



LA JOLLA SHORES PLANNED DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES FROM:

WEDNESDAY, January 21, 2026

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Sherri Lightner called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Item 2: ROLL CALL

Members Present: Herbert Lazerow, Sherri Lightner, Kathleen Neil, and Suzanne Weissman.

Staff Liaison: Melissa Garcia, Senior Planner, City Planning Department; Matthew Nasrallah, Associate Planner, City Planning Department.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Board Member Lazerow proposes adding an informational item to the agenda, *Item 10: Reconsideration Request Letter: Cielo Mar 8303 La Jolla Shores Drive*, and reassigning the adjournment to Item 11. Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Board Member Lazerow, seconded by Board Member Neil. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Item 4: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from November 19, 2025.

Motion to approve the minutes with changes by Board Member Lazerow, seconded by Board Member Neil. Minutes approved 4-0-0.

Item 5: BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

No board member comments were provided.

Item 6: STAFF LIAISON COMMENT

Staff attended a Boards and Commissions meeting regarding an update to the Brown Act that will allow boards to meet virtually - but there are specificities. First, the city council will have to vote to approve the option for any board to hold virtual meetings. After that, individual boards will have to vote to initiate virtual meetings. After this approval, boards may hold virtual meetings, but at least one board member must be present in a publicly accessible location for members of

the public to gather in person during meetings, thereby allowing the public both online and in-person options for engagement.

Item 7: NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT
No public comment was provided.

Item 8: **2025 Land Development Code Update Item #104 (ACTION ITEM)**
The City Planning Department Code Team presented Item 104, which proposes an amendment to the La Jolla Shores Planned District. This amendment would remove the City Manager as secretary of the La Jolla Shores Planned District Advisory Board. City staff requested a recommendation from the Advisory Board on this proposed change.

Senior Planner Megan Covarrubias from the City Planning Department presented the item.

Public Comment:

No public comment was provided.

Board Comment included:

- Concern that removing City staff from the Board provides an additional barrier to public participation, instead of the Board's goal of more community review
- Concern that the lack of City staff presence at meetings would affect the image of the Board to the public and developers, and therefore may negatively impact the responsibilities of the Board under City Boards and Commissions
- Concern regarding the lack of City staff presence on other boards and commissions, citing that more City staff should be present and integrated into community input
- Concern that the amendment will make it more difficult for the Board to get more members
- Concern that removing City staff would make it more difficult for project applicants to be placed on agendas for meetings
- Assertion that the requirement for the Conflict of Interest statement (Form 700) for Board members ties them to the City, which allows them to act as City representatives and work with City staff more closely
- Suggestion that since the Board is project-focused, it could be managed by the Development Services Department instead of the City Planning Department if the department's concerns are financial, because the Development Services Department is an enterprise division, funding can be provided by applicants

- Request that if removing the City Manager as the secretary of the Board is necessary, it be removed without affecting the City Manager's responsibility to maintain records
- Request that the City Planning Department consider pushing this amendment to the next Land Development Code Update

Board Motion: The LJSPDAB moved not to recommend the proposed amendment as written, due to concerns about weakening community input and the potential threat to the Advisory Board's ability to review projects. Motion made by Board Member Neil, seconded by Board Member Lazerow. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Item 9: **Standardized Report Review (ACTION ITEM)**

Board Members reviewed the Standardized Report, including Board Member Neil's modification to the report, and found it sufficient. Motion to approve the report with changes by Board Member Lazerow, seconded by Board Member Neil. Report approved 4-0-0.

Item 10: **Reconsideration Request Letter: Cielo Mar 8303 La Jolla Shores Drive (INFORMATION ITEM)**

The Advisory Board reviewed a letter requesting that it send a reconsideration letter to the Planning Commission regarding the approval of the Cielo Mar project, to help convince the commission to review the project again.

Phil Merten presented the request.

Public Comment:

No public comment was provided.

Board Comment included:

- The Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend denial of the project at its April 2025 meeting, citing concerns regarding grading, lack of environmental/CEQA documents, not conforming to the neighborhood character and lack of letters of support from neighbors
- A letter from the Advisory Board to the Planning Commission to reconsider one of their decisions has not happened before
- Suggest the author note the Advisory Board's 5-0-0 rejection of the project by citing its minutes from their April 2025 meeting in his letter

Item 11: ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The meeting concluded at 11:22 a.m.