

SKYLINE-PARADISE HILLS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Skyline Hills Library - 7900 Paradise Valley Rd., San Diego, CA 92114

PUBLIC NOTICE and AGENDA

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. - 7:55 p.m. (2nd Tuesday monthly)

Skyline Hills, Paradise Hills, South and North Bay Terraces, Lomita, and Jamacha

sph.cpc@gmail.com

"If Sign Language interpretation or language translation services are required, please visit www.sandiego.gov/planning/translation to submit a request at least (3) three workdays prior to the meeting date to ensure availability."

Members:

Chair, Samantha Jenkins (North Bay Terraces)
Vice Chair, Tanisha-Jean Martin (Skyline)
Secretary, Erin Tomaras (Paradise Hills)
Wayne English (Paradise Hills)

Don Houston (Paradise Hills)
Avery Montoya (Skyline)
Guy Preuss (Paradise Hills)
Rhonda Shepherd (Skyline)

1. 6:00 **Call To Order and Roll Call**
2. 6:03 **Modification/Approval of Agenda**
3. 6:05 **Adoption of Minutes for December 9, 2025**
4. 6:08 **Non-Agenda Public Comment**
Identification of issues that are within the jurisdiction of the CPG, but not on the agenda. No discussion or action is permitted, except to establish a subcommittee for study, or place the item on a future agenda. Two minutes per issue.
5. 6:20 **Representative Reports**
These reports may include, but are not limited to, information on community events and regulatory/legislative updates.
 - A. San Diego Southeastern Division Police Department
 - Community Relations Office, Chris Jones
 - B. City of San Diego Councilmember Henry L. Foster III, District 4
 - C. San Diego Mayor's Office
 - D. County of San Diego Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, District 4
 - E. California Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, District 39
 - F. California Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins, District 79
 - G. Congressman Juan Vargas, 52nd District

6. 6:40 **Community Planning Committee/Chair/Voting Member Reports**
- A. Community Planners Committee Report
 - a. CPC approved summary of land development code recommendations for submittal to the City (see CPC website for approved summary and letter to City:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10UJkULrL3PtXWq7X02SDOEFxGH5lsxww?usp=drive_link)
 - b. CPC approved letter to City requesting that community representatives be granted equal time as project applicants/developers at City meetings
 - i. See Item 8A for related action item.
 - B. Chair Report
 - a. See attached report.
 - b. Updates from the City on the following issues:
 - i. Annual Report timeline
 - ii. Ad-hoc vs. sub-committees
 - iii. If digital copies are permitted for proof of residency
 - C. Voting Members Report
 - a. None were received.
7. 7:00 **Informational Items**
- A. March 2026 SPH CPG Elections
 - a. *Two vacancies for Voting Members (applications due by end of February - see attached application form)*
 - i. *No current Voting Members from Jamacha or Lomita*
 - b. *Need volunteers for Election Subcommittee*
 - i. *Community members are encouraged to join*
 - ii. *Subcommittee helps implement the March election, including maintaining impartiality during the election process and counting ballots, per [Council Policy 600-24](#)*
 - B. Engagement of State Representatives regarding Land Use Legislation and Policy
 - a. *Discuss crafting a letter to our state assembly member/senator about getting local planning groups involved earlier in the land use legislation process*
 - b. *Discuss how to foster relationships between CPG and land use staff for our state assembly member/senator*
 - C. Capital Improvements Program
 - a. *Discuss how to stay on top of the deadline to provide feedback and prioritize capital improvement projects as part of the City's annual budget process*
 - D. Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings
 - a. *Provide an example of adaptive reuse of Sears Tower in Chicago and discuss how that concept could be useful in our planning area*

8. 7:35 **Action Items**

A. Request for Designated Community Presentation Time at City Decision-Making Hearings

a. *Review CPC memo to City and determine if CPG wants to sign form letter in support (see attachments)*

9. 7:55 **Adjourn** until the next regular meeting on March 10, 2026.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS POLICY NO.: 600-24

Voting Members of CPGs are expected to treat each other, members of the community, and City staff in a professional manner.

Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Group Operating Procedures:

Section 6.1 Professional Conduct

The planning group and its voting members will conduct themselves reasonably and professionally and refrain from disrupting the public process as set forth on the planning group's agenda.

