

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP
FINAL MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MAY 8, 2014**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM, Thursday, May 8, 2014 at Boulevard Community Center located east of the Boulevard Fire Station

A. ROLL CALL (Determination of quorum):

- Members present: **1)** Robert Maupin **2)** Earl Goodnight **3)** Chris Noland; **4)** Donna Tisdale; **5)** Michele Strand; **6)** Paula Byrd **7)** Jeffrey McKernan:
- Chair reported that Earl Goodnight was formally appointed by the Board of Supervisors on April 15th and he had completed his training prior to being seated.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. APPROVE MINUTES FOR APRIL 3RD MEETING:

- Typo on the top of Page 3 should be Whalen.
- Second bullet, should be Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Last bullet on Item 4, was speaking to the turning radius on Rough Acres Ranch Rd.

M/S: Noland/Maupin: To accept the April 3rd, 2014 minutes as amended: Passed 7-0-0

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- A community member asked if anyone had the Arroyo Toad in their yards.
- It may be taken off the endangered list, or downgraded.
- Comments due May 31st.
- Donna responded that every time it has been alleged that they are here, their presence has been challenged.
- Whelan said they are in Walker Creek to the east as you go down the hill toward Jacumba.
- During drought they burrow underground and stay there.
- The site plan decision was received, approving the Boulevard Fire Station Site plan dated April 29th.

F. ACTION ITEMS:

1. NOTICE OF PREPARATION ROUGH ACRES RANCH MAJOR USE PERMIT FOR CONFERENCE CENTER / RETREAT AND WELLNESS CENTER AND CAMPGROUND FACILITY: PDS2012-3300-12-021, LOG NO. PDS2012-3910-1221005:

ACTION: M/S: McKernan/Noland: Authorize the Chair to submit comments, include previous comments, and to incorporate any new information for the Rough Acres Ranch project. Passed 7-0-0

Summary of discussion:

- Present for the County: Jim Bennett, Project Manager with the County; Donna Beddow, Planning Manager; Ed Sinsay, Land Development, deals with the traffic, flood, road infrastructure, and engineering issues; Dennis Campbell, Environmental Coordinator for the EIR.
- Developer's representatives present: Erica Caruthers, Project Manager, Bruce Robertson, Civil Engineer, and Hannah (?) will be directing the EIR.
- Bennett gave a Project Description and displayed current and proposed maps with 61 sites in western section and 88 sites on the eastern portion.

- Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report is the first step.
- Public comments will all be considered in first draft of the EIR.
- Project is located at Rough Acres Ranch (the former Charger's training camp); McCain Valley Road will be primary access.
- Remaining Rough Acres Ranch amenities include bungalows, a lodge, various agricultural components, a bunk house, storage building, corrals, residence (in disrepair), water tank, various ranch roads.
- A Major Use Permit was applied for in 2012 for 713 acres of land.
- Proposed western campsite has 61 tent and RV trailer sites; eastern site has 88 proposed sites
- Northwest section includes skeet shooting range, archery course, and restroom.
- Campsites include a club house lodge, rest rooms, storage building
- Southwest section includes 3 ranch residences, poultry coups will be rebuilt, rebuild of old ranch residence.
- An equestrian center, a club house and lodge go with eastern camp sites, rest room, and lay down yard for agricultural uses and recreational activities.
- Chair raised concerns and objections with the unnecessary helipad that was never disclosed or put out for public comment during the Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS process.
- Bennett thought it was an existing use.
- Chair stated that it was only a temporary use, not permanent. The pad should have been removed with the decommissioning of the Sunrise Powelink's Rough Acres Ranch Construction Yard—that Yard was added after close of public comment on the Powerlink.
- An emergency helipad is already located at new Border Patrol Station on Ribbonwood Road.
- No meat processing is proposed.
- Facility to operate 365 days a year, 10 permanent employees, 20 temporary employees to handle group events, interior ranch roads to be improved; enough parking areas to accommodate.
- Private groups and organizations will utilize the facilities. It is not for public use.
- 10-50 cattle currently on site and will continue. Proposed 5-40 horses in corrals, and 20,000 chickens.
- Water will come from their wells south of the project.
- Dennis Campbell reported that the applicant was notified in January that an EIR was required.
- The Notice of Preparation is a 30 day public comment period for what should be included in EIR
- It was confirmed that the comment deadline had been extended to May 19th.
- Comment forms and sign in sheets were circulated
- Potential impacts are: biology, biological resources, sensitive habitats and plants, noise, hydrology, drainage, traffic, visual quality, agriculture.
- Applicant will incorporate comments and prepare the Draft EIR for County review.
- The DEIR will have a 45-day public review and comment period.
- Once the County responds to the public comments, there will be more public hearings and comments
- Bennett is the contact. Calls and emails are welcome throughout the entire process.
- Project neighbor, Marie Morgan, raised concerns with drought and ground water issues.
- Bennett stated this is a unique situation. Tule Wind was approved by the County in 2012, using the same Rough Acres wells
- Soitec's Rugged Solar project also plans to use the same wells and has similar impacts
- Bennett said the County must be very careful in analyzing impacts; they normally don't have projects one on top of the other; this is a situation that they have truly never dealt with or analyzed before.

