

OTAY MESA PLANNING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES, JULY 18, 2025
Via Zoom

Otay Mesa Planning Group, Vice-Chair, Ted Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
Introductions are made across the Zoom screen.

Members present:	Members absent:
Alejandra Mier y Teran	Rob Hixson, Chair
Diane Kirma	Jason Wells
Ted Shaw, Vice-chair	Tony Blas
Ronnie Taylor	Tom Simmons
Allen Kashani	Jorge Goytortua
Rita Mahoney	
Felipe Nuño, Secretary	
Seth Dorros	
Chris Holder	
Jose Hernandez	

Approval of minutes:

June 2025

- **Vote:** A motion was made by *F. Nuño* seconded by C. Holder. Motion passed (10-0-0-0)
Yes: R. Taylor, R. Mahoney, S. Dorros, J. Hernandez, A. Kashani, T. Shaw, A. Mier y Teran, & D. Kirma.
- **Recusal:** None
- **Abstained:** None
- **Vote No:** None
- **Comments:** None

Public Input/Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda

- None.

Chairman's Report: Rob Hixson

Government Liaison Reports

A. COUNCILMEMBER MORENO'S OFFICE: Victor Caymaris

- **Milestones and Updates:**
 - The city of San Diego has completed 500 miles of road resurfacing in one year, which is a significant milestone.
 - 8% of the city's total road network was resurfaced, including 304 miles of slurry seal resurfacing and 140 miles of asphalt overlay.
 - This project has improved road conditions in districts 8, 9, and 4.
- **Federal Funding for Housing:**
 - The city will administer \$43 million in federal grants to local organizations and nonprofits to improve living environments, expand economic opportunities, and increase housing opportunities in low- and moderate-income communities.
 - The funding comes from:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding (\$12.1 million)
 - Home Investment Partnership Programs (\$30.3 million)
 - Emergency Solutions Grants funding (\$99,900)
 - Over 20 nonprofits will receive funding, including Reality Changers, Kitchen for Good, and Somali Family Services of San Diego.
- **Next Steps:**
 - The city will share a thorough report on the funding allocations.

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B. MAYOR'S OFFICE: *Lucero Maganda:*

➤ **City of San Diego Marks Completion of 500 Miles of Road Resurfacing in One Year:**

- Marking another successful effort to repair and resurface streets citywide, Mayor Todd Gloria celebrated the completion of approximately 500 miles of street paving and repair during fiscal year 2025.
- These 500 miles of paving performed in fiscal year (FY25) are almost 8% of San Diego's total road network and include more than 340 miles of slurry seal resurfacing, more than 140 miles of asphalt overlay paving and 24 miles of mill and pave treatment from the City's in-house paving teams.
- Combined, this makes FY25 one of the most productive years for road resurfacing this decade, underscoring the City's commitment to infrastructure investments.
- Funding for road repair in fiscal year 2026 (FY26) is projected to be \$83.1 million, which will yield over 350 miles of pavement repair and resurfacing.

➤ **City of San Diego Allocates \$43.5 Million in Federal Funding to Increase Housing**

- The City of San Diego will administer more than \$43.5 million in federal grants to local organizations and nonprofits that improve living environments, expand economic opportunity and increase housing opportunities in low- and moderate-income communities after the City Council approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Annual Action Plan.
- The FY2026 Annual Action Plan lays out how the City will distribute this year's more than \$12.1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$30.3 million HOME Investment Partnerships Program and \$990,775 Emergency Solutions Grant funds.
- The action plan breaks down allocations to more than 20 nonprofits such as Reality Changers, Kitchens for Good, Rise Up Industries, Monarch School, Serving Seniors, Somali Family Service of San Diego, Partnership for Environmental Progress and City Heights Community Development Corporation. Organizations had to go through a competitive process to apply for the funding.
- For the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the City has a partnership with the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) to administer the funds on behalf of the City. Through this partnership, the SDHC provides direct financial assistance to homebuyers and financial support to construct rental homes for families and those experiencing homelessness.
- Finally, the Emergency Solutions Grant funding will go toward shelters for those experiencing homelessness and provide rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention strategies.

➤ **SeaWorld Settlement Will Fund Upgrades to City of San Diego Park Facilities:**

- Following approval by the San Diego City Council today, the City of San Diego will invest nearly \$8 million in projects at park facilities across the City, including major upgrades to Robb Field in Ocean Beach. The allocation of funds comes from a legal settlement with SeaWorld over lease payments owed to the City by the theme park dating back to 2020.
- In total, 11 locations across the City have been identified to receive funding for a range of projects, with more than \$3.6 million allocated for the long-overdue replacement of the restrooms and playground equipment at Robb Field.
- For the MBPIF, additional park locations and projects were identified for funding, including:
 - \$235,000 for the South De Anza basketball courts and parking lot improvements, with construction expected to start in July 2025.
 - \$719,629 for the Dusty Rhodes restroom, playground and parking lot improvements, with construction expected to start in January 2026.
- Seven projects in the San Diego RPIF were also identified for use of the settlement funds, totaling nearly \$2.8 million with projects in various stages of construction. These include:
 - Restroom improvements at Organ Pavilion, Spanish Village and Morley Field in Balboa Park.
 - Electrical service improvements at Chollas Lake.
 - Replacement of missing and damaged wooden pier piles on Crystal Pier.
 - Sidewalk repairs at Ellen Browning Scripps Park.
 - Restoration of the historic barn at the Rancho Peñasquitos Equestrian Center.
 - ADA improvements at the Mountain View sports courts.
- Park improvements at the West Sycamore Staging Area.

