

Jamul-Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Unincorporated Area of the County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES

September 3, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:05pm

2. ROLL CALL

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

Guests: **Christopher Kane**

Excused: Steve Wragg

Vacant Seats: 5, 13

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for August 6 and 21, 2024.
Postponed till next meeting.

4. OPEN FORUM

Kevin May announced that the Boards of Supervisors (BOS) will conduct a Hearing on September 11 to consider options related to Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Projects in the Unincorporated County. Recent fires at these storage facilities have raised the alarm of their danger to the communities in which they are placed near.

Christopher Kane, a representative from Supervisors Joel Anderson office, attended in person and presented a list of accomplishments for the communities of District 2 that Supervisors Anderson has achieved.

- These include 1.4 million dollars of emergency funds for 25 County libraries for free access to hot spots in 33 library branches. 40% was used in economically depressed areas. total of 5.5 million dollars has been spent to upgrade behavioral health services and programs.
- Christopher said that local residents can apply for “grant awards” for small businesses and non-profits. Applications are due by October 24, 2024
- He also said that “Aging services” are available through San Diego Gas and Electric.
- Applications for interns are now available.

Christopher handed out booklets with the 2023 Legislative Actions and Accomplishments of Supervisor Anderson.

Michael Casinelli asked if the emergency library services has been going on for a while. ANS: Yes. **Lisa Hodgson** asked how many CSU's are there in East County and how many in Jamul Dulzura. **Christopher** said he was an intern and did not know the answer. **Lisa** then asked how many small businesses received grant money in our planning area. **Christopher** said he would get back to us. **Lisa** then asked how many cool zones are there in Jamul Dulzura. **Christopher** did not know. **Lisa** asked when could we expect a "town hall" meeting in Jamul-Dulzura. **Lisa** said she had requested this through Supervisors Anderson's website but did not hear back from anyone. **Michael** asked when could we expect a response to these questions. **Christopher** said he is not sure but said he would try to get answers. **Kevin** asked that he send his response to his email. **Darla Kasmedo** said she had contacted Supervisors Anderson's office and left questions and also did not get any answers. **Janet Mulder** said that our group has asked questions that could not be answered tonight and that Supervisor Anderson should know about this.

5. GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS on CANNABIS LEAGALIZATION: Regarding financial, health and law enforcement impacts to San Diego.

Kevin said he presented a UT article on this at our last meeting. **Michael** said that it was a little misleading. The Grand Jury is asking the City and the County for specific information about where the tax revenue is going. The City passed an ordinance for specific allocation of cannabis revenue but the revenue is going into the General Fund. The County never passed an ordinance to allocate funds. The County has 30-60 days to explain where money should go or why not. There is nothing our group can do to advance this. We did not see any reason to respond to this.

Thomas Gray mentioned the difficulty in tracking revenue in the operation of cannabis sales, especially for home deliveries. **Ed Mollen** said the ordinance is more concerned with consumption and cultivation and not tracing the money. **Kevin** added that illegal markets can go undetected in rented housing.

6. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (UPDATE): County of San Diego

The subcommittee (**Preston Brown, Courtney Etnyre, Eve Nasby**) working on the CAP made the recommendation to support *Fire Safe and VMT Efficient Alternative*. **Preston Brown** read the draft letter addressed to the BOS.

In discussion, **Preston** said this takes nothing away from current residents and landowners to build according to current zoning laws. And under CEQA, SB 743, the VMT restrictions would only apply to subdivisions great than 11 dwelling units. The whole purpose of the bill is to push new development toward urban centers with transportation networks and employment and away from Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) which includes most of the Unincorporated Areas of the East County.

Courtney said the Jamul Casino hotel expansion is going to affect our future and more businesses bring greater traffic and will impact us in emergency evacuation. The CAP forces us to think about the money we will need for road improvements. **Ed Mollen** mentioned that

the Jamul Casino, as a sovereign nation, “Fee to Trust” land, pays no taxes. **Preston** said he wanted to emphasize this point in our letter that our community is in dire need of a major investment in road infrastructure and that we need an updated traffic study to fully understand the increased traffic loads on SR-94 from the casino and international commercial commutes of which we are completely dependent for evacuation from wildland fires.