Section 6.3 Disorderly Conduct

In the event that any planning group meeting is willfully interrupted by a person or group of persons, so as to make the orderly conduct of the meeting infeasible, the planning group may first cause removal of the individual or individuals. If that is unsuccessful then the planning group may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session on scheduled agenda items without an audience, except that representatives of the media shall be allowed to remain. The planning group may also readmit an individual or individuals who were not responsible for the disruption.

Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Group

December 9, 2025 Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 18:15 hours.

Roll Call

The following members were present for a quorum:

- Samantha Jenkins
- Don Houston
- Tanisha-Jean Martin
- Guy Preuss
- Avery Montoya
- Wayne English
- Erin Tomaras

The following member was absent:

- Rhonda Shepherd

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- *Member Preuss motioned to approve the agenda. Member English seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*
- *Member Preuss motioned to approve the October 14, 2025 minutes. Member English seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*

Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Community member Dorene Dias Pesta noted that North or South needs to be added to Bay Terraces next to Samantha Jenkins name on the agenda.
- Vice Chair Martin mentioned two events:
 - A pre-holiday tree care and clean up day from 9:00 a.m. to noon on December 20 at the Skyline Hills Library.
 - Sustainable holiday party from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on December 10 at the George L. Stevens Senior Center.
- Member Houston noted that the first installment of property taxes are due tomorrow, which includes the trash fee.

Representative Reports

- Korral Taylor (Mayor's Office) reported on the City's new housing policy. A press conference will occur tomorrow to present the idea to the community. The Mayor's Office is looking for community feedback either via call or text to 619-736-5436.
- Bruce Williams (City Council District 4) provided the following information:
 - He shared the December newsletter and mentioned office hours with Councilmember Foster.
 - He noted that District 4 is not using the Get It Done app as much as other districts and encouraged community members to use the app. He noted that the current wait time is 365 days to get a streetlight fixed, but the councilmember's office can try elevating a Get It Done ticket if it is brought to their attention.

- www.sandiego.gov/trash has information about the new trash bins.
- Robin Todd (California Assembly District 79) reported on the annual holiday giveaway from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on December 20 at Bell Middle School. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive turkeys, hams, fresh produce, and clothing for children.

Community Planners Committee Report

- Member Preuss reported that the City's Heritage Preservation Program is focused on individual buildings and that it needs to focus on the entire neighborhood because there are distinct architectural features that can be carried throughout a neighborhood.
- The new CPC website with agendas and minutes is available at www.sdcpc.org.
- The 2025 land development code updates are driven by decisions made at the state level, so when they get to the local level, it is too late to make any changes.
 - Member Preuss proposed a topic for the next meeting about crafting a letter to state assembly members and state senators about local planning groups being involved earlier in the process for land use legislation.
 - Member Houston proposed a topic that includes how to better foster relationships with land use staff for these state officials.
 - ***Member Tomaras motioned to add those topics to the next agenda, and Vice Chair Martin seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.***
 - Comments for the 2025 updates are due by January 19, 2026.

Chair's Report

- Chair Jenkins referred to the report that was attached to the agenda. She asked community members to email the group if there was anything the public would like to include about policy/community updates.

Voting Member's Report

- Member Houston asked Samantha to contact Marlon Pangilinan about resolving the conflicting information about ad-hoc vs. sub committees. Chair Jenkins asked Don to draft his questions about the issue.

Informational Items

- Members of the San Diego Community Coalition discussed the group's goals and purpose. The group was launched due to massive housing complexes being built overnight and local representatives were not helping. The group includes representation for 26 different communities, but does not have any from Skyline or Paradise Hills. Local officials seem to be more swayed when members from multiple communities provide feedback on a project rather than just members from one community. The group sends out weekly bulletin emails about City agendas. Community members can email kate@katecallen.com to join the mailing list. The OB Rag is the platform for the group.
- The Annual Report requirements and timeline were discussed. The report is required to include election results and be submitted within 14 days of the March meeting minutes, which does not allow for public review of the draft report prior to submittal. Chair Jenkins will ask Marlon about the timeline for the report.

- Two vacancies for Voting Members will be available during the March 2026 elections. The applications are due in February and need to include proof of residency. Chair Jenkins will check with Marlon whether digital copies of residency are permitted.
 - *Member English made a motion for member applications to be on the table at each meeting. Vice Chair Martin seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*
 - *Member English made a motion for a call for new members to be included with the agenda each month. Vice Chair Martin seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass. Member Houston voted against the motion.*
 - Chair Jenkins will provide information on the election committee and what is needed at the next meeting.
- Member Houston discussed the City-wide initiatives listed on the City's Planning Department website (<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on>). He encouraged the public and Voting Members to review the initiatives and plans and provide comments.
 - Chair Jenkins suggested agendizing a new plan every month to discuss feedback to provide to the City. Vice Chair Martin can provide notice of comment periods and summaries of the plans from her role on the Climate Advisory Board.
 - *Vice Chair Martin made a motion to add a new plan to each agenda. Member Montoya seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*
 - Vice Chair Martin asked Bruce if Jacqueline Kennedy (Senior Policy Advisor to Councilmember Foster) could share deadlines and pending policies that she is tracking with the planning group.