- The project must be carefully conditioned and water use allocated; need to ensure that there are caps placed on how much water can be produced; water level thresholds are needed to protect the off-site wells and ground water dependent habitat.
- County will also be looking at monitoring for all three projects, not just Rough Acres Ranch.
- Charlene Ayers asked if MUPs with water caps are monitored
- Bennett responded there are none in Boulevard yet, and only about 15 in the entire County.
- Applicant is required to have professional geologist sign and stamp reports.
- Sam McKernan reminded Bennett of major water concerns and violations from all of the recent projects.
- Linda Shannon voiced concerns about her well going dry, as her property abuts the proposed project.
- Bennett responded that the meeting's purpose was to gather these concerns and to have them addressed.
- The County wants to initiate well monitoring before the project gets started.
- A professional geologist would report the water usage to the County.
- Discussion of Board member Paula Byrd residing within 1 mile of the proposed project. It was determined she did not need to recuse herself due to distance from the site.
- Byrd voiced concern that regardless of well monitoring, once the water is gone, it's gone. She asked what the recourse would be, or what specifically the County would do replace water when it is gone. She has already been through loss of well water at previous home in Muth Valley linked to the Barona Casino.
- Bennett's said there are guidelines to determine significance for groundwater investigations to process potential well interference for off-site neighboring properties.
- For projects that are in fractured rock aquifers, 20 or more feet of drawdown would be significant. 5 feet drawdown for an alluvial aquifer would be significant—that would be the stopping point for pumping.
- Board member Jeff McKernan asked about establishing a baseline for neighboring wells.
- Bennett said that the baseline line will be at the start of the first project (of 3), prior to start of pumping.
- McKernan asked how long the baseline monitoring would take.
- Jim said they have some historical data, but the sooner the monitoring starts, the better.
- The County will be discussing well monitoring with the Rough Acres folks.
- Rugged Solar monitoring will be within ½ mile of project.
- Rugged is offering better equipment. A device installed in the well "pings" water levels every 15 minutes.
- The County's version is a manual monitoring program for groundwater levels, which only gets measured when they make a physical visit, which could be months apart.
- The applicant (Rugged, or a consultant or firm they would hire) will gather the data and submit it to the County for their review. During the construction phase, the monitoring reporting to the County will be weekly or bi-weekly.
- No cost to the residents.
- Cherry Diefenbach asked about water sales from the Pine Valley Mutual Water and questioned the legality of selling water to another mutual water company; 16 acre feet or 5.2 million gallon contract.
- Bennett explained there are 3 projects on Rough Acres Ranch: Tule Wind, Rugged Solar, and Rough Acres.
- Pine Valley will sell water to Rugged with Jacumba and Padre Dam as back up.
- Ayers asked if Rough Acres was operating under a domestic water system permit or if they are a mutual water company?
- Bennett said they are still reviewing that issue internally and Dept of Environmental Health is involved.

