

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP
FINAL MINUTES/SUMMARY**

DATE & TIME: 7:00 PM, Thursday, November 7th, 2013

A. ROLL CALL:

- Members present: 1) Robert Maupin; 3) Chris Noland; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) *Michele Strand*; 7) Jeffrey McKernan
- Absent: 2) Melody Ponchot (excused); 6) VACANT
- Chair announced that *seat 6 is vacant and open for application to registered voters living within the Boulevard Planning Area; Contact the Chair for applications.*
- *Chair also reported message from County liaison with reminder to stay current on annual Planning Group training and semi-annual ethics training requirements. Both trainings are available on-line.*

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 3RD MEETING:

- *M/S: McKernan/Strand: Approve minutes with minor correction: Passed: 5-0-0*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. No action can be taken on non-agenda items.

- No public comments
- Planner McKernan requested an agenda item be added to the December meeting recommending a moratorium on renewable energy projects until Boulevard Fire is manned full time.
- Planner Strand shared a photo of the final moments of two wind turbine technicians just before they died in a tragic turbine fire event when they could not escape the flames and could not be rescued in time.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE ON CHANGES TO PARK SYSTEM:

- Steve Cast, Project Manager RLA for County Parks and Recreation stated this was an information only item: stephan.cast@sdcounty.ca.gov or 858-966-1353.
- Chuck Tucker, Park and Recreation Project Manager, was also present
- County is considering two changes on naming rights policies and fees for services
- Parks were historically named for geographic location or person; proposal is to sell naming rights from \$6,000-15,000 for up to 15 years; expected to go the Board of Supervisors around January 20, 2014.
- Use fee package recommends a range of fee changes which will go to the Board around Feb 5th, 2014.
- Planner Noland asked if annual passes will be available for places like Lake Morena.
- Mr. Tucker promised to follow up with Naming Rights document and response on annual passes.
- It was noted that Boulevard has no parks whatsoever.

2. COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA) UPDATE (SDG&E ALTERNATIVE) & HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE BACKYARD SOLAR AND STORAGE FOR VERY LOCAL RESILIENCE & MICROGRIDS:

- Presentation by Lane Sharman, co-Founder of San Diego Energy District Foundation (SDEDF), on energy alternatives for community-based, local, and safe energy: <http://www.sandiegoenergydistrict.org/>
- Sharman stated he is a reformed remote large-scale solar developer who supports East County values and resources.
- Does not want to see East County industrialized for energy – it is not necessary
- Founded SDEDF out of frustration with SDG&E when they announced adding charges for self-generation at homes, schools and businesses
- Point-of-use generation is best ; no loss of energy in transmission
- Wants to come back next year to talk about potential for micro grids and small scale storage where they could buy energy from homeowners
- Boulder Colorado took over their local utility / grid
- A CCA is a public power company that can buy, sell, and generate energy
- CCA law passed in 2011 and has been implemented in Marin County despite PG&E spending \$140 million to fight it.
- Utilities want more large infrastructure projects due to guaranteed rate of return on those investments
- A grant was received to conduct a study of local energy use/needs for a CCA.
- Mayor Filner’s self-destruction delayed schedule to secure SDG&E’s data for the City.
- A CCA could incentivize self-generation with buy-back over large-scale rural projects
- Commercial sector is SDG&E’s cash cow and they cannot avoid charges for Critical Peak Periods (CPP) where SDG&E can charge much higher prices for energy for CPPs (\$1.44kwh)
- Sharman’s handout showed SDG&E’s Electric Energy Commodity costs and increased charges for peak Demand periods
- Sharman stated that SDG&E’s proposed Pio Pico gas-fired power plant is a boondoggle
- Sharman responded to question from Bob Maupin saying that backup generation blends well with solar and mentioned new “fly wheel” form of energy that is showing real promise.