➤ **City of San Diego Announces Rebates Available for Energy-Efficient Home Appliances:**

- The City of San Diego is helping dozens of households save energy, reduce costs and build a more sustainable community through an innovative appliance rebate program.

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- The Home Electrification Affordability Rebates and Technical Assistance (HEART) program is now accepting applications from interested residents and contractors. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program.
- The HEART program provides rebates for energy-efficient appliance upgrades and is open to City residents (homeowners and tenants) who meet specific income and eligibility requirements.
- The program focuses primarily on lower-income households, especially those impacted by the January 2024 floods.

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

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

E. ASSEMBLY MEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ OFFICE: *Liliana Barba*

- **AB 655:**
 - Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill that allows the Speaker of the Assembly and President pro team of the Senate to appoint members to the California-Mexico Border Relations Council.
- **Assembly Bill 655:**
 - This is the first bill introduced by Assembly Member Alvarez to be signed by the Governor this year.
- **Transboundary Flow Pollution:**
 - Assembly Member Alvarez introduced Assembly Resolution 16, urging the US Congress and President Trump to declare a national emergency due to pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.
- **Immigration Reform:**
 - The California Problem Solvers Caucus, co-chaired by Assembly Member Alvarez, has agreed on guiding principles for reforming the nation's immigration system.
- **College Fair:**
 - Assembly Member Alvarez will host a college fair on November 15 at Southwest High School, where high school and middle school students can learn about colleges, universities, trade schools, and financial aid.

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

G. POLICE DEPARTMENT & CODE COMPLIANCE: *Carlos LaCarra*

- **National Night Out Event:**
 - Date: August 5
 - Time: 5pm
 - Location: South Bay Rec Center, 1885 Coronado Avenue Community Walk at 4:15pm
- **Promotions:**
 - 3 new lieutenants, 12 sergeants, and 25 detectives to be promoted on July 30. Effective August 16th.
- **Department Changes:**
 - Losing 5 officers due to retirement but gaining 5 new officers.
 - Administrative staff discussed allocations to accommodate promotions.
- **Vehicle Habitation:**
 - San Diego PD's Neighborhood Policing Division will handle vehicle habitation complaints, not the CROs
 - Reason: a lawsuit led to guidelines on addressing vehicle habitation, which MPD will follow

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 Reports:

A. CPC- *(Allen Kashani)*

- New rules for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) allow for:

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- Up to 6 ADUs per parcel
- Up to 1200 square feet of ADU space per parcel (dependent on parcel size).
- MTS presentation:
 - Projecting a funding deficit.
 - Starting a planning effort to determine priorities to reconcile the deficit.

B. Southwest Village Committee – (Felipe Nuño)

- Waiting for reports from the city.

C. Border Transportation – (Alejandra Mier y Teran)

- Issues with visas for Mexican truckers due to enforcement of cabotage rules at border patrol checkpoints.
- Some truckers' visas have been revoked, causing concern for the trucking industry in the Calexico area.
- The issue is also affecting San Diego County, where many truckers are residents of the US but live in Tijuana due to lack of housing or affordability.
- There is a potential national rule that could be implemented to revoke resident alien cards for those with immigration violations or criminal activity.
- This could lead to people losing their ability to work in the US.
- CDP met with the US Ambassador in Mexico to discuss the issue and inform him of the potential consequences.
- The Ambassador will investigate the matter and inform the community if the rule is implemented.
- A commuter card option is available for residents of Tijuana who work in the US, which would allow them to reside in Tijuana and work in the United States.

D. La Media Truck Route – (David Wick)

- No update. This is complete.
- We should add Siempre Viva Road to Britannia Blvd to our agenda instead of La Media Truck Route.

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

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

- July 22nd: Member breakfast with Qualcomm, register by this Friday to attend.
- Update on tariffs, with new and interesting information. July 29th: Virtual webinar with experts at 9am via Zoom
- September 18th: Annual dinner

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

- The federal government is working to fill gaps in the border fence in East County.
- The goal is to have a solid fence approved from both ports of entries.
- Grading and construction are currently underway to fill in the existing gaps in the fence.
- No updates have been received from Caltrans regarding the reopening of SR 11 from Enrico Fermi Rd. to Siempre Viva Road.

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

I. Informational Items – None.

J. Action Items – None.

K. Closing remarks – Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm by Ted Shaw, Vice-Chair of the Otay Mesa Planning Group.