is not sufficient and profoundly disappointing. In reply, Chairman Nehring received an email from Supervisor Anderson's office on 9 January acknowledging the concern and stating that Supervisor Anderson was directing staff to request that DPR reexamine their position regarding the Preserve. This response was made in context of the dangerous wildfire which occurred in Crest that same week. Chairman Nehring recommended a followup meeting regarding this issue on 10 February. Chairman Nehring mentioned how we have reviewed the County Resource Management Plan and verified that the County is not in compliance with its own plan. Chairman Nehring reiterated that CalFire (Chief Meecham) is willing to engage in fuels reduction at this site for no cost to the County. Vice Chair Lucas mentioned he will be disappointed if there is no action prior to our meeting. Incoming Member Healy mentioned that maybe we should be more specific in what actions we are asking the County to take, reminded us that all residents have a role in reducing fire risk, and distributed a study on the impact of different fuels reduction methods on wildfire behavior.

## **F. GROUP BUSINESS - Reports, updates, announcements, administrative discussions**

**F.1. Presentation: I Love a Clean San Diego community group.** Ms. Isabella Schutte and Ms. Skylar Anderson provided a powerpoint presentation on their clean up efforts @ South Lane County Park in Crest. ILACSD staff handed out native seed packets of California Poppy, Native Milkweed, and Elegant Clarkia, provided by the Resource Conservation of Greater San Diego County and the Walter Anderson Nursery. We also had a fun puzzle for the volunteers to figure out that provided fun and quick facts about the native plants of San Diego County. Volunteers found hazardous waste including a vape and a battery; which were taken by ILACSD staff to be disposed of properly. Volunteers, staff, and a park ranger worked together to plant native oak trees at South Lane County Park. ILACSD accepts recommendations for additional sites in need of cleanup.

**F.2. Announcements and Correspondence Received.** Chairman Nehring presented invitation "Community Coffee with Carl Meeting" from Assemblyman Carl DiMaio's office for 25 January 2025 @ Alpine Library to address top priorities for East County. SRPG members need to RSVP. Chairman Nehring attended the 11 January 2025 meeting of the Association of Planning Groups @ the Lakeside Library to discuss mostly what is happening in SANDAG. Planning Group members now have a non-voting representative on SANDAG, but would like a voting member, but requires State law change to make that happen. Chairman Nehring is now on the advisory group for General Planning. Next meeting will be 31 May @ the Lakeside Library.

### **F.3. Discussion**

**F.3.a. Capital improvement and maintenance projects for county-maintained assets – due March 30.** Chairman Nehring distributed a request from County of San Diego Public Works to identify and prioritize a list of capital improvements and maintenance projects for county-maintained assets in the unincorporated areas of the county. Will agendaize this for the February or March meeting. Member Becker reminded us of the "TellUsNow" app to get quick response for road fixes (potholes, etc).

**F.3.b. Zoning and code compliance issues concerning ADU's.** Member Ulm provided pictures of ADU on Horsemill Road that has an above ground (almost full) illegal septic tank and concerns regarding code compliance and possible leakage. Member Ulm has contacted the

County and Zone enforcement with no avail saying they have a permit in process. It was recommended to call County Health Department. Chairman Nehring will send an email to planning development services on ADU requirements and this issue will be placed on the agenda for next meeting.

**F.3.c. Community plan, fire resolutions and related actions update.** Chairman Nehring addressed lack of updates to the Community Plan due every 10 years in addition to annual review; we are now in year 13 without an approved update. We have compiled and submitted resolutions (based on 3 years of work) to update our Plan; these were passed unanimously and are now in the hands of Supervisor Anderson's office along with Planning and Development Services Office for their approval. Chairman Nehring has provided updates and is slowly moving it up the chain and expecting comment back. Chairman Nehring recommends that we continue to hold community meetings to educate residents on defensible space, as action is needed immediately. The safety of our communities, especially from wildfire, is our first priority and crosses party lines, reflected by our unanimous agreement on these measures. Chairman Nehring commended Padre Dam on the fuels reduction on Old Mountain Road. Member Becker discussed components of home hardening against wildfire, including ember-resistant exterior vents and defensible space, and discussed her experience with implementing defensible space via landscaping and maintenance at her home. Member Griffin mentioned Crest Fire Safe Council application for community grants to cover costs of future chipping and cleanup events, and mentioned availability of Defensible Space Assistance Program grants to aid homeowners.