- Chair reported that staff had initially said they were not recognizing Rough Acres Water Company as a water agency under the Ground Water Ordinance when she had commented that the Ordinance requires that the agency would have had to pre-exist the project, which is not the case here.
- Chair noted that the Hamann Companies have well over 100 companies with the same address at 1000 Pioneer Way in El Cajon and that raises a lot of red flags. In her opinion, you don't have that many companies unless you are playing some sort of shell game.
- Bob Maupin asked if there will be a drug/alcohol treatment facility, sex offenders, in the wellness center.
- The applicant's consultant said no sex offenders. The EIR will have a better understanding.
- Maupin asked about the 20,000 chickens, noise and odor
- Consultant said there will be a vector management plan for the chicken coop. 3 different buildings
- Someone asked what insurance company would underwrite the liability of all this (shooting range, equestrian, chickens, etc). The consultant responded she's sure they have a policy. It is a private facility, not public.
- Maupin warned of mixing city people with cattle.
- Education of the visitors will be a top priority to avoid someone getting hurt.
- Another community member brought up mixing a gun range (loud shooting) with an equestrian center (horses). Also, the 2012 Shockey Fire in Tierra Del Sol was started by gunfire.
- Chair asked if the cattle will be free range, based on statements made. Raised concerns with too many roads and the fact that secondary access cannot be gated since it is an emergency secondary access road.
- How will cattle, horses, gun range, chickens, and people be kept separated?
- The concept plans are understood, but often reality doesn't meet the plan concepts.
- Who and how will the type of ammunition brought and used on-site and off-site be controlled?
- The consultants tried to assure that everything would be addressed.
- The Chair very frankly informed them that, sadly, we don't trust the applicant based on experience, past behaviors, and deceptions.
- BBQ's and campfires are also a concern since we are in a designated wildfire corridor.
- The Fire Protection Plan will be followed.
- The Chair noted that predicted climate change is not addressed in the County's Ground Water Determination of Significance in the Ground Water Ordinance.
- Bennett confirmed and said there are no current plans for revision prior to these projects going through.
- Chair said reduced rainfall and recharge will not be adequately addressed in the EIR if those documents are not updated. Bennett said that was an excellent point to be made.
- Full Service hookups are only on the Eastern campground and along the main roadway. 30-35 full hookups.
- Septic is adjacent to the restrooms on the Eastern campground.
- Hours of operation for the gun range are 7am to sunset.
- Neighbor Linda Shannon asked if the drug rehab was state funded or privately funded.
- Jim Whalen said that he didn't think it would be state funded, as it was church related. Public funds in the form of grants may be involved.
- Chair confirmed that there is a discrepancy in that Set Free's address shows up at Rough Acres, and trucks with Set Free signs were there, too. Set Free does have an affiliation, but it has been denied.
- Donna Beddow responded to concerns about abundant cultural resources, by confirming that archeological / biological / environmentally sensitive areas do exist on the site and notice has been sent to local tribes, so they can be involved. Concern was raised about what to do with artifacts.

