

NAVAJO COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Allied Gardens-Del Cerro-Grantville-San Carlos

MINUTES **first Draft**

Mission Gorge Rock Quarry Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, July 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. via [Zoom link](#)

Email: navajoplanningsecretary@gmail.com / Website: navajoplanners.org

Chair Calls Meeting to Order at 5:01pm.

Roll Call of MGR Quarry Subcommittee Members

Subcommittee Chair, Jana Hartwell

Subcommittee Member, Pamela Cotta (excused absence)

Community Subcommittee Member, Jay Wilson

Kevin Parker asked to be recused from the Subcommittee because of a conflict of interest with his previous job.

Applicant for CUP review: A representative from Vulcan Materials was not present

Community Attendees

Bea Riley, invited guest

Maggie Pound

Non-Participating Board Members

Jackie O'Connor

Brief introductions were given. Jackie O'Connor is being presented as a candidate to be approved by the NCPG Board as a Quarry Subcommittee member before the next Subcommittee meeting on Aug 21, 2026. Jackie stated her belief that this is a very important group and when people work together, improvements can be made.

Temporary Meeting Recorder: Bea Riley to compose first draft of minutes; Jana Hartwell to compose final draft.

Appointment of Vice Chair: To be done at the next meeting.

Modifications to the Agenda None.

Minutes: Jay Wilson motioned to approve the July 17, 2026 meeting minutes as drafted. Jana Hartwell seconded. Jana Hartwell and Jay Wilson agreed for unanimous approval.

Chair's Introductory Comments

Info provided to the Quarry Subcommittee and action items completed since the last meeting.

1) John Hoy emailed the subcommittee-approved letter to Elyse Lowe on 7/27/26 asking to clarify, with possible legal interpretation, which CUP is the governing CUP for the upcoming review and thereafter.

2) Travis Cleveland, per the request of Elyse Lowe, Director of Development Services Department, responded to the letter John Hoy sent to Elyse Lowe. He stated that the 1983 CUP is the governing CUP because the 1990 CUP was never registered, a corrective registration is not possible, and Condition 32 of the CUP specifies that if the permit is not used within 18 months of approval by the City Council, it is void.

Public Non-Agenda Comments: There were none.

Subcommittee Member Non-Agenda Comments: There were none.

Presentation Items

As part of a collaborative educational project between San Diego State University and interested community members, project sponsor Greg Tanneberger of the SDSU Fowler College of Business arranged a meeting with Dr. Eric Frost, Professor Emeritus of Geology at SDSU. Attendees included Quarry Subcommittee Chair Jana Hartwell, committee member Jay Wilson, and community member Bea Riley.

At the subcommittee meeting, Bea Riley summarized information given by Dr. Eric Frost, Professor Emeritus of Geology at San Diego State University, who provided an overview of the geology surrounding the Mission Gorge Quarry and discussed how geologic conditions can influence the transmission of blast vibrations. He explained that local geologic conditions can cause vibration levels to vary significantly over relatively short distances.

Topics Presented by Dr. Eric Frost

The following points summarize general concepts presented by Dr. Frost. Actual vibration behavior depends on local geologic conditions and may vary from site to site.

- **Local geology influences blast vibrations.** not just the amount of explosive used.
- **Geologic conditions vary over short distances.** And can cause vibration levels to differ significantly from one location to another.
- **Characteristics of the local geologic units influence the transmission of vibrations.**
 - **Santiago Peak Volcanics** (hard, dense volcanic bedrock found throughout much of the quarry) generally transmit vibrations efficiently.
 - **Friars Formation** (softer sedimentary bedrock) and **Stadium Conglomerate** (composed primarily of rounded cobbles and gravel cemented together) are generally less efficient at transmitting vibrations and can dampen or otherwise alter the way vibrations travel. Most homes surrounding the quarry are underlain by these formations.
 - **Older alluvial deposits** (sand, gravel, and silt) generally absorb and scatter vibration energy, although their behavior varies depending on their composition and thickness.
- **Importance of seismic monitoring.** Reliable conclusions depend on collecting objective data, including from appropriately located seismographs. Monitoring locations should be selected to reflect the range of geologic conditions surrounding the quarry and the location of surrounding homes.
- **Questions for the blaster.** Dr. Frost identified several blasting practices that can influence vibration and airblast, including charge size, delay timing, burden and spacing, stemming, and other blast design parameters.
- **Objective scientific information.** Dr. Frost emphasized that geological information and monitoring data can improve understanding of blasting and help inform future discussions and decision-making by all interested parties.

Directions were given on how to convert an old cell phone to a working seismic monitor, enabling community members to take their own readings in their own home for comparison and to add to the data base of site impacts.

Dr. Frost and Greg Tanneberger emphasized that San Diego State University's role was to share geological expertise and promote scientific understanding, not to advocate for any particular outcome.

Reports

Jay Wilson:

1) Cyber Security for the Vulcan Rock Quarry Committee: Jay is reviewing cybersecurity issues that may affect the Subcommittee, including California requirements related to protecting personal information, data security, and breach notification. He is determining whether the Navajo Community Planning Group or its subcommittees are covered by City cybersecurity policies or insurance. The discussion included the importance of safeguarding community contact information and email lists maintained in connection with Subcommittee activities. Jay will gather additional information and report back at a future meeting.

