



LOCAL NEWS...

Potrero Planning Group Gets New Blood, Slow Start

Effort to revisit Blackwater issue tabled due to processing details.

by Raymond Lutz

We know what the Potrero Community Planning Group (PCPG) wants to do. The five former pro-Blackwater members were all removed with an unprecedented landslide recall. The new group simply wants to revisit the earlier approval of the Blackwater West project and vote it down. It sounds easy, but with Blackwater and the disgruntled pro-Blackwater members now in the audience and watching for any

chance to trip up their rivals, it's not a slam-dunk.

At the January 10, 2008 meeting in Potrero, the new members took their seats behind a newly prepared agenda with the intention to reconsider the earlier approval of Form 534, the form used to transmit actions from planning groups to the DPLU. The earlier vote was taken in December, 2006, after a single meeting reviewing the huge project before only a dozen residents.

Unfortunately, the idea of "reconsidering" the earlier approval was scuttled after a comment by Jerry VanDeweghe (pronounced "Van-De-Way") the assistant to Senator Hollingsworth (R-CA-36), who said it was not possible for the group to make a motion to reconsider. Indeed *Robert's Rules of Order* states that a motion to reconsider can only be brought to the floor by a member who

was on the prevailing side of the earlier vote. Since no one is left on the panel who voted for the earlier approval, that makes that action impossible.

The group should have used a motion to *amend after adoption*, sometimes called *rescind*, *repeal* or *annul*. So, this key issue on Blackwater could not be processed as desired. Yet, it will be a simple matter to get the agenda corrected for the next meeting. Pro-Blackwater activists have only delayed the inevitable for one meeting.

That wasn't the only important item on the agenda, however. Officers were selected, with Carl Meyer taking the role as the Chair and Terry Stephens as Vice Chair. Since Janet Goode was not present, Terry Stephens also took the role of Secretary Pro Tem. With this new leadership, we will likely see a meeting under a tighter hand and new, fairer procedures.

Another even more difficult issue was filling three vacancies that exist in the

East County Democratic Club

Serving El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Lakeside, and outlying San Diego County since 1965

OFFICERS:

President	Kristy Mundt
1 st Vice President	Tom Lamb (Tent.)
2 nd Vice President	Karen Marie Otter
Treasurer	Rosalie Star
Secretary	Tina Rynberg

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership	Tina Rynberg (Tent.)
Outreach	Tom & Kathy Lamb
Refreshments	Bonnie Rawson
Book Club	Jon Scanlon
Newsletter	Madeline McDowell
Calendar	Gloria Martes

CONTACT:

Telephone	619-933-1526
Email	info@ecdcweb.org
Mailing Address:	PO Box 252 El Cajon, CA 92022

MEETING LOCATION:

Rancho San Diego Library
11555 Via Rancho San Diego
El Cajon, CA 92019
(Unless otherwise noted!)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
IN PROGRESS!**

ENDORSEMENTS!

The ECDC has important endorsement events coming up.

State Endorsements: Rechartering the club is our first step. Then, we must submit all of our members that are in any single Assembly District to the State director for Region 21 (Steve Rivera). We get one endorsement vote for every 20 members who reside in a single AD. At the time of this writing, we have 141 members with 112 members in the 77th AD. That means we get five endorsement votes. (Please send in your membership ASAP and we may be able to get one more vote!)

This endorsement is for candidates at the June primary and can be very important. The state party endorsement can be very important in that primary!

Secondly, we have votes in the California Democratic Council, which is the statewide body of clubs.

Club endorsements will be voted on after the deadline for applications (early March) and after the candidates have had a chance to complete our questionnaire, most likely at the April meeting. Please note: your membership must be current for 30 days to vote at these important endorsement meetings!



See Local News on page 2.

