

Jamul-Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Unincorporated Area of the County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES

August 21, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:12 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Kevin May, Preston Brown, Michael Casinelli, Lisa Hodgson, Ed Mollen, Courtney Etnyre, Dan Neirinckx, Janet Mulder, Eve Nasby, Paul Dombkowski,

Guests: Meghan Kelly, Morgan Angulo, and Sara Thornburgh (SD County Staff)

Excused: Darla Kasmedo, Thomas Gray, Steve Wragg

Vacant Seats: 5, 13

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for August 6, 2024

4. OPEN FORUM

- **Megan Stewart** is an advocate for children especially for the dangers for kids of cannabis substance abuse. She said there is a new report out on Cannabis and suggested we review it.
- **Becky Rapp** asked what the Grand Jury on Cannabis is looking for. She hopes that we would write a letter of support to the County to encourage them to do the report in a timely manner. We need stricter guidelines for regulations of pot shops and bill boards and advertising and we need to request a timeline form the County.

5. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – UPDATE

Preston Brown said the CAP is very complex and offers many strategies for reducing GHG. It is built upon many layers of previous legislative acts and resulting law suits. There are a number of alternatives for smart growth that would lay over the general CAP plan. The Fire Safe and Low VMT Efficient Alternative seems to offer the best protection for East County residents while limiting future increases in GHG. It also takes nothing away from the ability of landowners to develop and sub-divide in compliance with current zoning. The State VMT restrictions would not impact any housing development of less than 11 homes.

6. WILDFIRE EVACUATION TOUR with SANDAG and Caltrans – SR-94

Paul Dombkowski said the date for the Tour has been confirmed for Friday, August 30 at 3pm. **Courtney** and **Lisa** will join the group as our representatives. **Tom Shoots**, Calfire Captain, will attend. Previously he was the public information officer. **Paul** showed us a tour

map of the locations to visit and the issues to be discussed on the tour. He said we will first have a pre-meeting at the start at Sweetwater Bridge then up SR-94 to Steele Canyon High School, Jamul Hardware where they will stop and discuss Proctor Valley Road, then to the Jamul Casino. **Michael Casinelli** said to mention that it was reported that the Viejas Fire of 2004 that was started by a customer leaving the casino and tossing a cigarette out the window. From there we will go to Dulzura and then to Honey Springs at SR-94 and stop. This is a good place to observe the high level of traffic at this time of day. Traffic to Tecate contributes to a portion of this. Then we go to 4 Corners and take Lyons Valley to Lawson Valley. There is a lot of livestock along this route and it will show the importance of understanding the challenges of evacuating animals. Lawson Valley is a cul-de-sac. **Dan Neirinckx** said that Mark Lee Road is a contingency road permanently open for users but otherwise locked. **Lisa Hodgson** said people use bolt cutters if they need to get out. Hilary Drive takes you out to Skyline Truck Trail through a fire road with 3 gates maintained by Calfire.

Kevin May said to keep focused on the money improvements and stick to the main routes but mention Lawson Valley. Paul mentioned the uncertainty of the quantity of RV's and animal trailers that will be circulating on our roads in an emergency evacuation.

SEE ATTACHMENT: Jamul-Dulzura Wildfire Evacuation Tour Outline

7. ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS (APG)

There are no updates

8. JAMUL CASINO EXPANSION PROJECT

The Hotel and Event Center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2025.

Thomas Gray asked what the expansion project would be used for.

ANS: The Event Center is a 35,000 square foot project that will be used for almost anything: corporate parties, live entertainment, weddings, concerts, celebrations.

9. “JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE TRANSFER ACT” H.R. 6443, Bill sponsored by Rep. Darrel E. Issa (R-CA-48), and associated Senate Bill S. 3857, sponsored by California Senator Alex Padilla

There are no updates. **Kevin** said he has LegiScan and will get notices when it comes up for discussion or a vote.

10. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

There are no updates

11. FACEBOOK PAGE

Courtney suggested putting information about CERT on the Facebook page.

12. JAMUL SHOPPER

Darla Kasmedo said she will work on the survey for the next month's Shopper and would like to share the options for this with the group.

13. OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK (OHV)

No Updates

14. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

15. ADJOURNMENT 8:59 pm

ATTACHMENT: Jamul-Dulzura Wildfire Evacuation Tour Outline

Jamul-Dulzura Wildfire Evac Tour - SR 94 and Other Main Evac Routes

Subregion Background

The Jamul - Dulzura Subregion covers an area of approximately 168 square miles and lies on the Mexico Border immediately to the east of Chula Vista. To the north lies the Loveland Reservoir, the Sweetwater River and Rancho San Diego. In the Northeastern portion, you'll find Barrett Lake and the Cleveland National Forest. SR-94, a heavily traveled 2 lane road, is the only state highway which traverses the Subregion from the northwest to the southeast ending just north of Tecate.