Action Items

Member Preuss motioned for the planning group to sign the memo supporting the Jamacha Neighborhood Council's efforts to request accurate mapping of the Jamacha boundary. Vice Chair Martin seconded.

Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Martin, Montoya, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.

- Chair Jenkins will sign the memo with a wet signature, then Member Tomaras will email it to community member Dias.
- The CPC voted to sign the memo in November.
- Member Preuss suggested that community member Dias submit the memo to the newspapers too.
- Member Houston asked community member Dias to report back to the planning group about this issue in March.

Adjournment

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 19:45 hours.

Meeting minutes were recorded by:

Erin Tomaras

Erin Tomaras, Secretary

Chairperson's Report

Skyline Paradise Hills Community Planning Group

Meeting: February 10, 2025

Overview

This Chairperson's Report covers policy, land-use updates, public safety, infrastructure, upcoming meetings, and clear calls to action for the Skyline Hills, Paradise Hills, Lomita, Jamacha, North Bay Terraces, and South Bay Terraces communities. Acronyms are explained the first time they appear.

Calls to Action

- **Community members:**

- ☐ Report streetlight outages, illegal dumping, and unsafe crossings to 311 and email the Planning Group liaison so we can track hot spots. (Ongoing)
- ☐ If you plan to add an ADU/JADU, review the updated rules and fees before applying for permits. See ADU info:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/accessory-dwelling-units>

- **Board members:**

- ☐ Produce a plain-language ADU guidance one-pager for homeowners.
- ☐ Form an LDC review working group to review the Citywide Discussion Draft.
- ☐ Compile infrastructure requests from neighborhood residents
- ☐ Monitor CPC and Council committee items and pick at least one item per month to track or comment on. Start immediately.

Upcoming Meetings

Community Planners Committee (CPC) — A citywide forum of community planning group leaders. Check agendas at the City planning site:

Meeting Info

4th Tuesday of every month

6:15 p.m.

Cathy Hopper Clairemont Friendship Center

[4425 Bannock Avenue](#)

San Diego, CA 92117.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning>

How to use: check the CPC page before big LDC or plan items; CPC positions can influence Planning Commission and City Council decisions.

San Diego City Council

Key committees: Land Use & Housing, Active Transportation & Infrastructure, Public Safety. City committee listings and calendar: <https://www.sandiego.gov/council-committees>

- ☐ **Budget & Government Efficiency Committee** — Wed Feb 4, 9:00 AM
- ☐ **Land Use and Housing Committee** — Thu Feb 5, 1:00 PM
- ☐ **Public Safety Committee** — Wed Feb 11, 2:00 PM
- ☐ **Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** — Thu Feb 19, 1:00 PM
- ☐ **City Council Sessions** — Mon Feb 9, Tue Feb 10, Mon Feb 23, Tue Feb 24 (10:00 AM + 2:00 PM slots)

These committee meetings are key forums for discussing budgets, housing policy, transportation planning, and public safety investments. Urban planning groups often watch the **Land Use & Housing** and **Active Transportation & Infrastructure** committees for zoning updates, public right-of-way improvements, sidewalks and bike lanes, and city capital spending plans.

San Diego County Board of Supervisors (BOS)

— County hearings affect public health, county roads, and county planning. BOS calendar: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cob/mastercalendar.html>

How to watch or speak: Most City and County meetings are webcast or in-person. Use the linked pages above to view agendas, sign up for alerts, or submit public comment.

- ☐ Tues, Feb 10 – General Board meeting
- ☐ Wed, Feb 11 – Land Use Session
- ☐ Tues, Feb 24 – General and Land Use Sessions
- ☐ Monthly board meetings ongoing throughout March 2026.

The **Draft Capital Plan 2026-2031** is publicly posted for community review and comment. This plan identifies county priorities for *infrastructure maintenance and expansion*, including parks, libraries, behavioral health facilities, and other public assets planned to be presented for Board adoption in **Spring 2026**.