SCHEDULE

26 Jan 2008 (Sat) 7pm
Blackwater Presentation
Unitarian Church, Front St.
(Features Lutz, Hedlun)

27 Jan 2008 (Sun) 2pm
Current Events Theater, **Shadow Company**, Soldier. Mercenary. Private Contractor. Who's fighting today's wars? Film considers Blackwater-type contractors in today's wars -- Social networking and snacks at 1:30; Discussion after the film

10 Feb 2008 (Sun) 2pm
ECDC General Meeting
Social networking: 1:30pm
Dan McAllister, County Treasurer explains County finances and budget.

24 Feb 2008 (Sun) 2pm
Current Events Theater, **(film TBD)**
- Social networking and snacks at 1:30; Discussion after the film.

LOCAL NEWS (Cont.)

group. This will take a bit more explanation as it is about as clear as mud.

The PCPG is designated by the County to have nine members. Just prior to the service of recall notices, Emil Susu was found not to be registered to vote in the county, and so he was removed. Then it was discovered that two other members were never properly approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

According to the policy that governs the Planning Groups—Policy I-1—they are allowed to consider appointing the unsuccessful candidates in the prior normally scheduled election for any vacancies. You can bet that the three pro-Blackwater candidates from the recall expected to walk in and land in those vacant seats.

However, only one person fell within the strict reading of the requirements, pro-Blackwater Edward Boryla, who ran against William Crawley IV, and received only about 22% of the vote. After a short speech and some support from the ousted members, the new panel considered his appointment but he received no support. The body wished to open the vacancies up to anyone in the community who would wish to submit an application, and they would conduct interviews at a future meeting. Indeed, this step seems prudent.

They did the right thing, but it was not at all easy. Even videotaping the meeting required some backbone to relentless attempts to intimidate by some residents who said I had no right to be there with my camera. “Who do you represent?” asked Emil Susu, as he attempted to take a poll in the room and apparently try to get me kicked out. It might even be necessary to call for Sheriff's Dept. protection in future meetings to avoid and document verbal threats.

The next PCPG meeting is on Feb. 14th. You can bet that few, if any, valentines will be traded in the meeting, if the tension continues as it has been in the past.

New ECDC Officers Selected: Kristy Mundt takes the helm

By Raymond Lutz

At the January 13th ECDC meeting, several new officers stepped forward to take leading roles in the club. After com-

pleting two years as President, Raymond Lutz stepped aside to allow a new leader to take the helm, and Kristy Mundt responded to the call.

Mundt had been serving effectively as Membership Chair and has been attending El Cajon City Council meetings for the past year, taking part in outstanding successes in that arena. Her positive attitude will continue to be an excellent driving force for the club.

In addition, Tina Rynberg agreed to serve as secretary and Gloria Martes agreed to serve as Calendar Keeper.

Do you have any special skills? Know Quickbooks or good at making marketing materials? We've got many opportunities left for volunteers!

Parkway Mall Allows ECDC Voter Registration Table

By Raymond Lutz

Parkway Plaza said we couldn't register voters in their “private” mall. But after I sent a couple of stern faxes, they relented to the stark reality that the Supreme Court has held that such access must be allowed. The famous “Pruneyard” case was used as the key to unlock their door of resistance, along with the more recent case involving Fashion Valley Center and the union representing workers at the Union Tribune. In that latter case, newspaper workers were picketing one of the stores in Fashion Valley during a strike of the newspaper workers. The court held that picketing and boycotts of the stores must be allowed as these malls have become replacements for the town square.



The mall supplies a table, skirting, and up to three chairs. They gave us our last choice of three location options, but it turns out that the hallway just outside WalMart has actually been very productive. Once they gave in, the mall has been easy to work with. We did have to wait until after the holiday shopping season, as that was blacked-out, as may be expected.

The production at the mall has been amazing. Over the six days, we registered about 250 voters, with about 80% or more registering as Democrats. We still have three more days, and may exceed 300 registrations.

We must give Kristy Mundt a round of applause for coordinating the volunteers and a warm “thank you” to all the volunteers who rose to the occasion. Now that we know to do this, we can easily schedule a table at the mall perhaps a weekend once a month. This is certainly one of the best ways to turn this East County from red to blue in short order. If you didn't get a chance to volunteer, keep your ears open for future registration events. It's a great way to invest just a few short hours with maximal benefit!