- The Chair reported that owners of McCallister Ranch, to the north, report having a lot of archeological resources on their land, dropping water tables and dying oaks.
- Diefenbach raised concern that biological surveys are properly conducted, during or not during mating season, hibernating season, etc. to get false readings. Accurate representation of the critters is needed.
- Marie Morgan reported 5 sightings of mountain lions in the Ribbonwood area during the Sunrise Powerlink construction disruption, 10 feet from a neighbor's house. Lions have been found dead on the freeway and there have been other sightings by residents – reported to Fish & Game. They had never been seen that close before. How will displaced wildlife be addressed?
- Incompatible land use issues were raised by Board Member McKernan; Rugged Solar, wind turbines, and all related infrastructure
- Chair reported that APN 611-070-03-00 was delinquent in the amount of \$8,358.00 in taxes. Can the County process an EIR when the property is delinquent on their taxes?
- Clarification is needed: Code 75 is used on the Assessor's document. That is a "Commercial" designation. Current commercial use of Rough Acres Ranch is referenced, but there is no commercial zoning outside of our village center area here and no such permits have ever been processed to group's knowledge.
- The Hamann's came to town around 2004 or so and they were worked with the Fadam Trust to remove the Designated Ag Preserve. There was never any commercial designation.
- One document says 563.3 acres plus 160 acres, which totals 723.3 acres, but the project is described as 713 acres.
- Applicant said the Assessor's info could be wrong, as they are not surveyed.
- Rural Lands 80 designation applies to both of the parcels. The Chair divided 723 acres by 80, which came to 9.03 homes, but if you have 713 acres the result is 8.9 dwellings on that acreage.
- Approximately 9 houses seems to be a much more practical, sustainable, neighbor-friendly, less exploitive use than having the proposed project with maximum occupancy of 2600, 44 apartments, bunk houses, and 10-20 full time employees or more.
- The Chair commented that the current project, of the 3 projects proposed on Rough Acres Ranch, is the least obnoxious overall.
- Maupin brought up the noise from the amphitheatre and that the sound will travel for miles because Boulevard has low ambient noise levels. Traffic and noise coming and going to concert events, drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is a concern, especially due to our narrow and substandard roads.
- The EIR will address the worst case scenarios, according to the applicant's representative.
- Board Member Noland brought up that there would be motor home generator noise on the western campground, as well as the odor of the poultry coop.
- Someone joked that we will get clothespins with "Soitec" written on them for our noses.
- Someone questioned, why the chickens? It was surmised to be an excuse to retain the "ag" designation that allows the proposed "campground" use with a MUP.
- The applicant's representative said part of the reason was to retain the rural nature of our community and agriculture is an attraction for people from the city because they've never seen a chicken before. Someone joked; one or two chickens might do instead of 20,000.
- The Chair asked Whalen what was the max number of chickens that have been there, ever.
- Whalen didn't know.
- Adjacent neighbor Linda Shannon said she does not hear chickens, but she can hear cows and men working.

- The Chair brought up need for clarification of the Rough Acres Ranch Domestic Water Permit, which says it's for non-transient use, but this is a transient-use facility. And the fact that all of Rough Acres Water infrastructure has already been transferred to the Rough Acres Water Company. Lots of questions.
- Rough Acres Ranch Road should be included as a connected action / direct effect because this project is reliant on it. The new secondary access route is needed because the McCain Valley Road is a dead end road, technically.
- Chair reported that Ken Brazell had responded on some the questions about Rough Acres Ranch Road, but he does not have all the answers.
- The second to last page, the grading permit: There will be 6300 yard cut/fill; however the source of the concrete, asphalt, or rip rap or other construction materials, or the distance they're going to travel is all unknown; the number of workers involved, what type of equipment, what type of emissions will be generated from the equipment is also unknown; need to provide site distance certification letter.
- Chair stated that Rough Acres Ranch Road is being relied upon by Tule Wind because they cannot get their large turbine components under the I-8 overpass at McCain Valley Road. Tule Wind must access their project via Ribbonwood Road, yet Tule Wind's Major Use Permit only requires road improvements for McCain Valley Road, and none for Ribbonwood Road.
- Chair asked about the turning radius for those large 150 foot long turbine blades and the special trailers needed to make a right at the Shannon's gateway onto the new Rough Acres Ranch Road.
- County staff stated that at that the current "T" intersection does not have the turning radius to handle those The plan is to widen the road.
- It was noted that there is no EIR for Rough Acres Ranch Road itself, so it should be included in this EIR.
- Originally there was a second MUP for rock crushing at Rough Acres Ranch that has now been rolled over into the Soitec's Rugged Solar EIR along with a cement batch plant.
- If the materials are coming from that facility for the new road, then it represents cumulative effects, direct or indirect. They should all be addressed in this EIR document.
- Kevin Keane noted that corporate events tend to need internet connections, yet there is no mention of communication towers.
- The applicant's representative responded that folks will be coming there to get away from their technology, not use it.
- The Chair reported that all the solar/ wind projects have their own wireless communications facilities which create cumulative impacts.
- The applicant's representatives assured everyone that the main entrance is McCain Valley Road
- Ribbonwood Road resident Wayne Skains noted that if there is a shorter, quicker route, which is Ribbonwood Road, a rural residential road, it will end up being the preferred route.
- Parts of McCain Valley Road are being paved now, but DPW has not shared with the Planning Board what is going on. They seldom do.
- Part of the Rough Acres Ranch Road is going to be allowed to be "DG", decomposed granite, by the Fire Protection District. Pavement along the east/west portion, then as it turns northerly, it will be DG.
- The Chair commented that once it's built, human nature will dictate which entrance gets used. She gave examples of unauthorized access, shooting, OHV use, etc. on her own private posted roads.
- Comments were made that Par Electric and SDG&E projects tore up roads and most are still in bad shape.
- Chair reminded that DPW recently attended our meeting and lamented that they have a real problem getting these companies to agree to do road work.