3. SDG&E MASTER PERMIT FOR CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST & CPUC PERMIT APPLICATION #A12-10-009 TO CONSTRUCT POWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING TRANSMISSION LINE # 629 IN CRESTWOOD AREA OF BOULEVARD: SCOPING COMMENTS ON JOINT NEPA/CEQA EIS/EIR DUE NOV 7TH:

- Existing TL629 is approximately 29.8 miles in total length and generally runs from Descanso Substation, to Campo, and east to Crestwood Substation.
- The overall \$418M project includes wood to steel pole conversion, undergrounding and single to double circuit conversion from Kitchen Creek Rd to Crestwood Substation.
- Chair reported that the Public Notice did not include Boulevard in list of impacted communities – even though it is impacted -- so she had not added it to the Oct. agenda.
- The Chair expressed concerns that the project can increase carrying capacity of the line—just like when SDG&E re-conducted the same line to support Kumeyaay Wind-
- This increase can support solar and wind projects, too—but that is not being disclosed
- The Chair reported submitting scoping comments as the Chair of the Planning Group and as an individual.
- Two formal protests were filed.
- Project documents, Forest and CPUC project contacts, and copies of protests are posted here: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>
- Project contacts: 866-467-4727 or CNFMSUP@dudek.com.

4. **GOLDEN ACORN CASINO WIND TURBINE (1MW) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA): NOV 8TH**

COMMENT DEADLINE:

- EA is Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) review of a lease agreement and right of way easement between the Campo Band and Foundation Windpower, LLC, for a 1MW wind turbine to provide an estimated 2/3 of the Golden Acorn Casino's energy needs.
- Turbine to be located on 0.2 acres, at Casino Travel Center parking lot, west of Live Oak Springs with 1,000 feet of underground power.
- The Chair reported on evasive and incorrect information in the EA and asked if there was any support for the turbine project.
- There was no support for the turbine: project raises same concerns as existing turbines but this one will be even closer to Casino employees, patrons, and adjacent neighbors.
- ***M/S: Maupin/Strand: Authorize Chair to submit comments, raising concerns, opposing the turbine, with recommendation to contact Lane Sharman for alternatives: Passed: 5-0-0.***
- For a copy of the EA contact Maja Pepion, Environmental Compliance Coordinator for BIA Southern California Agency at (951-276-6624): Mail comments to 1451 Research Park Drive, Suite 100, Riverside, CA 92507 or maja.pepion@bia.gov

F. GROUP BUSINESS: Announcements; correspondence; discussion items; project updates

1. **Border Patrol Report:** No report

2. **Revitalization Report:**

- Tammy Daubach gave report
- SANDAG map now stops at El Cajon, eliminating our area of East County
- It was stated that two Supervisors have reportedly made statements related to their desire to reduce number of backcountry residents to reduce need for transportation.
- Dec 3rd is local revitalization meeting.
- Dec 12th is Dianne's Backcountry Revitalization meeting in Campo

3. **Fire Safe Council Report:**

- Chair reported that the Group's CWPP comments were late but were almost complete.
- Tammy Daubach reported that CWPP comments should be sent in by Nov 17th.
- Next meeting is November 26th at Boulevard.
- ECO Substation mitigation funds are coming in. Work is being done on Jacumba Lake and Calexico Lodge.
- Calexico Lodge had three oaks test positive for Golden Spotted Oak Borer Beetle.
- SDG&E has been vague about where the FSC can work.
- November 18th is set for meeting with Dianne Jacob on dark days at Boulevard and Jacumba Hot Springs Fire stations.
- Boulevard Station has had two CalFire firefighters since Oct 17th, using overtime pay.
- Jacumba Hot Springs has been covered through Rural's Mt Laguna station.
- It was reported that SDG&E's Don Parent and Cameron Durckle have had to stay in a trailer at Buckman Springs Road facility during Red Flag events and seemed surprised to hear that local stations were not staffed during those events.

4. **4 SOITEC SOLAR PROJECTS: A 45 DAY COMMENT PERIOD IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AROUND DECEMBER 12TH WITH A PUBLIC HEARING IN JAN 2014 FOR THE PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR ALL**