Local Candidate Focus

Over the next few issues of East County Progressive, we will be allowing outstanding local candidates to make their case to our readers. This month, we are honored to have one of our own members and Jamul resident, Mike Lumpkin, as our contributor.

Mike Lumpkin -- “Why I Will Win the 52nd Congressional District Seat”

I'm a retired Navy SEAL Commander. I earned my Bachelor's degree at UCSD by studying during the day and working at night, and then I joined the Navy. I earned my Masters Degree in National Security Affairs, and I'm recognized by the Department of Defense as a National Security Expert. Much of the Republicans' success comes from saying Democrats are weak on defense – I say to any of them, BRING IT ON!

I have worked in many high level capacities in the military, and it is much more than holding a gun. In civilian terms, I have held positions ranging from Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of multimillion dollar organizations. Locally, I have managed sev-

eral thousand military and DOD employees and was responsible for \$300-400 million in equipment and budgets. In Washington DC, the budget I represented was in the billions of dollars.

Our county is home to the largest military presence in the world and is responsible for over 20% of our economy and gross regional product—that's \$17.3 billion locally each year. It is inevitable that ALL of us know people or have family who have served in the military. However, public credibility is found in personal experience. I have both the background and experience to represent the constituents here in East San Diego County in the United States Congress.

We Democrats are passionate about many different things: healthcare reform; education; labor and collective bargaining; racial, gender, and sexual orientation equality; a woman's right to choose; the ethical treatment of animals; the environment, global warming and renewable energy; separation of church and state; repealing the Patriot Act; and, ending the war in Iraq. I bet its safe to say many of us are more passionate about some things than others. My point is that regardless of what your passion is, I guarantee that you and I have more in common than we do differences. Our passions may be different, but our values are not.

I have already met many wonderful people in the 52nd District from both

political parties. And here is why I will win: I worked in a Republican dominated environment for 21 years and have lived in the heart of red country for over 12 years. Pragmatic progressives recognize the value the conservative impression my military experience and profile leave and the vital crossover potential. This is a mighty weapon against the entrenched GOP in the general election in November.

Believe it or not, most of us do want the same thing...we just disagree on how to get there. So let's simply focus on what unites us! The citizens of the 52nd District are hardworking, dedicated, patriotic Americans who cherish freedom and integrity. We want a safe, secure and just nation. We prize opportunity and equality. We demand a government that honors our constitution, respects democracy, and values checks and balances. And we ALL want to keep the American dream alive!

These are the values I defended with distinction for over 20 years as a Navy SEAL. My ability to convey this message to non-Democrats is why I will win this election. Please feel free contact my campaign office with any questions. I need your support and would be honored by it. Come be a part of the victory 2008 team today!

Lumpkin Opens Spacious Campaign Headquarters

By Raymond Lutz

Campaign season is starting to heat up with a strong move by Michael Lumpkin's team in opening up their campaign headquarters, ahead of any other Democratic contenders and even ahead of presumed Republican opponent, Duncan D. Hunter.

Lumpkin's HQ is located at 10769 Woodside Avenue, Suite 208, in Santee. That's just east of the Magnolia/Mission Gorge intersection. The open house on Jan. 19th was attended by at least fifty supporters, including Francine Busby, former 50th Congressional District Candidate.

Please send any comments to

newsletter@eccdweb.org.



Time to turn over the reins

Some say it would be better if I just continued as President of the ECDC. We've made great progress bringing the club back from virtual oblivion. Yet, I assert, just the opposite is the truth.



One of the best management books I have ever read is called *Built to Last*, where the author analyzed pairs of companies. The companies in each pair were in roughly the same business. But one member of the pair lasted for more than 100 years while the other went out of business and into oblivion.

One of the most important predictors of the longevity of those companies was whether they had a charismatic leader. Surprisingly, however, it turns out that the existence of such a leader leads the organization to demise when that leader dies or otherwise leaves because the organization becomes overly dependent on the actions of that one leader.

