

**Spring Valley Community Planning Group**  
**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

**A. ROLL CALL – QUORUM**

Present 9 (Gonzalez, Lowes, Pierce, Wallace, Lawson, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettman), Absent 4 (Robles, Eugenio, Gibbons, Woodruff), Vacant 2. There is a quorum.

**B. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION** – Opportunity for the public to speak to the Planning Group on any subject matter within our jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda.

Jake Christie asked if his request about street sign repair had been received. After much back and forth with the county departments, Jake was able to get an address to forward his request. Pearson mentioned the Supervisorial District #1 special election primary on April 8 and the general election is on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is for Nora Vargas' seat. The candidate filing deadline is January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**C. ACTION ITEMS** with designation as to whether there will be a vote or not on the item:

**1. Approval of Minutes: 12/10/2024.** Vote on this item.

Motion to approve by Pearson, second by Gettmann. Yes 9 (Gonzalez, Lows, Pierce, Wallace, Lawson, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettmann), 0 No, 0 Abstain, 4 Absent (Robles, Eugenio, Gibbons, Woodruff), 2 Vacant. **Motion passed.**

**2. Election of Officers for 2025 (Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary).** Presenter: Woodruff

Lowes nominated Pierce for Chair, second by Gettmann. Vote will be by a show of hands and all group members present voted for Pierce. Lowes nominated Gettmann for Vice Chair, second by Custeau. All group members present voted for Gettmann by a show of hands. Pierce nominated Custeau for Secretary, second by Pearson. All group members present voted for Custeau.

**3. Finalize PLDO Priority List for submission to the County.** Vote on this item.

Pierce did attend the recent CSA128 meeting on how our groups had combined the lists as in past years, but the CSA wants to submit their unique list to define their purpose. Our list is in the same order as theirs but has a few more items and Pierce listed our current items. Discussion continued into details of district boundaries and that CSA 128 boundaries should be reconfigured to include Del Parque and Calavo parks. The boundary question will be on our list, but a further understanding of the boundaries and their history needs to be explored. Jack Christie commented on land excluded from the CSA128 map and they may be water storage around Dictionary Hill Preserve. The largest part of the Spring Valley Community Planning Area (SVCPA) missing from CSA 128 is around Del Parque and Calavo parks. Lowes, Wallace and Custeau emphasized how fees from the Spring Valley CPA go to CSA 128 for areas outside of the SVCPA. It makes more sense to have the CSA boundaries be the same as the SVCPG boundaries. Pierce will invite a County Parks representative to discuss this at the February meeting. . A community member questioned why we should extend the boundaries of CSA128 when we can't handle the parks, we currently have in CSA128, using the issues with Lamar Park as an example. Gettmann spoke of the disparity between collected fees and what parks receive in funding and that the realignment of revenue to parks makes sense. Custeau suggested reps from County Parks, district supervisor and Sheriff come to discuss enforcement at the parks as an agenda item with a potential letter of support from the planning group. Pearson asked if photographic evidence of park issues had been sent to parties involved. **Motion by Pierce to submit the SVCPA list as is with the change to the CSA128 boundary item. Seconded by Gettmann; Vote is 9 Yes (Gonzalez, Lowes, Pierce, Wallace, Lawson, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettmann), 0 No, 0 Abstain, 4 Absent (Robles, Eugenio, Gibbons, Woodruff), 2 Vacant. Motion passed.**

**4. Discussion: Prepare SVCPG Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Top 10 Lists for March 30, 2025, Submission Deadline.**

No vote on this item.

Chair Pierce displayed the CIP list prepared in 2024 which is broken down into categories since the list was heavy with sidewalk requests. Streets being repaved are having their corners improved to current ADA compliance. The public