4 SOITEC SOLAR CPV PROJECTS AND 2 MAJOR USE PERMITS FOR 80 MW RUGGED SOLAR AND 60 MW TIERRA DEL SOL SOLAR:

- 168.5 MW OF CONCENTRATING PV SOLAR (7,290 tracking CPV modules @1,200 sq ft each) TOTALING 1,473 ACRES: Tierra Del Sol Solar & Rugged Solar projects are being evaluated at a project-specific level.
- 6.5 MW LanWest and 22 MW LanEast evaluated at programmatic level.
- *The LanWest MUP application was withdrawn by Soitec on September 5th.*
- Consultant Jim Whalen was not present.
- Bob Maupin gave report on the meeting with County staff with the Chair and several neighbors of the Tierra Del Sol project.
- Maupin said Border Patrol reportedly cannot fly helicopters over project due to updraft created by heat island effect and infrared equipment is made useless at night—despite a letter from the County stating no heat will be radiating from the proposed site.
- Maupin also reported 1,100 pounds of smuggled marijuana was recently picked up on Joe Brown’s property (Tierra Del Sol Solar site) by the Border Patrol.
- County project manager: Ashley Gungle: 858-495-5375; Ashley.gungle@sdcounty.ca.gov;
- Available documents are posted here: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/ceqa/GPA12-010.html>.

5. ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPGROUND/CONFERENCE CENTER: COUNTY’S FIRST ITERATION REVIEW OF INITIAL STUDIES: MUP #11-002; 3300-12-020(P12-020); 3300-12-021(P-12-021):

- 2750 MCCAIN VALLEY ROAD: 753 ACRES ZONED RL80/A72: Rough Acres Foundation / Jeff Hamann: MUP for Conference /Corporate Retreat Center; Skeet Shooting range; 2 Campgrounds; 200 seat amphitheater; 3 private residences with barns; agriculture barns.
- Project access via Ribbonwood and McCain Valley Road.
- Jim Whalen was not present but had e-mailed the Chair asking her to remove the withdrawn Rock Crushing MUP and to report that they expect to resubmit their information back to the County soon, with the County’s questions answered.
- *Group recommended EIR at Sept 5th meeting.*
- County Project Manager: Jim Bennett; jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov; (858) 694-8846.

6. ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD MAJOR GRADING PERMIT: PDS2011-2700-15622: APPLICANT GREGG HAMANN:

- New private connector road proposed between Ribbonwood Road and McCain Valley Road to serve as potential access for Iberdrola’s Tule Wind, Soitec Solar’s Rugged Solar and proposed Rough Acres Campground & Conference Center.
- Jim Whalen was not present.
- Linda Shannon confirmed that Whalen had not followed up or arranged for a meeting with the Project manager as promised, to discuss her concerns as impacted neighbor.
- Shannon confirmed no contact from Jim Bennett (County groundwater geologist), Ken Brazell (project managers) or his Secretary.
- Chair recommended that Shannon send a follow-up e-mail to Supervisor Jacob regarding the lack of response from County staff.

- Director of Planning and Development Services, Mark Wardlaw, will make decision without holding a public hearing.
- Project Manager: Kenneth.Brazell@sdcounty.ca.gov; 858-694-2728 ph

7. NEW BOULEVARD FIRE STATION:

- Chair reported that a County representative is expected to attend the Group's January 2014 meeting to provide an update and participate in a Question and Answer session.
- Construction of the \$2.9 million 7500 sq ft station is pending.
- Tammy Daubach reported that Mike Jensen of Adams Electric is supposed to be installing the water tanks soon that should resolve artesian well issues/concerns.

8. LIVE OAK SPRINGS BULK WATER SALES; DUDEK'S NEW WORK PLAN FOR SOURCE CAPACITY STUDY & MODIFIED CPUC DECISION FOR RECEIVERSHIP:

- Chair reported on CPUC's October 31st decision denying the Najors' request for a rehearing and injunction.
- All CPUC proceeding documents are posted here including Nazar Najor's Request for Rehearing filed August 7th and CPUC's response:
<http://delaps1.cpuc.ca.gov/CPUCProceedingLookup/f?p=401:57:1531112472479601::NO>

9. SDG&E's NEW 85-ACRE ECO SUBSTATION, 13 MILES OF NEW TRANSMISSION LINE, AND NEW LARGER BOULEVARD SUBSTATION:

- Currently under construction in Jacumba, Boulevard, and Jewel Valley.
- Controversial bulk groundwater sales from Campo Reservation and Live Oak Springs have been challenged but are ongoing.
- Chair reported that the CPUC project manager had approved a Water Supply increase to 90 million gallons in October --up from the original 30 million stated in the EIR, followed by increase to 50 million gallons in July.
- Chair reported that ECO Substation now has a new CPUC project manager
- A SDUT investigative reporter working on this water story.
- Contacts during construction: ecosub@dudek.com; (800) 371-8854.
- CPUC Construction Mitigation & Monitoring documents and reports are posted here:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ecosub/MMCRP.htm>