- Comments were made regarding the bad affects the residents experience during construction: out of state workers driving dangerously, wrecking the roads, fake work trucks smuggling drugs; when everyone leaves no one fixes things and locals get left with the damages.
- Chair reported 27 pages of cumulative impact projects are in the hard copy of the EIR that she received; however they are not posted on the website.
- They include a lot of projects that have nothing to do with Boulevard or the adjacent areas, as well as outdated projects. The list really needs to be cleaned up.
- The Chair highlighted the ones that are in the Boulevard area; those that aren't in Boulevard should not be included because it skews the impacts.
- The list should not be for Mountain Empire Sub Region, it should be for the Boulevard Planning Area because that's the area of the most concentrated and disproportionate impact.
- McCain Valley Road is the only access to the recreation areas (McCain Valley Recreation Area and the Wilderness Areas, AC EC's, campgrounds) none have been identified for this project yet; they need to be identified and disclosed because people come to Boulevard to enjoy McCain Valley; now they will have to dodge all of this infrastructure and traffic to get out to what *has* been a wild lands recreation area.
- Chair never saw a change to the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area, Wildlife Management Area. They haven't changed the wilderness zonings. McCain Valley Road is the sole access to those areas.
- 100-year flood plain and the Wildlife Corridor. Wildlife does travel through the Tule Creek floodplain and it's being chopped up as we speak and access denied.
- Boulevard Trails and Pathways Map. Ribbonwood Road in one of our pathways. It's a draft map, but it should be recognized and addressed.
- Chris Noland (geologist by trade) stated that since climate change will probably not be addressed in the Ground Water Ordinance, the ground water age should be tested using isotopes. We want to know if the water coming out is from one of the wet years. It's a pretty big watershed.
- Bennett said the County has never done that. 93, 95, 98, 05, 09, 10 have shown recharge from monitoring during El Nino years, including data from the Tisdale ranch.
- Chair noted that when Campo Reservation pumped water for bulk water sales, the recovery rate was reduced in tribal wells and Tisdale wells.
- The Border Patrol station and the casinos may have contributed to the slower recharge rates being experienced by residents already.
- Chair reported that water tanker trucks were parked behind barns at Rough Acres Ranch but they are gone now. There were concerns they were filling them up at night from Ranch wells and then delivering to projects. But we can't prove that.
- Sam McKernan joked that we would water board Jim Whalen for more answers, but we don't have enough water.
- Water age testing was done in Borrego. The water was many hundreds of years old, some over 1000 years.
- The Chair brought up that the helipad should not be allowed to remain at Rough Acres since it was never permanently permitted.
- Low flying non-military helicopters that have recently been spotted in the Rough Acres Ranch area quite often by residents.
- Concerns remain over increased fire risk due to introduction of more people, equipment, and activities into a Wildfire Corridor.

- The developers need to pay their fair share for fire protection, since they are increasing our danger exponentially. Right now, the County has no agreement for full time Fire Fighters. It's all temporary and stipends. We have a brand new station going in, but we do not have full time paid staff to man it. Our station was dark 135 days last year, with all the construction going on!
- The developers are putting a burden on the locals who are underserved.
- We don't need more equipment. We need paid people to staff the engines.
- Concerns were raised about combining White Star with Boulevard Fire at one station.
- Combining the two entities will actually result in a loss of a fire engine resulting in more fire ignition sources, less equipment, and less service.
- Before Whalen left, the Chair wanted to let everyone knows that Soitec finally disclosed that they were dropped from the Imperial Solar Energy Center West project. They lost a 150MW CPV project that they had used to leverage the \$25 million DOE loan for their \$150 million manufacturing facility in Rancho Bernardo.