Policy Matters

Affordable Housing & Tenant Protections

- The City updated rules for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and Junior ADUs (JADU). These changes align with state law and affect fees and safety rules.
- **Why it matters:** This can change how many rental units may appear in our neighborhoods and may affect parking and local services.

Economic Development & Small Business

- The City's Land Development Code (LDC) is being updated with many changes across the city.
- **Why it matters:** Changes could affect local businesses in Lomita and Jamacha by changing allowed uses or parking rules.

Legislation

The City Council and its committees make many decisions that affect our area. Check the City Council calendar and committee pages for meeting dates and agendas: <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/meetings-calendar>

Relevant committees include the Public Safety Committee, Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and the Land Use & Housing Committee.

Public Safety & Infrastructure Matters

Public Safety

- Key problems in our area: street lighting outages, pedestrian safety, illegal dumping, and emergency response needs.
- **What you can do:** Report problems to 311 and [Get It Done](#) (City non-emergency requests) and email the Planning Group liaison so we can track hot spots.

Infrastructure & Urban Planning

- The City is working on catching up with repairs for streets and sidewalks. Some neighborhoods are lower on the priority list.
- **What we can do:** Collect problems (potholes, broken sidewalks, storm drains) and submit them as a group to Public Works.

Land Development Code (LDC) — Summary of Proposed Updates

LDC stands for Land Development Code. It is the City rulebook for zoning, building, parking, signs, and more. The City published a Citywide Discussion Draft of LDC updates (2025). Below are key items that likely affect our planning area.

- ADU / JADU rules & Development Impact Fees (DIF) for ADUs

What it does: Aligns local ADU and JADU rules with state law and updates fees.

Why it matters: Easier or different rules for home owners adding ADUs. This affects density, parking, and sewer/water planning.

- Refuse, Organic Waste, and Recyclable Materials Storage rules

What it does: Requires new homes to include space for trash, recycling, and organic waste.

Why it matters: Helps reduce illegal dumping and keeps streets cleaner.

- Parking regulations & screened parking facades

What it does: Requires parking structures facing streets to be screened and clarifies rules when sidewalks or promenades change.

Why it matters: Affects street look and where cars park if commercial blocks are redeveloped.

- Promenades and active sidewalks — accessible parking relocation

What it does: Allows accessible parking to be moved up to 500 feet when creating promenades or active sidewalks.

Why it matters: Ensure parking for people with mobility needs still works for them.

- Fire-safety setback clarification for residential zones

What it does: May increase side or rear setbacks where needed for fire safety or emergency access.

Why it matters: Important for hillside lots in Skyline Hills and safe evacuation.

- Definitions & unit counting

What it does: Clarifies how the City counts the number of dwelling units on a lot.

Why it matters: Affects how many units are allowed and whether conversions need permits.

- Administrative citations, nuisance, and civil penalties increases

What it does: Raises fines for code violations and abandoned property.

Why it matters: Gives City tools to fix chronic problems like illegal dumping, but property owners must be informed.

- Inclusionary and off-site affordable housing rules; AB 812 implementation

What it does: Implements state changes affecting affordable housing rules in new projects.

Why it matters: Affects how affordable housing is included in new buildings near transit or commercial areas.

- Development Impact Fees (DIF) adjustments

What it does: Clarifies park fees and other fees paid by new projects; allows certain fee updates yearly.

Why it matters: New projects may pay fees that help build parks and sidewalks in our area.

Key Timelines (Quick View)

- ADU guidance one-pager — Board members — Due:
- LDC working group draft — Board working group — Due:
- LDC final comments due — Board working group — Due:
- Infrastructure issues collection — Community members — Due:
- Submit infrastructure hot spots — Board members — Due:

) California State Legislature — 2026 Session

Legislative Calendar (Statewide)

The **2025-2026 regular session** of the California Legislature runs through **August 31, 2026** with critical deadlines ahead:

- ☐ **Feb 20, 2026** — Last day for bills to be introduced in 2026 session.
- ☐ **Spring Recess** begins **March 26** and reconvenes **April 6**.
- ☐ **May 29, 2026** — Last day each house can pass bills introduced in this cycle.
- ☐ **June 15, 2026** — *Budget Bill must be passed* by midnight.

These dates are crucial for community planning groups to identify when key budget and infrastructure bills are being moved in committees.

