

County of San Diego
Warner Springs Community Sponsor Group
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6:00pm
Warner Springs Community Resource Center
30950 Highway 79, Warner Springs, California 92086

Members of the Public Present:
*Pate Cannon, Sandy Gaff, Mike Barrera, Jan Barrera,
Joe Kleinman, Dave Rehberger, Linda Rehberger,
Dayana Williams, Shawn Williams*

- A) **Roll Call and Call to Order: Chair Petermann called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.**
Members Present: Chair Hans Petermann, Kathryn Fletcher, Bob Garcia, Nina Karavasiles, Andy Krogh, Pam Nelson, Jessica Clabaugh
Absent: None.
- B) **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Fletcher and Seconded by Krogh that the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting, with typo corrections provided by Fletcher. All in favor.
- C) **Sheriff's Department Presentation/Meet and Greet:** The group was joined by Lieutenant Jeff Ford who heads Rural Command covering the Eastern part of San Diego County from Campo/Jacumba to the Riverside County line and Sargent Mike Forbes covering the local greater Warner Springs area. Lieutenant Ford oversees functions of the entire area administratively and is also involved in critical incident management and inter-agency coordination. Sargent Forbes has overseen the local station since June of 2023 and many of the local deputies have been patrolling the area for over 10 years. Local Deputies are Joe Maes, Alvin Vazquez and Jarrod Boswell who all live in the general area so that they can respond to calls. Mail theft, domestic and landlord/tenant issues are the most common calls. Links to various crime reports can be found at sdsheriff.gov. Lieutenant Ford shared that local response times vary depending on where Deputies are at the time the call comes in, monthly average response times range from 20-42 minutes. Deputies generally work day shifts but are on call at night and can be flexible to adapt where needed. Residents should call 911 if they feel the situation is an emergency it is best to err on the side caution. If it is definitely not an emergency call 858-565-5200. Ms. Nelson asked about target shooting ordinances and Lieutenant Ford shared that shooting ordinances don't address sound. Sargent Forbes added that they will come out to address shooting and verify if it is happening, they would refer to code enforcement due to Sheriff's inability to measure noise level. Ms. Willis asked about local school outreach. SD Sheriff's department participates at career day at local schools and is available to give presentations to local organizations and have an explorer program. The Department has revamped hiring practices and is aggressively working to attract qualified staff. They have been fortunate and the law enforcement side is over 90% staffed but the detention side is only about 70% staffed. Deputies are authorized to make traffic stops but do not have the training or equipment that CHP would have. Recurring traffic issues call CHP and file a complaint with Sacramento office that will get routed to the local office.
- D) **Public Communication:** Mr. Kleinman expressed concern on the gold spotted oak borer and had done treatment on his property but would like an update on the local situation. He also asked for an update on the status of the potential purchase of the Chihuahua Valley parcel by Land Conservancy. He also shared that earlier start times are best for him and that it would be nice to share the meetings via zoom.

E) Action Item:

- 1) **Discussion and vote on if the CSG should send a letter of support for The California Land Conservancy's purchase of the Warner Springs Estate (Highlands at Warner Springs):** Chair Petermann shared slides provided by **Ed Sauls** who is looking for support for the project. There are sensitive species in the area such as Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, Pallid San Diego Pocket Mouse, Bryant's Woodrat and Turkey Vultures. Ms. Willis shared that the Los Coyotes tribe will be considering a similar letter to send. It was moved by Garcia and seconded by Krogh to approve sending a Letter of Support for The California Land Conservancy's purchase of the Warner Springs Estate (Highlands at Warner Springs) project. Petermann and Fletcher abstained.

F) Group Business:

1) Report from the Chair:

- i. **Update on the seating Dorothy Willis and John McFadden:** Efforts to include the Los Coyotes Reservation into the CSG area continues as County Staff has requested an additional 120 days to review. John McFadden is unable to resign until he files form 700. He resigned so he did not have to fill out Form 700. Hans is working on it.

2) Recurring Discussion Items

- i. **Warner Springs Ranch Development** – Nothing new to report.
- ii. **New Warner Springs Specific Plan** – Nothing new to report.
- iii. **Highlands at Warner Springs** – Nothing new to report.
- iv. **Roadways, Traffic and VMT** – Mr. Garcia shared Hwy 79 was originally designed in 1912 and was not designed for modern traffic. Mr. Garcia attended a Traffic Advisory Committee meeting and reached out to the Chairman Ben Baker to see if the County can help with SR-79 but they cannot because they only deal with County roads not State Highways. He also reached out to the Division Chief of Traffic and Safety Operations at CalTrans, about the left turn lane turning from 79 Southbound onto S2. It is an incident hot spot in our area and asked that they extend the left turn lane and add a right turn lane when traveling 79 North and turning onto S2. He suggested an on ramp lane. He was told to expect a response in about 60 days.
- v. **Dark Sky Community** – Nothing new to report.
- vi. **Socially Equitable Cannabis** – Nothing new to report.
- vii. **Community Park** – Previous school superintendent had spoken with McWethy about purchasing the property for a park. The project never moved forward.
- viii. **School Water Issue** – Mr. Desmond's office has been responsive to Chair Petermann's request for assistance and he is seeing what they can do.
- ix. **Community Survey** – About 20 people responded to the community survey at Trail Fest. All CSG related concerns are being addressed by the group. Items for the Resource Center were local nature education and trails.
- x. **Communications** – Nothing new to report.
- xi. **Chihuahua Valley Road** – Nothing new to report.
- xii. **Fire Insurance** – Ms. Fletcher reported that the Department of Insurance is working on putting together seminars. It was recommended to her to shop around premium offers from CAFP who acts as a broker for a number of different agencies.

xiii. **Undergrounding of Power and Telephone Lines** – Ms. Fletcher reported they are on target for 2025. Contractors are to properly notice property owners and wear proper identification.

xiv. **SANDAG Draft Regional Plan** – Nothing to report.

G) **Closing Member Comments** – Ms. Karavasiles suggested holding meetings at 4pm with a 6pm meeting every 6 months or so. The group agrees.

H) **Adjournment** – Krog move to adjourn. Petermann seconded. The vote was unanimous.