member who had the flooding in the Helix Street area gave an update on her requests for flood interventions and requests to get a culvert on the list. Kempton and St. George Streets' sidewalks need to be reviewed as they may have been completed. Pearson suggested finishing the sidewalks on Apple Street from La Presa to Capistrano streets. Lowes mentioned wheelchairs traveling in the streets due to the lack of sidewalks. Discussion continued on the large amount of funding needed to provide sidewalks and that school children are walking in the streets. Custeau asked if the group would consider at least one side of a street to have a sidewalk. Specifics on the Troy, Bancroft, Apple, Presioca and Kenwood streets and Jamacha Road sidewalk requests were added to the list. Custeau cited the encroachment of private property owners (walls, planting, etc) into easements meant for sidewalks. Gettmann said the cost of a sidewalk is between 30 and 70 dollars a foot, depending on width. Pierce asked input on other categories of needed improvements. A community member stated there is little lighting by Lamar Park making it difficult to see pedestrians in the road. Community member Jake Christie asked for 'blind corner' type signs on either end of Vista Drive. Custeau suggested that county traffic would manage such signage. Gettmann mentioned the traffic issues at the post office end of Austin Drive. Troy and Bancroft intersection is a potential for a traffic roundabout. Pierce said he wants to discourage more traffic on Bancroft to Sweetwater Road due to high accident rates. Gettmann asked about an upgraded and multijurisdictional public safety center at the Spring Valley Center shopping mall to increase law enforcement presence due to traffic in the area. Wallace asked about adding a 'children's crossing' signal at La Presa Ave and Jamacha Blvd. Gettmann asked about technology that could be used for a crossing signal. There was further discussion about school signage on Jamacha Blvd and an item about better signage was added to the list. Next up was Flood Control Improvements. Lowes commented that housing developments are leading to more storm water runoff, causing a lot of drainage issues. Pierce went through the list by location, for possible resolution. A detailed discussion, with affected community member present (Jennifer), centered on the flood water running down Avocado to Tyler and to Bancroft Elementary. The 'ask' is to channel the flood water into the storm water system. The County is hesitant to make changes since it could end up affecting other properties. Hardscape, from development, caused the flood issue over the years and a property owner above Jennifer will not allow access to determine a solution. This specific issue is a good example of how flooding occurs with owners and the county's immediate solution is to have this group add the issue to the CIP list and make it the first list item. The water leak on Kempton looks to be resolved and will be removed from the list. The flooding issue on Broadview Street is the responsibility of Caltrans, not the County. Discussion continued about storm drains/culverts that need clearing and are the responsibility of Caltrans. Moving on to traffic signals and intersection improvements section on the CIP. Crosswalks are needed at Lamar Park and Bancroft Drive although a specific location has not been defined. This section is about traffic signal vs street lighting. Request for more traffic signals on Jamacha Road as agreed by group to be removed from the list. Custeau said that Sweetwater Road is on the safety corridor and dangerous roads lists - so there is an emphasis to add traffic signals from the side streets. Custeau asked that central island turn restrictions on Sweetwater Road be added to the list in order to prevent collisions, particularly around the Spring Valley Center. Suggestion made to have county traffic engineering give a presentation on workable solutions on Sweetwater Road. Wallace asked to consider adjusting the traffic signal at the entrance to the swap meet parking at the McDonalds on Jamacha Blvd or have the signal coordinating with nearby signals on Jamacha Blvd. Custeau said the Jamacha Road delays near Sweetwater Road is very similar to the delays at Jamacha Blvd and may be due to the lack of cloverleaf exits off SR125.

## **D. GROUP BUSINESS**

### **1. Announcements:**

### **2. Reports:**

- Chair: Pierce has certificates for those members newly elected/appointed to the group. There was discussion about not having a district 1 supervisor or staff to process applications and appointments to the group. There will be a special election on April 8th for the district with both mail-in and in person voting options. The cost for this special election is roughly \$6 million dollars.
- CSA 128: Pearson has been appointed to the CSA128 board. The board wants to continue to have their unique PLDO priority

list in order to protect the integrity of the group. There still can be an overlap of the lists from SVCPG and CSA128.

TAC: No update.

Highway cleanup: new update.

APG (Association of Planning Groups): Voted in new chair and vice chair, incumbents will continue in the positions. SANDAG's new executive director seems to be paying more attention to east county. There has been recent discussion on the amount of money spent on bike lanes and mass transit vs vehicle roadways. East county evacuation routes are an issue, and the county is spending money on clearing vegetation along designated evacuation routes. The LA area fires showed what can happen with inadequate evacuation. Battery storage facility concerns came up as there has been recent fires at such facilities. This type of facility was proposed on Lamar Street. Also, the Sweetwater CPG is concerned about AIRBNBs, solar panels on Sweetwater Reservoir. The Jamul/Dulzura CPG is concerned about the Jamul Casino and south bay traffic. The Spring Valley CPG is concerned about the delays in construction of the SR94 and SR125 interchange. The APG representatives are being appointed to various SANDAG Committees. Next APG meeting is May 31. Further discussion was on how full SANDAG membership works and what would need to be done to make the APG a full voting member of the SANDAG Board.

Other: none

3. Next scheduled SVCPG meeting: January 28, 2025

### **E. ADJOURNMENT at 8:35pm.**

#### **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

We strive to protect personally identifiable information, by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information collected becomes public record, subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of conflict, governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other law will control. You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information, which you believe is in error, by submitting a written request that shows, credibly, the error. If you believe your personal information is being used for purposes other than those intended, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity, before granting access or making corrections.

#### **Purpose of Planning and Sponsor Groups**

Advise the County on Discretionary projects as well as on planning and land use matters that are proposed within their respective community planning or sponsor group area.