**F.3.d. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 5, 11, 13 and 14.** Applicant for Seat 5 (Dehesa) – JoAnne Branch, introduced herself. Member Becker made the motion to accept JoAnne Branch for Seat 5 and refer to the County for approval. Motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

#### **F.4. Meeting updates.**

**F.4.a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings.** Chairman Nehring has requested a presentation on insurance at the next meeting.

##### **F.4.a.i. APG Meeting of January 4**

**F.4.b. Chairman's/Vice Chairman's Report.** No other reports.

**F.4.c. Member reports.** Member Griffin announced that Crest Northeast FIREWISE application has been approved by CalFIRE and NFPA. Meeting with the 31 residents will be in February. Chairman Nehring and Members Griffin and Becker explained FIREWISE and the benefits, including potential home insurance discount (state website lists insurers recognizing FIREWISE status and there are more coverage options available to those communities). Our planning group encourages but cannot facilitate this, but Fire Safe Councils can - please contact yours, or contact Kandhy Franklin or Kathleen Fiedor at Crest Fire Safe Council for more information. Member Griffin announced that Sharon Smith from Dept of Insurance will provide updates on recent insurance initiatives at the Mar 20, 2025 CCA meeting.

**F.4.d. Next meeting date Monday, February 10, 6:30 PM at Crest Community Association**

**G. ADJOURNMENT.** Member Lutz-Partain moved to adjournment at 7:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain)

Respectfully submitted, Diana M Griffin (Secretary)

## **DRAFT RESOLUTION 2025-1**

### **CALLING FOR INCREASED FUEL REDUCTION, FIRE BREAKS, AND CONTROLLED BURNS TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK IN RURAL SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles County have resulted in multiple deaths, forced thousands of residents to evacuate, destroyed homes and businesses, and placed extreme strain on emergency resources, highlighting the immediate and severe threat of wildfires to urban, suburban, and rural communities alike; and

**WHEREAS**, San Diego County, like Los Angeles County, contains large areas of chaparral, dry vegetation, and wildland-urban interface zones that are highly susceptible to devastating wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, past major fires in San Diego County, including the 2003 Cedar Fire and the 2007 Witch Creek Fire, resulted in significant loss of life and property, demonstrating the catastrophic consequences of inadequate fuel management; and

**WHEREAS**, fire seasons in California are becoming longer and more intense due to persistent drought conditions and extreme wind events, further elevating the risk to communities throughout San Diego County; and

**WHEREAS**, the repeated mobilization of firefighting resources for large-scale wildfires is placing unsustainable financial and operational burdens on CalFire, local fire departments, and mutual aid systems; and

**WHEREAS**, public lands in rural San Diego County, including those controlled by the federal government, the State of California, and San Diego County, contain excessive fuel loads that significantly increase wildfire risk; and

**WHEREAS**, existing environmental regulations, including those imposed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), often delay or prevent the timely and necessary implementation of fuel reduction efforts, fire break establishment, and controlled burns; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to adequately manage vegetation and reduce fuel loads has contributed to the severity and frequency of wildfires in recent years, resulting in the loss of homes, infrastructure, and natural habitat, as well as threatening public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to sufficiently reduce fuel loads has also resulted in many San Diego County homeowners losing access to their preferred private homeowners insurance, forcing them into the California FAIR Plan, which is costly, offers limited coverage, and is poorly rated; and

**WHEREAS**, proactive fire mitigation efforts, including the strategic use of controlled burns, fire breaks, and mechanical fuel reduction, have been proven to reduce wildfire severity and protect communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Diego has a responsibility to proactively mitigate wildfire risk by advocating for policies that remove regulatory barriers to essential fire prevention efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Planning Group urges the County of San Diego to take immediate action to facilitate increased wildfire mitigation efforts, including but not limited to:

1. **Expanding and expediting fuel reduction efforts** on all public lands, prioritizing high-risk areas near communities;
2. **Establishing and maintaining fire breaks** in strategic locations to prevent the rapid spread of wildfires;
3. **Significantly increasing the use of controlled burns** as a proactive measure to reduce excessive fuel loads; and
4. **Enhancing interagency coordination** to streamline and accelerate wildfire mitigation projects.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Planning Group urges the County of San Diego to formally request that the State of California **lift CEQA restrictions on all fuel reduction, fire break establishment, and controlled burns when deemed essential by the local CalFire Chief or local fire agency**, ensuring that wildfire mitigation efforts are not delayed by unnecessary regulatory barriers.

