

OTAY MESA-NESTOR COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
11 August 2010

Members Present:

Dist. 1 John Swanson
Dist. 2 Sam Mendoza
Dist. 3 Ed Abraham
Dist. 5 Diego Padilla
Dist. 6 Maria Mendoza
Dist. 7 Ira Briggs
Dist. 8 Myrna Briggs

Dist. 9 Vinnie Thoms
Dist. 10 Bob Mikloski
Dist. 11 Marie Johnson
Dist. 12 Carlos Sanchez
Dist. 13 Daniel Wagner
Dist. 14 Wayne Dickey
Dist. 16 Steve Schroeder

Members Absent:

Dist. 4 Diane Porter
Dist. 15 Walt Zumstein

Guests Present:

Ruth Schneider, resident
Joan Schneider, resident

Whitney Benzian, guest
Bobby Hicks, resident

Claudia Valenzuela, guest

1. **Call to Order/Introduction of Members:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Daniel Wagner, Chairman, at the Otay Mesa Branch Library. He welcomed all Board members and the community to the meeting of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Planning Group (OMNCPG).
2. **Approval of minutes** – Motion made by Vinnie Thoms to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2010, OMNCPG meeting as corrected, and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. **Non-Agenda Public Comments:** None
4. **Council District 8 Report:** Whitney Benzian said that Councilmember Hueso held the second meeting of the Palm Avenue Beautification Committee. The committee is studying ways to beautify Palm Avenue from I-5 west to the San Diego city limits, both west and eastbound. He said the next meeting of this committee will be on August 12, 2010, at the Salty Dog, 992 Palm Avenue, Imperial Beach, at 9:30 a.m. He also said that due primarily to Operation Stonegarden, crime has dropped in South Bay 8%. Overall, he stated that property crime dropped 20% and car theft is down 35%.
5. **SDPD Community Relations:** The San Diego Police Department Community Relations Officer Carlos LaCarra said that the vice unit recently went undercover to try to purchase cigarettes, posing as underage customers. The unit reported zero sales to underage customers. He said that the overall drop in crime rate is due to the police conducting two to three operations per week, with six to twelve officers. They are targeting juveniles, and he believes that targeting this group has lead to the drop in crime rate. Officer LaCarra's phone number is 619-424-0440, and his email address is: clacarra@pd.sandiego.gov
6. **Information Item:** Chairman Daniel Wagner introduced an informational item regarding the City of San Diego Water Purification Demonstration Project. Eric Simons, Public Information Officer, said that the Water Purification Demonstration Project is part of the City's effort to provide a local and sustainable water supply using water purification technology to provide safe and reliable water source for San Diego.

He said that this is second phase evaluating ways to increase use of recycled water. The first phase was the reservoir augmentation study. This Demonstration Project will determine if reservoir augmentation is an option for San Diego. Funding for the Project was derived partly from a temporary water rate increase. The rest of the costs will be reimbursed by California Proposition 50, also by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grants. The Project is underway, and concludes in early 2013. During this time, the Purification Facility will operate at the North City Water Reclamation Plant for approximately one year. It will produce 1 million gallons of purified water per day. A study of the San Vicente Reservoir is being conducted to test the key functions of reservoir augmentation, and to determine the viability of a full-scale project. No purified water will be sent to the reservoir during the demonstration phase..

7. **Information Item:** San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) – Blue Line Improvements. Rob Schupp from MTS presented information about the proposed 3 year long construction project, and answered questions:
- a. Over the next three years MTS and SANDAG will spend \$600 million in state, local and federal funds in order to improve the 30-year-old Blue Line.
 - b. The Blue Line trolley route is from San Ysidro to Old Town, and is 18 miles long.
 - c. They will be replacing 100-year-old railroad ties, mismatched rails, and the overhead power lines.
 - d. They will be installing fiber-optic communication lines for onboard and trolley station security cameras.
 - e. All of the stations will be upgraded to accommodate new “low floor” train cars.
 - f. 57 new low-floor cars are being purchased at a cost of \$233 million.
 - g. The low-floor cars allow commuters, wheelchair users, moms with strollers and cyclists to all board together. The current antiquated lifts are slow, and this accounts for 70 percent of the system’s late trains.
 - h. The trolleys will be running during construction; much of the work will take place late at night, when ridership is at its lowest.

Mr. Schupp said that when service will be disrupted or altered on the trolley line:

1. Notices will be posted on all trains ahead of the disruptions.
2. Notifications will first be posted on the SANDAG and MTS and the Keep San Diego Moving websites.
3. Early E-mail blasts will be sent to selected government agencies, service organizations and business associations .
4. Trolley “ambassadors” will be posted at affected stations to help riders continue their journey.
5. MTS will operate a “Trolley Renewal Hotline” with construction updates: 619-557-4533

8. **Information Item:** Claudia Valenzuela of SDG&E presented information about the utility’s electric and gas “Smart” meter installations. She said:

1. Smart meters are digital devices that collect energy-use data and transmit and receive data about a home’s electric energy use.
2. Natural gas meters will have a similar monitor installed.
3. The state of California asked all utilities to change out meters with new, digital smart meters.
4. Smart meter installations are underway throughout SDG&E’s service area. They are progressing through the central, south and east counties in 2010, finishing up in south Orange County by the end of 2011.
5. All SDG&E customers – residences and businesses – will receive smart meters. This is a mandatory service upgrade;

6. Either SDG&E or their authorized representative, VSI Meter Services, will install the new smart meters.

Contact information:

SDG&E
1-800-411-7343

VSI Meter Services
1-866-734-4308

VSI web info:

<http://www.vsimeterservices.com>

SDG&E web info:

<http://www.sdge.com/smartmeter/faq.shtml>

9. **Chair's Report:** No report.
10. **Sub-Committee Reports:** No report.
11. **Long Range City Planner's Report:** No report.
12. **Adjournment:** 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted by **John C. Swanson, Secretary**

The next meeting is September 8, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch Library.