Darla Kasmedo moved that we send out the final letter for review by Friday and approve it to be sent to the BOS. Kevin will take comments and send it out.

Motion Passed unanimously.

SEE ATTACHMENT: JDCPG Final “Climate Action Plan” (CAP) Letter to BOS (9-6-24)

7. WILDFIRE EVACUATION TOUR: With CALTRANS and SANDAG

Paul Dombkowski said SANDAG cancelled the Tour because they never heard back from Caltrans. They have rescheduled for Friday, September 6, in the afternoon. Paul said the group has been working on updating the route, maps and tour information. Our group team consists of **Paul, Lisa Hodgson** and **Courtney Etnyre**. Paul said they have a total of 10 discussion stops. They will have 3 vehicles with one of them in each vehicle. They want to highlight the “bottle necks” of traffic inherent in our roads systems. The tour will start at the Sweetwater Bridge which is only 2 lanes. **Ed Mollen** pointed out that even if SR-94 was widened to 4 lanes it will go back to 2 lanes with the same bottle neck.

8. ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS (APG)

There are no updates.

9. JAMUL CASINO HOTEL AND ENTERTIANMENT EXPANSION PROJECT

There are no updates.

10. “JAMUL INDIAN LAND 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.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE: Emergency Evacuation, Traffic and Crime

Preston said the subcommittee should meet and plan our next meeting with Sheriff Captain Baggs. **Courtney** suggested asking for a “Cleary Report”.

12. FACEBOOK PAGE

There are no updates.

13. JAMUL SHOPPER

Darla Kasmedo reminded that we still need to discuss and decide on the goals our survey for the Jamul Shopper.

14. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK (OHV)

For updates go this LINK: <https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/park-pages/OffHighwayVehicles.html>

15. JDCPG OFFICERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

- **Road Resurfacing:** October 11 – November 1, 2024
Lawson Valley Road – Skyline Truck Trail to Lyons Valley Road (0.22 miles)

16. ADJOURNMENT: 915: pm

ATTACHMENT: JDCPG Final “Climate Action Plan” (CAP) Letter to BOS (9-6-24)

September 6, 2024

Board of Supervisors - San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: The Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update Alternatives

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group voted unanimously to support the ***Fire Safe and VMT Efficient Alternative***.

We commend County Staff for presenting a broad array of alternatives in the *Climate Action Plan Update* (CAP) with ideas for connecting the many different strategies for Green House Gas (GHG) reduction. A tremendous amount of thought has gone into this. However, we do believe that in some cases there should be some hard lines that operate not only as guidelines but serve as mandatory limits that will shape the outcome of proposed land development in the Unincorporated County.

Emergency evacuation from wildland fires remains a constant threat and challenge for the Jamul-Dulzura Community. The current road infrastructure relies on an aging two-lane highway, SR-94 known as Old Campo Rd. It is in dire need of a major investment from SANDAG and Caltrans.

Our group has scheduled a tour for representatives from SANDAG and Caltrans, with a Calfire Battalion Chief in attendance, to observe the configuration of evacuation routes and witness the demands of current traffic loads on SR-94. As a first step, we have requested that an updated compressive Traffic Study be conducted to accurately determine the necessary improvements. To our knowledge this has never been done, and since the year 2000 all known studies are fragmented, piecemeal, and have only been conducted by developers representing their own interests.

The ***Fire Safe and VMT Efficient Alternative*** will protect backcountry residents while greatly reducing GHG and establishing clear parameters for planning future growth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin May

Chair, Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group

Board of Supervisors

Nora Vargas, *Chair*, D-1: Joel Anderson, D-2; Terra Lawson-Remer, D-3;
Monica Montgomery Steepe, D-4; Jim Desmond, D-5

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday September 17, 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.*