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Planning Group**

Signed:

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Chairman

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Secretary

**CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON  
SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**

**Road Improvement Project Priority List – Member Submission**

Community	<i>Crest, Dehesa, Granite Hills or Harbison Canyon</i>	
Proposed by	<i>Planning Group member name</i>	
Project Type	<i>Such as road, drainage, sidewalk</i>	
Location	<i>Include cross streets and/or specific details</i>	
Description	<i>Describe the problem and the solution</i>	
Why a priority?	<i>Describe why this should be considered a priority</i>	
Planning Group		Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon
Previously submitted?	<i>Yes or No</i>	



# Department of Public Works - Road Improvement Project Priority List

**EMAIL FORM**

<b>Group:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	
<b>Contact Tel:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	

**2024-25 \_\_\_\_\_ Community Planning Group Road Improvement Project Proposed Priority List**

Priority Number	Project Type (e.g., road, drainage, sidewalk, etc.)	Location (please include cross streets or any specific location details to support review)	Description of issue, needs, possible solutions, etc.	Why is this a priority?	Planning Group	Previously submitted as a priority project? (yes/no)
1						
2						
3						
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

Priority Number	Project Type (e.g., road, drainage, sidewalk, etc.)	Location (please include cross streets or any specific location details to support review)	Description of issue, needs, possible solutions, etc.	Why is this a priority	Planning Group	Previously submitted as a priority project? (yes/no)
7						
8						
9						
10						
Road Resurfacing Project 1						
Road Resurfacing Project 2						
Road Resurfacing Project 3						
Road Resurfacing Project 4						
Road Resurfacing Project 5						
Road Resurfacing Project 6						
Road Resurfacing Project 7						
Road Resurfacing Project 8						
Road Resurfacing Project 9						
Road Resurfacing Project 10						



## PUBLIC WORKS

**WILLIAM P. MORGAN, P.E.**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 410, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1237  
(858) 694-2212

December 20, 2024

Dear Community Planning Group,

The San Diego County Department of Public Works (DPW) requests your participation in identifying and prioritizing a list of capital improvement and maintenance projects for the county-maintained assets in the unincorporated areas of the county.

### **Project may be related to safety, capacity, accessibility, and operations. Types include:**

- **Road Reconstruction/Reconfiguration/New Roads:** Adding/modifying street lighting, drive lanes, turn lanes, bike lanes, roundabouts, new striping, paving a dirt road, or improving a road slope.
- **Bridges Repair/Reconstruction:** Adding/modifying street lighting, lanes, or bike lanes.
- **Sidewalks/Pathways/Pedestrian Access Ramps:** Adding/modifying sidewalks, pathways, and ramps.
- **Drainage:** Improvements and cleaning of publicly maintained roadways and waterways, as evidenced by trash accumulation, blocked drainage, or other indicators of persistent historical flooding.
- **Intersection Improvements:** Repair traffic signals or install new signals and turn lanes.
- **Road Resurfacing:** Maintenance such as asphalt resurfacing, approximately 1 mile or less. It takes 2 years for a road to be evaluated and placed into a resurfacing project on our annual maintenance list. View a list of County-maintained roads [here](#) and learn more about our annual program [here](#).

### **Next Steps:**

1. **Your Role:** Using the attached [Project Request Form](#), compile a list of ten capital projects and ten road resurfacing requests that you deem most critical. Return completed lists by **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025** via email at [dpw.cip@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dpw.cip@sdcounty.ca.gov).
2. **Project Review and Prioritization:** All projects require funding, design, and environmental review prior to being built. DPW will schedule a time with your CPG to evaluate requests and discuss projects. We are also visiting each CPG to discuss projects in your area. Learn more [here](#).

**Contact Information:** For any further questions, you may either email the DPW Outreach team at [dpw.cip@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dpw.cip@sdcounty.ca.gov), call the San Diego County DPW at (858) 694-2212, or visit our website at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw).

Thank you for your time and effort in helping us improve the infrastructure in your community. Your input is extremely important as you live and experience the greatest needs of your community every day. We look forward to working together to update your project list and coordinate community priorities in your area.

William P. Morgan, P.E., Interim Director  
Department of Public Works