Major Legislation Relevant to Urban Planning & Infrastructure

While specific agenda items and bills are constantly evolving, here are state policies already enacted or relevant in 2026:

Housing & Land Use

- **Senate Bill 79 — “Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act”**
This 2025 law **becomes effective July 1, 2026**. It removes barriers to developing multi-family housing near transit stations — a policy shift with significant implications for urban planning, zoning, transit-oriented development, and housing affordability statewide.
- **Assembly Bill 130 (2025) —**
This law exempts many infill housing projects from CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) reviews, speeding development approval for certain projects — particularly relevant to growth policy and infrastructure planning.

Budget & Public Spending

- The State Budget process — with the Governor’s proposal due Jan 10 — drives how funds are allocated in 2026 for state infrastructure programs, transit operations, emergency response grants, and more. Final passage is legally required by June 15.

Closing & Next Steps

Please stay engaged. Attend meetings, report issues, and share comments. The Planning Group can help collect community input and speak with a single voice. If you want the Word file edited or want additional links added, tell the chair or email the Secretary.

City & County

- **Attend or submit comments** on City Council committee and Board of Supervisors meetings related to:
 - ☐ **Budget priorities** (roads, parks, public safety, libraries)
 - ☐ **Land Use & Housing** items (zoning code changes, infill or transit-oriented projects)
 - ☐ **Infrastructure planning** (complete streets, sidewalks, stormwater projects)
 - ☐ **Public safety policies** (e.g., surveillance technology, fire services budgets)

State Legislature

- **Track bills through state committees** relevant to housing, transportation, infrastructure, and public safety. Identify when local legislators' committees schedule hearings around:
 - ☐ Housing production incentives or zoning reforms
 - ☐ State transportation funding
 - ☐ Wildfire & public safety preparedness funding
 - ☐ Broadband access and digital infrastructure (important for equity in underserved communities)

Build Coalitions

Coordinate with adjacent **community planning groups**, neighborhood councils, and civic alliances to amplify shared priorities — especially when budget cycles or key policy deadlines approach.

Prepared by: Samantha Jenkins

Contact: sph.cpc@gmail.com

SKYLINE-PARADISE HILLS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The *Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Group* (SPH CPG) holds regular meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Skyline Hills Library. The planning group consists of up to 20 elected Voting Members and is the officially recognized advisory group to the San Diego City Council. The role of the SPH CPG is to review and provide recommendations to the City on land use matters and development-related projects and issues in the Skyline, Paradise Hills, South Bay Terraces, North Bay Terraces, Lomita, and Jamacha neighborhoods.

There is no charge to attend meetings or to join the SPH CPG. Any person, age 18 or older, who lives, owns property, or owns or operates a business or nonprofit within the SPH CPG area and is interested in becoming a Voting Member may submit a completed Membership Application to sph.cpc@gmail.com.

Voting Members are required to attend 2/3 of the meetings in a 12-month period. Please ensure you can make that commitment before applying. Helpful resources to review include [City of San Diego Council Policy 600-24 Standard Operating Procedures and Responsibilities of Recognized Community Planning Groups](#) and [SPH CPG Operating Procedures](#).

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

- ☐ Lomita
- ☐ Jamacha
- ☐ Paradise Hills

- ☐ Skyline
- ☐ N. Bay Terraces
- ☐ S. Bay Terraces

Membership Categories:

- ☐ Renter
- ☐ Homeowner

- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Nonprofit

Proof of Residency or Identity Included with Application?: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Proof may include a driver's license or identification card, utility bill, voter notification card, lease or rental agreement, property tax statement, or vehicle registration.

Signature _____ Date _____

Personal Statement of Interest

Please reference service and leadership, as well as organizational affiliation and professional background.

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For Planning Group Use:

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Meets Eligibility Criteria: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual Planning Group Training Date: _____

San Diego Community Planners Committee

City Planning Department • City of San Diego • 202 C Street, MS 413 San Diego, CA 92101
SDPlanningGroups@sandiego.gov • (619)-235-5200

January 29, 2026

San Diego City Council
San Diego City Clerk
San Diego City Development Services Department
San Diego City Planning Department
Attn: Council President, Joe LaCava and Honorable Councilmembers, City Clerk, Diana Fuentes, DSD Director, Elyse Lowe, Planning Director, Heidi Vonblum
202 C Street, MS
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Request for Designated Community Presentation Time at City Decision-Making Hearings

Honorable Council President, Council Members, City Clerk, DSD Director, and Planning Director:

On behalf of the Community Planners Committee (CPC), I respectfully request that the City Council, its committees, and Planning Commission each adopt a policy giving community representatives equal time as current policies allow project applicants, developers and other like proponents (collectively referred to hereafter as “project proponents”) to ensure equitable participation at public hearings.