By turning the role of President over to Kristy Mundt, this will help me force the issue and encourage our club to develop other volunteers to take over roles that I may otherwise just do myself instead of looking for a volunteer. It also means that you now have the golden opportunity (and must!) take over some of these roles.

Don't worry, I'm still going to be the "Immediate Past President" and it will take me a while to get volunteers to take on all the various tasks I've been doing. To that end, please step forward and take on a role for the club. Please don't let it die.

Also, I will be spending more time promoting my book, *Coils of the Serpent*, which is a fictional treatment of the factual topic of science/religion debate, including DNA vs. Bible issues. (See CoilsOfTheSerpent.com) I also have some other projects up my sleeve that I can't detail in this column... Yes, I will be contributing to the East County Progressive (although not in this column.) Stay tuned!

Raymond Lutz,
Immediate Past President. 🙌

Membership Campaign

Our club makes it easy to know when your membership expires: everyone expires at the end of the year unless you joined after October.

Now is the time to send in your dues for the next year! You will get a subscription to this newsletter, the right to vote at club meetings, and discounts on events, plus, the knowledge that you are supporting the most important resistance to our Republican neocon administration and local cronyism.

Also, our nominating committee will be looking for people who want to take leading roles in the club. Remember, candidates cannot have club roles. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!



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ECDC MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Don't miss any future issues!)

	Single	Dual/Couple
Student/Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15
General	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Sponsoring	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750

Newsletter Only \$12 (free otherwise).
 I am a Democrat
 I am not a Democrat but wish to join as a non-voting Associate
 Please send newsletter as email (PDF).
 My name and address as shown on the label is incorrect, see corrections --->
Occupation:

(Req'd for FPPC Reports)

COPs NEWS

El Cajon City holds red-ink emergency meeting

By Raymond Lutz

It's official. El Cajon is being run by a bunch of goons. After reporting a budget deficit of at least \$3.8 million in the budget of July 1, 2007, the city has scheduled an emergency meeting on January 22nd in the 5th floor meeting room at 1:30pm. It turns out that the number is more like \$4.2 million when recent \$1K payouts to all employees and benefit increases are factored in, and then a sales tax shortfall makes it more like \$6.2 million. Ouch.

At the same time, they have to try to explain spending over \$3 million to beautify Main Street, and continuing to subsidize CCT (Christian Community Theater) in their takeover of ECPAC.

If their plan is to avoid prying eyes of the video cameras present in the City Council chambers, it's not going to work. COPs will be there with our own

camera, and we'll post the dirty little secret to Google video so all the world can see the mess they're in.

Meanwhile, the City Council works on dog walking restrictions, outside smoking restrictions, RV restrictions, and head shop restrictions. Then, they give constitutional history lessons from the dais as they say prayers (It's too bad those prayers don't seem to do any good, do they!) They abolish the traffic commission, allegedly to save money by limiting the support of that volunteer body. Instead, they want to handle traffic complaints during Council sessions. It seems anything is better to talk about than one thing: the budget.

Will the evang-unethical churches they are appealing to with these antics find some \$6.2 million dollars in their donation basket to balance the budget? How about Daryl Priest, who walked away with the city property at Ballantyne and Park worth millions, while paying only a pittance?

In a recent meeting, the union representing Police Officers said that El

Cajon is underpaying their officers to the point where many are moving to other cities where compensation is competitive. Who would start a career here, when the City ignores its financial red ink and pleas for expected raises?

At that recent meeting, the Mayor suggested that another 1/4 cent hike of sales taxes for residents would be a smart way to solve the red ink problem. He didn't mention that poor El Cajon residents are already the most heavily sales-taxed in the county. Why go to the Parkway Mall with higher taxes when you can go over to Grossmont Center and avoid the extra surcharge?

Sure, there's been a drop in sales tax revenue. Bush wants to continue the myth that all is well. "Don't worry about a thing, just go shopping." But at the same time, worry your little head off about the evil terrorists who may attack at any moment. Sorry, their false economy is finally starting to show its ugly Republican face.