2. COUNTY REQUEST FOR SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE CALIFORNIA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (ATP):

ACTION: M/S: NOLAND/GOODNIGHT: Authorize the Chair to submit draft support letter to the County for the California Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant. Passed 7-0-0

Summary of discussion:

- Development Services, Dept of Public Works, and Parks & Recreation are requesting Planning Group support for Grant Applications for the California Active Transportation Program. It would update, integrate the existing County plans and efforts, the Trails Master Plan, Bicycle Transportation Plan, _____Element, Pedestrian Area Plan, for Alpine, Borrego, Fallbrook, Lakeside Town Center, Spring Valley. Safe routes to schools, School Safety Zone review, new pedestrian gap analysis, existing additions for sidewalks and pathway networks, health impact analysis or creation for a health in all Policy assessment is also a potential for consideration plan?, thus functionally threading many departments' efforts and align with other County initiatives including the 2014 Strategic Initiative Live World? San Diego.
- Comment deadline is May 14, 2014.
- The County provided a template.
- The Trails Master Plan has been sitting since 2009. This would hopefully bring it back to life.
- A community member offered that this is a Diane Jacob program designed with healthy living in mind.

3. REQUEST TO MOVE JUNE MEETING TO 2ND THURSDAY, JUNE 12:

ACTION: M/S: MAUPIN/BYRD: Motion to move meeting from the 1st Thursday in June to the 2nd Thursday in June. Passed: 7-0-0.

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

1. Fire Safe Council Report:

- Tammy Daubach gave the report.
- Next meeting is on May 31st at 5:30pm at the Campo Fire Station #46.
- Seniors and disabled citizens can contact the Fire Safe Council for assistance is maintaining 100' clearance around habitable structures.
- The Community Wildlife Protection Plan was stalled again because BLM wanted more of a "say".

- Since then, BLM's Clay Howe has added his information.
- They did put back in the report the 135 dark days that Boulevard did experience in 2013 (during major construction projects). They wrote an addendum because Cal Fire Chief Francois verified it.
- Bob Maupin was accepted into the Community Sheriff's Program.
- The NOAA and Fire Service have marked our area as an area that is drought stricken and will intensify.
- Boulevard's Border Patrol station hasn't set up a weather station yet, but they do have a station at the I8 checkpoint and the winds recently clocked 84mph.
- **There is a toll free number to call for low-flying aircraft complaints: 1-866-247-2878.** Two Ultra-Lights have recently come through between here and Campo. Tierra Del Sol area has a big increase in drug traffic the last two months.
- Due to AB109, the program that releases inmates early, there have been 7 apprehensions for probation violations on the I-8 checkpoint already.
- McCain Valley has two 2-strike felons (violent felony) residing there. They will be close to the proposed Wellness Center at Rough Acres Ranch.
- Yearly Fire Fees are still in effect.
- Boulevard Fire Department construction has broken ground.
- Monday, May 13th the Fire Safe Council and sponsor groups will be meeting with Diane Jacob about backcountry fire services.

2. Revitalization Report:

- Tammy Daubach gave the report.
- The Neighborhood Challenge Grant (for message boards) got disqualified after Phase 2.
- Jacumba Library was very receptive to have a board, but the Post Offices were not.
- They are now looking for support elsewhere.
- The Residential Leadership Academy is working on picking a project – joint use agreements with schools, trash and recycling options, business center.
- Graduation is next Thursday.
- Sign up online for the Jacumba Walkers Group.
- Flyers are available for the Senior Disabled Transportation Service. SANDAG wants out, so they outsourced it to Mountain Empire Health. Free transportation to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, etc. Nobody is taking advantage of it and if we don't use it, we will lose it.
- Mountain Empire's Collaborative Country Fair is June 7th at the Campo Community Center.
- Enrollment for Mountain Empire School District is 1500. 85% are on reduced lunches.
- Jacumba Centennial is on May 24th from 10-6:00.
- May 22nd will be a Drug/Alcohol program at the Jacumba Middle School starting at 5:30. Dinner provided.
- May 28th is the Start Smart program for teen drivers and parents at Mountain Empire High School at 5:30. Dinner provided.
- May 29th is the Backcountry Revitalization Meeting with Diane Jacob and Mountain Empire Community Center. Dinner not provided.
- The Chair thanked Ms. Daubach for doing such a good job on keeping us informed.