Issue: Current Public Comment Procedures Limit Community Representation

At present, project proponents are typically provided with structured presentation periods—often ten minutes or more—to outline their proposals, respond to questions, and engage directly with decision-makers. At the conclusion of their presentations, the proponent remains at a desk near the deciding body and is accessible for further inquiry and discussion.

In contrast, community members offering their viewpoints or modifications of a project generally receive **one to three minutes** each during a public comment period. When the community needs to present a coherent position, it must recruit large numbers of residents to cede their individual time, a process that is not required of the project proponents. This framework disproportionately limits the community’s ability to provide intelligently organized input—particularly on complex land-use matters where impacts are significant and where community recommendations require explanation that cannot reasonably fit within a brief public comment period.

The result is a structural imbalance: those seeking approval receive ample time to present, while those affected by the consequences of that approval often struggle to present their viewpoints and recommendations coherently within strict time limits.

Solution: A Designated Presentation Block for the Community

We respectfully propose that the City Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission establish meeting procedures granting formal, structured presentation times for community representatives—equal in duration and substance to the proponent’s presentation—when an item has neighborhood or citywide impact. Equal time should be granted for the community representatives to make presentations, do so in a comprehensive manner, to utilize power point presentations, field questions, and to remain accessible to planning commissioners, councilmembers, or council committee members if needed for further engagement.

For neighborhood-specific items:

The relevant **Community Planning Group (CPG)** should be allotted an organized presentation period, ensuring the decision-making body receives a complete understanding of community analyses, upsides, concerns, and recommendations. CPGs are in the best position to make such offers as members are elected representatives of their communities, deeply steeped in knowledge about their communities.

For citywide policy issues:

The CPC should be allotted similar structured time to present the collective community perspective. The CPC wholly functions as the sum of its parts; together CPG representatives discuss and deliberate over citywide topics to produce cohesive and equitable recommendations. It is to the advantage of all for this collective voice to be heard in an organized fashion.

This approach aligns with widely used governance practices in which diverse viewpoints of a project or proposal receive balanced, organized, and substantive time before a deliberative body.

Why This Reform Is Important

1. Ensures fairness and balanced access

CPGs—recognized by the City as advisory bodies—should not be limited to brief individual comments when project proponents are allowed full presentations. The opportunity for equal duration and substance supports public trust, transparency and balanced decision-making.

2. Improves decision-making

CPGs are composed of dedicated volunteers with rich knowledge of and experience in their neighborhoods. Allowing these groups to have structured time to present their findings provides decision makers with more complete, relevant, and context-specific information.

3. Encourages early collaboration

When project proponents know that CPGs will have an equal opportunity to present and access before planning commissioners and councilmembers, they are likely to engage more robustly

with communities early in the process, collaborate with purpose and intention, and resolve potential issues before a final vote.

Conclusion

The CPC respectfully requests that the City Council and City Planning/DSD along with the City Clerk direct staff to:

1. **Develop meeting procedures for Planning Commission and City Council** that establish structured, equivalent presentations in terms of time and substance for Community Planning Groups on neighborhood-specific items.
2. **Extend such procedures to Committee meetings** where land-use decisions or major policy matters are heard; and
3. **Permit CPC to serve as the designated community voice** on issues affecting multiple neighborhoods or the city as a whole.

This policy would reinforce the City's commitment to fair, transparent, and community-centered planning and ensure that San Diego residents—through their recognized community groups—have a meaningful voice in decisions that shape their neighborhoods.

Respectfully,



Chair, Community Planners Committee
City of San Diego

cc:

San Diego City Council

San Diego City Clerk, Ms. Diana J.S. Fuentes

Development Services Department, Ms. Elyse Lowe, Director

City Planning Department, Ms. Heidi Vonblum, Director

City Planning Department, Mr. Marlon Pangilinan, Program Coordinator

Dear [Council member]:

The [enter name of community planning group] fully endorses the CPC's action taken at its meeting on January 27, 2026, concerning the reservation of a designated block for CPGs and CPC during public hearings. We believe providing CPGs and CPC the opportunity for presentations of equal duration and substance as is granted to project applicants, developers, and other like proponents will benefit decision-makers in their deliberative process.

Respectfully,

[enter name of community planning group]