

OTAY MESA PLANNING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
*** SPECIAL MEETING ***
 Otay Nestor Library
 3003 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154

Otay Mesa Planning Group Chair, Mr. Rob Hixson, called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. Introductions are made across the room.

Members present:	Members absent:
Rob Hixson	Tom Ricotta
Ted Shaw	Tony Blas
Diane Kirma	Jason Wells
Felipe Nuno	Scott Merry
Ronnie Taylor	Tom Simmons
Allen Kashani	Mark Freed
Rita Mahoney	
Chris Holder	

Approval of minutes:

January 2023

- **Vote:** A motion was made by T. Shaw, seconded by C. Holder. Motion passed (08-3-0)
Yes: R. Hixson, D. Kirma, A. Kashani, F. Nuno, R. Mahoney, & R. Taylor.
- **Abstained:** None
- **Vote No:** None
- **Comments:** None

Public Input/Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda:

The turf on Del Sol Park was installed. The park should be open within the next three months.

Chairman's Report:

Alejandra Mier y Teran resigned from the planning group. If anyone would like to join the planning group, please let me know.

Items Received:

1. Notice of Right to Appeal Environmental Determination, 6225 Progressive Ave Cannabis Production Facility / PRJ-1107505

Government Liaison Reports

A. COUNCILMEMBER MORENO'S OFFICE: Gerardo Ramirez

- The La Media Road project continues to move forward.
- 1st phase is to be completed by late spring or early summer.
- 2nd phase is to be completed by the end of this year.
- La Media Road traffic issues are being monitored. They haven't seen significant impacts. They continue to put up signage and try to encourage people to use proper routes.
- Two southbound lanes will open.
- EID – the board approved the proposed \$7.8M budget. \$7.7M is designated for projects in Otay Mesa.
- Fire Station 49 to receive \$1.5M
- FEMA was activated in San Diego.

B. MAYOR'S OFFICE:

➤ **Recovery Assistance Now Offered Online**

The City of San Diego has transitioned its Local Assistance Center to an online resource hub, helping residents access services offered by the City, County of San Diego, State of California, federal government, and non-governmental agencies.

- Services available through the City of San Diego online resource hub include:
- Permits, contracting, and remediation for construction.
- Document replacement.
- Utility service support.
- Tax, insurance, and employment information.
- Housing, health and safety.
- Trash collection and bin replacement.
- Ways to locate a vehicle.

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- Legal guidance.
- Residents can access this online Recovery Assistance Center at sandiego.gov/recovery. Additional resources will be added as needs are identified.
- In addition to the online services, assistance is available to anyone in need of in-person or digital support. In-person assistance is available at the Mountain View/Beckwourth Library, 721 San Pasqual Street, on Tuesdays from noon to 7 pm, and Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. Donated household items are also available to residents affected by the storm, including toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby diapers and formula.
- Teams from the City of San Diego have been going door to door to survey residents in the flooded areas, including Southcrest, Shelltown, Mountain View, Mount Hope, Grant Hill, Encanto, Skyline, Webster, and Rolando. City staff have been canvassing neighborhoods daily to assess how residents were impacted by the storm and identify any needs they may have. The information collected has helped the City better determine resource allocation and ensure that residents' needs are being addressed.

➤ **FEMA**

The FEMA declaration does is provide financial assistance to residents for damage not covered by insurance, including:

- Hotel expense reimbursement for uninsured or underinsured applicants who can't return to their home due to disaster-related damage
- Home repair/replacement assistance for disaster losses not already covered by another source
- Rental assistance for alternative housing
- Personal property assistance to repair or replace essential, uninsured personal property damaged by severe storms and flooding
- Transportation Assistance for primary vehicles damaged by the disaster
- People can start applying for FEMA assistance now. Go to DisasterAssistance.gov, call 800-621-FEMA (3362) or [download the FEMA App](#) for information and to start your application.

The FEMA registration deadline for San Diegans is April 19.