2) Update on our proposed collaborative project with SDSU's College of Business and the

Department of Geological Sciences: The project would focus on gathering and analyzing information related to quarry impacts on the surrounding community and identifying ways the information could support future decision-making. Dr. Eric Frost is following up with the geology department, after which a planning meeting with SDSU representatives and Subcommittee members is anticipated to discuss next steps.

Jay described a similar semester-long project completed by SDSU business students for Friends of Del Cerro, in which two students received \$500 stipends and provided recommendations on improving the organization's website and outreach. He suggested a similar approach for the Quarry Subcommittee. Potential funding sources discussed included a GoFundMe campaign, grants through the San Diego Foundation, or accepting donations through Friends of Del Cerro, since the Navajo Community Planning Group is no longer a 501(c)(4) organization. Jay estimated that a project involving one geology student and one business student would likely require approximately \$1,000 in student stipends, substantially less than estimates of \$25,000 to \$150,000 received for other types of consulting projects.

3) Can NCPG and/or Quarry Subcommittee collect funds? The Subcommittee discussed whether the Navajo Community Planning Group or the Quarry Subcommittee could collect funds to support the proposed SDSU project. Jay Wilson explained that because the NCPG is no longer a 501(c)(4) organization, one option would be for Friends of Del Cerro, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to serve as the fiscal agent. Under this arrangement, donations or GoFundMe proceeds could be accepted as tax-deductible charitable contributions and used to provide stipends for the SDSU students. Jay stated that Friends of Del Cerro's board would likely approve serving in this role and that there would be **no cost** to the Subcommittee or NCPG for handling the funds. The anticipated cost for the student stipends was estimated at approximately \$1,000.

4) Suggestions for our article to the Mission Times Courier. Jay Wilson reported that the *Mission Times Courier* has changed its editorial process and now relies primarily on paid interns to write articles rather than publishing community-submitted articles. He noted that, in a previous instance, the newspaper used the photograph he had provided along with his article on the Quarry Subcommittee. But instead of including it with the subcommittee's article, the paper posted it on the front page in conjunction with an article written by one of its interns. He stated a recent article he submitted, written by Bea Riley, was not published. Jay reported that the newspaper is accepting story ideas from the community and may invite community members to write articles if the proposed topics are of interest. He also described efforts to encourage the newspaper to assign reporters to the Navajo area and provide them with background on the community to improve future coverage. Committee members agreed to continue pursuing opportunities for media outreach, including other news outlets.

Bea Riley:

Blasting Data and Evidence Collection: Bea Riley reported that she is consolidating blasting information, including shot reports and seismic monitoring data received from Vulcan, into a database to facilitate analysis and identify trends over time. She noted that the goal is to organize the data so it can be examined more effectively and used to better understand blasting impacts on the surrounding community. She reported that two residents (one in Mariposa and one in Allied Gardens) independently described the blast on July 8, 2026, as the strongest blast they had experienced. She also reported that the shot report for the next blast on July 16, 2026, showed substantially lower seismic readings than an earlier blast that residents had described as unusually strong. Bea sent a letter to Vulcan acknowledging the improvement and encouraging continuation of any practices that may have contributed to the reduced impacts. No response was received from Vulcan.

Discussion Item #1: Planning Commission Preparation. The Subcommittee discussed preparations for the anticipated Planning Commission hearing. The Subcommittee agreed that the previously submitted 70-page CUP recommendations should be distilled into an executive summary, with particular emphasis on Conditions 10 and 23. Jana Hartwell suggested that she and Bea Riley prepare an initial draft for review by the Subcommittee at its next meeting. Members were encouraged to review the document with fresh eyes and identify the highest-priority recommendations.

Action Item #1: Email to Travis Cleveland: Discussion postponed.

Action Item #2 – Assignments Before the Next Meeting:

- Jay Wilson will continue pursuing information regarding cybersecurity, consult with Councilmember Campillo's office regarding the Planning Commission process and the City's claims that the 1983 version is the governing document for CUP 82-0611, and continue coordinating with San Diego State University on the proposed research project.
- Bea Riley will continue consolidating blasting data and shot reports, review Department of Conservation materials, continue reviewing Planning Commission meetings, draft the QuarryConcerns@navajoplanners.com email protocol for Subcommittee review, prepare a first draft of the meeting minutes, and work with Jana Hartwell to develop an executive summary of the Subcommittee's CUP recommendations for presentation to the Planning Commission.
- Jana Hartwell will distribute background materials to new members, provide the final version of minutes and continue coordinating Planning Commission preparations.
- The Subcommittee agreed that preparing for the anticipated Planning Commission hearing would remain its highest priority.

Closing comments:

Jay Wilson requested that any thoughts about what the subcommittee would like to submit for an article in Mission Times be sent to him by Monday. He added that we might get information back on how Vulcan responded to the list the City sent them of everything they hadn't complied with.

Meeting adjourned: Jay Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jana Hartwell. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Upcoming 2026 Quarry Subcommittee Meetings: Fridays from 5:00pm to 6:30pm on August 21st, September 11th, and October 2nd.