3. SOITEC SOLAR:

- Chair read from Soitec's own press release disclosing loss of CSolar IV West project:
 - *Soitec: update on Tenaska's solar project: Bernin, France and San Diego, CA, April 15, 2014 — Soitec (Euronext Paris), a world-leading supplier of advanced solutions for the electronics and energy industries, today announced that CSOLAR IV West, LLC (CSOLAR), recently notified San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) that it has decided not to use Soitec Solar's concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) technology for its power purchase agreement (PPA) to produce 150 megawatts (MW) of clean energy for its CSOLAR IV West solar plant (see March 10, 2011 Soitec press release). Instead CSOLAR, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tenaska Solar Ventures, LLC ("Tenaska"), has decided to use traditional photovoltaic (PV) technology to carry out the project. Soitec Solar is not a party to the PPA between SDG&E and Tenaska. Tenaska's decision was made public at the April 10, 2014 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) meeting. See link to the April 10, 2014 CPUC meeting video transcript: <http://www.californiaadmin.com/cpuc.shtml> (CPUC Commission Voting Meeting - April 10, 2014 video segment between 01:55:40 and 02:02:47) Soitec Solar is disappointed with Tenaska's decision, which does not materially jeopardize the prospects for its North American manufacturing facility in California from which it supplies a worldwide demand for its CPV technology nor impacts Soitec PPAs with SDG&E and previously approved by the CPUC (see April 12, 2011 and May. 18, 2011 Soitec press releases) and currently under development."*
- Chair reported she could not locate the video link information referenced in the press release.
- Soitec got a \$25 million grant for their "Soitec Solar Manufacturing Facility" based on the above referenced contract that is now cancelled.
- Soitec also recently signed a new agreement with a new tracking frame that is only 15' tall, not 30' tall.
- An audience member shared how loud solar inverters are as she experienced them up close at Point Loma Nazarene College.
- The Chair shared that she attended a meeting (conditioned on not revealing the attendees or the agencies they worked for) and was provided a lot of information on the wildlife impact by these projects. The lake effect and bird impacts, in particular. Solar power towers are incinerating birds as they fly through.
- The power towers are acting as a magnet for monarch butterflies, dragonflies, and migrating beetles. That is attracting the birds that prey on those things, then that is attracting the predators that eat the birds, and so on.
- Nighthawks are laying eggs on the solar PV frames or ground then sometimes the birds will fly into them, they are stunned; if it happens during the day they get cooked in the heat.
- There is a new USFWS forensic report available that is very disturbing. One witness saw a peregrine falcon fly through the area and catch on fire.
- The damage to wildlife is not being disclosed and these projects are not clean and green.
- Site workers are reporting retribution if they find things and report them. Blacklisting is an issue.
- Retired Cal Fire Battalion Chief Mark Ostrander said that American Scientific just said that industrial solar industry is the biggest user of natural resources.
- Lorie Ostrander shared that she and Mark, showed a "green" non-profit around the area (from Desert View Tower to McCain Valley) and explained to them the negative consequences of this proposed "green" energy in our area. The views are ruined and the animals are gone. Lorie said that they seem to understand. Water is the main concern.