[Read more about applying for FEMA support on Inside San Diego.](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY

➤ **Smart Streetlight, License Plate Recognition Technologies Solving Crimes, Advancing Investigations**

- Just two months ago, Mayor signed the Smart Streetlight and Automated License Plate Recognition program into law to help make our communities safer.
- These critical crime-solving tools have been used to solve and advance multiple investigations.
- Over 100 cameras operational so far have aided police with more than 22 homicide, robbery, burglary, assault and stolen vehicle investigations. A dozen stolen vehicles so far have been recovered using this technology, with 11 suspects in custody from these investigations.

[Read more about San Diego's Smart Streetlight and License Plate Recognition tools on Inside San Diego.](#)

➤ **Mayor Gloria Signs First Citywide Project Labor Agreement into Law**

- Earlier this month, Mayor signed into law the ordinance approving the first-ever citywide project labor agreement (PLA).

This historic agreement will cover the City's construction projects and ensure these projects get done on time and on budget while also making sure the workers for these projects are from our neighborhoods. This means creating thousands more construction jobs for San Diegans.

➤ **BUDGET**



[This Coming Budget, We Must Focus on Funding Core Services and Infrastructure](#)

- This coming fiscal year, the City is facing a significant structural budget deficit. This means our spending and revenue sources aren't harmonizing, and adjustments are necessary.
- We must suspend non-essential expenditures and protect basic services like infrastructure that contribute to the well-being of all San Diegans. We will be prioritizing initiatives that yield the most significant returns for the most amount of residents.

➤ **OTHER UPDATES**

[State Awards Additional \\$35 Million in Homekey Funds to San Diego for More Housing](#)

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- The City is getting another infusion of State funding to help us create more housing for those who need it most with an award of \$35 million through the Homekey program to the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).
- The Homekey funds will support SDHC's proposed purchase of an extended-stay hotel property on Hotel Circle, which will be converted into affordable homes with supportive services, in collaboration with the City and San Diego County.
- **RAPID REVIEW**
- Rapid Review, formerly known as Over-the-Counter review, is determined at the time of submittal based on the project's proposed scope. If a project is determined to be eligible, DSD staff automatically place the project into Rapid Review. Note that certain disciplines may not be able to perform a Rapid Review based on the project scope in some cases.
- Rapid Review eligible minor projects include:
 1. Accessory structures for single-dwelling units (carports, patio covers, fences and retaining walls) using City of San Diego standard designs contained in Information Bulletins:
 2. Retaining walls (one wall type, maximum 6 feet in height)
 3. Simple foundation repairs for single-dwelling units and duplexes
 4. Awnings (up to two types)
 5. Deck/stair repairs
 6. Equipment platforms
 7. Roof-mounted equipment
 8. Production phase master plan pool or spas accessory to a non-residential or multiple-dwelling unit uses, up to 6 feet in depth.
 9. Right-of-way permits as identified on  Information Bulletin 165, "How to Obtain a Public Right-of-Way Permit for Standard Public Improvements."
 10. Sign Permits.
 11. Single-story and single-dwelling unit additions and remodels. See  Information Bulletin 140, "How to Obtain a Permit to Build a Residential Addition."
 12. **Tenant improvements projects for Group B, M, F or S occupancies (as defined by the California Building Code) not exceeding 10,000 square feet in area on not more than two floors and not associated with any structural work.**
 13. Fire alarm affidavits (Form DS-163), sprinkler monitoring systems, office Tenant Improvement fire alarm systems not exceeding 10,000 square feet in area and fire alarm control unit upgrades/replacements.
 14. Fire sprinkler affidavits (Form DS-161), kitchen hood suppression systems, fire underground serving a single building and office Tenant Improvements sprinkler systems not exceeding 50 sprinkler heads.

C. ASSEMBLY MEMBER WEBER'S OFFICE: *No report was provided.*

D. SUPERVISOR VARGAS' OFFICE: *No report was provided*

E. ASSEMBLY MEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ OFFICE: *No report provided*

F. SENATOR PADILLA'S OFFICE: *No report provided*

G. POLICE DEPARTMENT & CODE COMPLIANCE: *No report was provided*

H. FIRE DEPARTMENT: *No report was provided.*

I. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT: *No report was provided.*

J. CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: *No report was provided.*

Monthly Report:

A. CPC- *(Mark Freed, Property Owner)*

CPC Agenda 11/28/23

ITEM #3 - APPROVAL OF NON ELECTED CPG BOARDS -

1. The CPC discussed whether to write a letter recommending the City Council to not recognize any CPGs that have not held an election for their members.
2. Planning provided an update on the 2024 application process for recognition of a Planning Group:
 - 2 communities received competing applications- Uptown and La Jolla.
 - 7 were not submitted on time including OMPG. It was stated that Planning is working with those 7 to get their applications in, which include the questionnaire regarding demographics of Planning Group members.