The population of the Subregion is over 7,000 people. It has several rural and semi-rural communities including Jamul, Steel Canyon, Dulzura and Barrett Junction. Jamul, the largest of these communities with its surrounding hills and valleys, accommodates a majority of the Subregion's population. Generally, the area is rural in character and is designated as such in our Subarea Plan. It is also restricted to Onsite Wastewater Septic Systems. For drinking water, it is dependent on well systems, except in the Northwest area of Jamul that imports water.

Tour Admin

Tour scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at 2:45 PM. Meeting location is the Sweetwater River Trailhead Parking Lot (just past the Steel Bridge, Rancho San Diego, SR -94).

Attendees include representatives from SANDAG, Caltrans, Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group (Paul Dombkowski, Lisa Hodgson and Courtney Etnyre) and a local fire expert to be confirmed shortly.

Tour Purpose

Participate in a tour of SR-94 and other main Jamul-Dulzura evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire or other emergency. Experience the evacuation routes in person to accurately evaluate the routes for safety and viability.

Tour Route/Discussion Stops (10) - See Attached Maps

SR-94 Sweetwater River Trail Parking Lot, Steel 94 Restaurant Bar, Jamul Hardware, Proctor Valley Road entrance, Dulzura Mini Market, Hollenbeck Wildlife Area Parking Lot, Four Corners Intersection (Lyons Valley Rd, Honey Springs Rd, Skyline Truck Trail, Japatul Valley Rd), Lawson Valley Rd Entrance, Skyline Truck Trail Viewpoints, Jamul Drive Entrance, SR-94 Sweetwater River Trail Parking Lot.

Issues to Consider and Discuss

1. Shelter-in-place orders and the likelihood of evacuees choosing to heed evacuation orders. Visitors will likely choose to leave the area.
2. Physical constraints to safe and effective evacuation, e.g., present roadway design, traffic bottlenecks due to changes in the number of lanes and/or their configuration.
3. Residents and visitors familiarity with SR-94 and surrounding evacuation routes.
4. Fluctuation in the numbers of evacuees on any given day as the number of residents is not a static indicator of how many people may need to evacuate; the number of weekend visitors to the area greatly expands the number of evacuees.
5. Types of vehicles utilized during an evacuation in rural areas have historically been large vehicles/trucks and many vehicle/trailer combinations to evacuate livestock.
6. The unpredictability of fire during a firestorm created by the combined conditions of high temperatures, dry fuel and high winds.
7. Behavior of fire as it relates to evacuees' safety during an evacuation exposes evacuees to oxygen deprivation which also deprives combustion engine vehicles the oxygen required to operate, extreme heat which impairs human judgment and lastly, chimney effect fires which are landscape corridors where heavy brush and tree combine to create a rapid, deadly and blistering upward burn path.

Talking Points

SR-94 is very vulnerable to traffic stoppages and burdened beyond capacity, especially from increased Tecate-Campo-Jamul-Rancho San Diego commuter traffic. Due to our rural character, and great variety of large conservation wilderness areas that provide recreational opportunities, we get thousands of visitors, especially on the weekends, from coastal communities and backcountry residents.

The Jamul Indian Village (JIV) Jamul Casino Hotel and Entertainment Center Expansion Project, now underway, will only increase the number of visitors traveling through our Subregion on SR-94. According to their own figures, on an average Saturday, the Jamul Casino currently receives 13,000 vehicles or VTD. This impact is strikingly evident to all of us who depend on SR-94 for all our transportation needs.

Results from a yearlong extensive analysis of patrons for the Viejas Casino are pertinent to the situation we face with the JIV Jamul Casino. Note that this analysis was completed prior to Viejas building their shopping outlet and hotel, similar to JIV's current operation. One of the things the study revealed is that on average about 10% of "all" patrons on a daily basis, which

were not part of a tour, (e.g., busloads of tourists), were first-time patrons and unfamiliar with the area. There were seasonal variations, but statistically, the annual 10% daily average was one of the major findings and an area of concern especially with a wildfire evacuation event. This should be a major cautionary tale for Jamul (whatever JIV's headcount is). That is, a significant number of patrons who are totally unfamiliar with our unlighted, winding roads add a danger that is beyond just having additional vehicles on our roads.

Based on publicly available data, nationwide surveys indicate about 17% of the U.S. population smoke cigarettes, whereas 38% of gaming patrons smoke cigarettes. As we know, Jamul usually has dry brush along much of SR-94. The 2004 Viejas Fire started as a patron was leaving the casino at about 2 am on a windy night. The fire started at the exit of the Viejas reservation right where it enters I-8.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday September 3, 2024 @ 7:00 pm.

Jamul-Dulzura Union School District - Jamul Education Center

14581 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935

Hybrid Meeting: Both In-Person and Zoom Attendance

Meeting Minutes and Agendas can be accessed at

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>

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JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura while adhering to County of San Diego, California Board of Supervisors Policy I-1."

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is:

- *To provide a public forum where local citizens can learn about issues of importance to them and their community and provide input.*
- *To carefully consider all input when advising the county on such issues as planning, land use, discretionary projects, and community and sub-regional plans.*