- Mark Ostrander said he thinks their well is dropping because they had 2 trees die (at a higher elevation) and their water is now gritty.
- Board member Noland explained that the gritty water is caused by the water table dropping, the water coming in is cascading down and bringing in the sediment with it.
- Chair reported complaints that some wells did go dry when the casino went in. Tribal leaders dispute that.
- Board member Byrd expressed frustration at our power, or lack thereof, to stop these projects.
- The Chair responded that pushback from this community has resulted in stopping 3 wind turbine projects, about a dozen solar projects, the master planned community in Jewel Valley and McCain Valley, a second prison, a landfill, and a hazardous waste incinerator.
- TAPE #2 SIDE B WAS BLANK ON THE ENTIRE SIDE. WRONG BUTTON MAY HAVE BEEN PUSHED.
- Here is where Tape 3, Side A picks up:
- The County well monitoring program is only measured quarterly, and is done manually.
- The problem with manual testing is when the measurement is taken; no one knows the last time the pump ran, affecting the measurement. In that case, they ask that the pump be turned off for 24 hours before the measurement.
- We continue to recommend that these projects be mandated to pay into the County for a permanent program with the transducers that ping by the minute. We need to establish ambient levels and historic levels. Tisdale's measurements have been referenced in the Dudek reports. Marking down the rainfall and keeping track of water levels. Big gap in data when the County slacked off and did not fund monitoring.
- Only the wells within ½ mile of the project site are being offered the free program from Soitec.
- This is a learning opportunity because not even all hydrologists are in agreement. SDSU's Dr. Huntley was skeptical until he came out and did tracer tests and how fast the water moves. He was amazed; seeing is believing. Valid information is vital.
- Paula Byrd explained that she lost her well on Muth Valley Road due to the Barona casino and golf course. There is no recourse and you are forced to re-drill, truck in water, or move.

4. 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 access for Iberdrola's Tule Wind, proposed Rough Acres Campground & Conference Center, and Rugged Solar. County Project Manager: Kenneth.Brazell@sdcounty.ca.gov; 858-694-2728 ph; 858-694-8928 fax.
- The Chair sent a letter to the County requesting information on this in May 2013. To date, the applicant has not provided the information to the County, so the County cannot fully respond to the request.
- Jim Bennett's workload is heavy since he is the project manager for this project as well as the County Geologist. The more info we give him to help, the better.

5. ECO SUBSTATION: A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE CUPUC AGAINST SDG&E'S WATER SUPPLY PLAN:

- SDG&E filed a response. Their typical denial of all allegations and there is no need for local hearings, no need for commission hearing, this can all be handled with staff. But "staff" is the one that rubber stamped the water supply plan without really reviewing it in the first place.

6. TULE WIND PHASE II:

- Two letters have been sent in to the Department of the Interior challenging their approval of the 20 turbines up on the Ewiiapaayp tribal lands. The non-profits lost the Wind Energy Complaint in Superior

Court on April 25th, 2014. Judge Taylor basically signed his tentative ruling. An appeal has been approved by the non-profits, but has not yet been filed.

7. SOLAR ELECTRIC SOLUTIONS Electric Solutions LLC:

- Nothing new to report. They confirmed they are looking locally, including McCain Valley.

8. CHAPMAN RANCH SOLAR PROJECT PROPOSAL:

- Nothing new to report. No formal application yet filed. Solar Electric Solutions.

9. SEMPRA'S IENOVA ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT WITH INTERGEN FOR SALE OF 50% OF PHASE I OF THE \$300 MILLION (USD) ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ WIND (ESJ) PROJECT. A CROSS-BORDER HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE, WITH IMPORT CAPACITY OF 1,250 MW, WILL CONNECT THE WIND PROJECT WITH SDG&E'S ECO SUB-STATION:

- Community members expressed outrage and sadness over the ECO Sub-Station and how bad it looks.
- Out by Weeping Buffalo ranch on Old 80 there are huge drills and pads graded. That line is being buried right now next to Pat Stuart's house on Jewel Valley Road. One copper cable ground wire was as thick as a big rope.
- Pat reported to the Chair that the worker have been polite.
- Mark Ostrander noted that SDG&E had to put the Sunrise Powerlink in with helicopters, but now they are building a road right next to it for the new 138kV line.
- The workers did start a fire at the end of Jewell Valley Road. Luckily they got it out right away.
- One commenter said it looks like they're testing missiles out there now it is so torn up.
- They are burying two 138kV lines in the ground, not just one. For the expansion that we weren't allowed to talk to the Administrative Law Judge about during the CEQA review because it was so supposed to be so far in the future.

H. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 PM/NEXT REGULAR MEETING SET FOR JUNE 12TH, 2014:

Minutes approved as amended by Group on 7-3-14

Michele Strand, Secretary: _____

For More information contact Donna Tisdale, Chair at 619-766-4170 or tisdale.donna@gmail.com