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3. There is a problem that the Council is trying to resolve because statute requires that the groups have elected members. The explanation given was that they are working on a plan whereby the Council can pick and seat a group of their choice and then that new seated group would have to hold elections within a certain time frame, likely 45-60 days.
4. The elections must be open for all to run for a Planning Group seat and it was confirmed that members of the Council chosen group may not end up serving as members if they are not subsequently elected to the Planning Group.
5. It was also said that the Council can choose to not seat a Group even if there is no competing applications. No explanation was given as to how a community is represented if that takes place.

Information on the Planning Group Recognition process can be found at this link.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/cpg/recognition-operations>.

ITEM #4 - BALBOA PARK CULTURAL DISTRICT EXPERIENCE PLAN -

Peter Comiskey of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership gave an overview of the three year effort by the Cultural Partnership to develop an Experience Plan for the Balboa Park Cultural District.

You can find information on the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership at this link <https://bpcp.org/>.

Other items: The CPC Land Development Code Update Subcommittee met on 2/1/24 to review the proposed 67 Land Development Code Updates and formulate a recommendation for a response from the CPC. Information on the 2024 Land Development Code Update can be found at this link <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/land-development-code/updates-in-process>.

Next CPC meeting: February 27, 2024.

B. Southwest Village Committee – (Felipe Nuno, Resident)

- Waiting to hear back from the City.

C. Border Transportation – (Alejandra Mier y Teran, Business Representative)

- A fatal accident caused backup at the border.
- Member breakfast on March 14th with Mario Orso. He will be providing updates on Otay II and the La Media Road project.
- A pilot program was rolled out in Mexicali cargo port to decrease the number of cargo trucks idling at the border.

D. La Media Truck Route- (David Wick, Business Representative)

- 1st phase should be completed in late spring/early summer – the entire project should be completed by the first quarter of 2025.

E. San Diego Airport Advisory Committee – No report was provided.

F. Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce – (Alejandra Mier y Teran, Business Representative)

- Sycuan Golf Tournament May 2nd.

G. East Otay Mesa Property Owner's Association Update – (David Wick, Business Representative)

- The volume of commerce coming into the United States is low.
- Otay Mesa landfill should have closed.

H. La Media West Wetlands - No report was provided.

I. Informational Items – none.

J. Action Items:

a) 10145 Via de la Amistad B-9 CUP renewal | Project No. 1109070

Presented by: Jason A. Lewis, Casbiann Corp

A motion was made by R. Mahoney and seconded by T. Shaw. The Motion passed (08-0-0-0)

Yes: R. Hixson, D. Kirma, R. Taylor, A. Kashani, F. Nuno & C. Holder.

Recusal: None

Abstained: None

No Vote: None

b) 6225 Progressive Ave Cannabis Production Facility | Project No. 1107505

Presented by: Don Goldman

A motion was made by D. Kirma and seconded by F. Nuno. The Motion passed (08-0-0-0)

Yes: R. Hixson, R. Mahoney, R. Taylor, A. Kashani, T. Shaw & C. Holder.

Recusal: None

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Abstained: None

No Vote: None

c) Qua Industrial | Project No. 1099198

Presented by: Atlantis Group Land Use Consultants

A motion was made by R. Mahoney and seconded by R. Taylor. The Motion passed (07-01-0-0)

Yes: R. Hixson, F. Nuno, D. Kirma A. Kashani, & C. Holder.

Recusal: T. Shaw

Abstained: None

No Vote: None

K. Closing remarks:

Thank you.

L. Old Business:

No old business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm by Rob Hixson, Planning Group Chair.