10. MAJOR PRE-APPLICATION MEETING SUMMARY FOR INFIGEN'S 30 MW FOX ACRES SOLAR (PDS2013-MPA-12-012):

- Project address: Fox Acres East of intersection of Hwy 94 and Tierra Del Sol Road: APN'S: 610-062-20, 21,46,47,48, 612-040-03, 53, 57, 59 & 612-041-01; Property owners: Robert & Mele Fox, 38951 Hwy 94.
- No MUP application has yet been filed.
- Pre-application Meeting summary of major issues, key decisions/determinations and guidance for project processing is documented in PDS letter dated September 5th.
- Nothing new to report

11. CHAPMAN RANCH SOLAR PROJECT:

- Informal information received regarding a 50 acre solar project reportedly planned by Solar Electric Solutions LLC on 132.94 acres (APN 612-030-15) known as Chapman Ranch located at McCain Valley Road and Rocky Knoll Road north of I-8: Company website: <http://www.solarelectricsolutions.com/>
- Chair reported that Solar Electric Solutions' David Revelt sent e-mail saying project is in preliminary stages and he had asked: "Are there circumstances under which you and the Boulevard planning group would support a small, solar project such as ours?"
- The general consensus to question posed by Revelt was NO; the Group would prefer point of use projects where the energy is used on-site.

12. SEMPRA'S CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION LINE WILL CONNECT THEIR ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ WIND PROJECT WITH SDG&E'S ECO-SUBSTATION:

- Import capacity of 1,250 MW. Approved by the CPUC, BLM and DOE. Litigation filed against federal approval on 12-26-12: <http://esiprojecteis.org/>
- Sempra previously reported that they had purchased Vestas 3.3MW turbines.
- Nothing new to report

13. REPORT ON LAND DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S OCTOBER MEETING:

- The Performance Review Committee was formed as part of the Board of Supervisors' response to Red Tape Task Force recommendations. Streamlining efforts are underway.
- New online services now available at Planning & Development Services: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/Performance_Review_Committee.html
- There was no October meeting. Next meeting set for 10 AM Nov 14

14. IBERDROLA'S 200 MW TULE WIND:

- Permits from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and State Lands Commission are still pending.
- Tule Wind's Golden Eagle expert was sentenced in federal court for working without a permit and other offenses: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/aug/13/eagles-wildife-ramona-sentenced-bittner/all/?print> .
- A complaint for injunctive and declaratory relief was filed against BLM approvals in US District Court by non-profit groups in March: <http://eastcountymagazine.org/print/12724> .
- Tule Wind Map: <http://tulewindccmp.com/Figure2-ProjectLocation.pdf> .
- Federal court hearing for Tule Wind litigation moved from January 20 to Feb 20th 2013.
- Chair referred to press release included in agenda packet that alleged that Iberdrola may lose right to operate 48 MW Groton Wind (NH) based on following allegations:
 - unauthorized relocation of O&M building
 - unauthorized relocation of 2 Gamesa G87 turbines
 - Failure to comply with the NH State Fire Code
 - Failure to comply with NH State Building Code
 - Safety and maintenance concerns
 - An inadequate Environmental, Health, and Safety Plan
 - Well contamination of one neighbor

- New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee will hold hearings to decide whether to suspend and revoke the Certificate of Site and Facility granted to Iberdrola's.

15. **WIND ENERGY ORDINANCE & PLAN AMENDMENT WERE APPROVED IN MAY: CEQA SUIT FILED IN JUNE.**

- County documents and maps are posted here:
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/advance/POD10007FEIR.html>
- The CEQA suit is posted here:
<http://www.sandiegoreader.com/documents/2013/jun/18/lawsuit-over-wind-turbines-backcountry/>
- Chair reported that the Nov 14th Superior Court hearing date was reportedly changed to a case management conference call.

G. MEETING Adjourned at 9:00 PM. NEXT meeting set for Dec 5th

Minutes approved by Group: 12-5-13

Donna Tisdale, Chair 