

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MARCH 5, 2015**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM, Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the Boulevard Fire Training Room behind the Boulevard Fire Department located at 39919 Ribbonwood Road, Boulevard CA 91905

A. ROLL CALL (Determination of quorum):

- Members present: 1) Robert Maupin 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Paula Byrd 7) Jeffrey McKernon

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 8TH AND FEBRUARY 5TH MEETINGS:

- *M/S: MAUPIN/TISDALE: To approve January 8th minutes with correction (Page 9, Item 1, second to last bullet, Kevin Keane also said, "and they (lithium ion batteries) cannot be shipped via USPS separately"). Passed 7-0-0*
- *M/S: KEANE/BYRD: To approve February 5th minutes with correction (Page 1, Item 1, 4th bullet, should be "enclosure", not closure). Passed 7-0-0*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- None.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. ADVANCE REQUEST FROM CHAIR TO MOVE MAY 7TH MEETING TO FRIDAY, MAY 1ST:

- Chair Tisdale reported she would not be available on regular first Thursday for May's meeting.
- Two options: Vice-Chair Byrd can step in and run the meeting on regular date or meeting date can be moved to Friday, May 1st.
- Kevin Keane stated that he is unavailable on Wednesdays and Fridays when he teaches class.
- There was a consensus to move the meeting
- *M/S: STRAND/BYRD: Move May 7th meeting to May 1st. Passed 7-0-0*

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

1. REVITALIZATION REPORT:

- Next meeting will be May 6th at 6:30pm at the Boulevard Training Center.

2. FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORT:

- Next meeting is March 28th at 5:30pm. Located to be determined.
- Local ISO Insurance Rating is still an issue in our area. The Daubach's new bill this year showed a "9" ISO Rating, and their insurance went up \$155 this year. In the past it's gone up \$100 per year. The year they purchased their home, it was worth \$393k. According to the County Assessor, it is now worth \$193k, yet the insurance keeps going up. Upon reviewing the insurance bill, it showed a change of jurisdiction to the San Diego County Fire Authority. Since the County Fire Authority is a "new" establishment, the rates were raised.
- Everyone is still paying the extra SRA fees now as well.

3. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPOGROUND/CONFERENCE CENTER: PDS2012-3300-12-021 (MUP): DRAFT EIR IS PENDING:**
- Nick Doenges of J. Whalen Associates attended the meeting in Jim Whalen's absence.
 - REC Consulting issued a new scoping letter
 - The target for the first DEIR is March 23rd and includes a resubmittal of groundwater and drainage – minor tweaks according to Nick.
 - The Chair received an email with updates of the changes.
 - County issued a THIRD ITERATION REVIEW OF INITIAL STUDIES/INFORMATION dated 2-23-15
 - Project Processing Fees went up from estimated \$146k to \$237k, due to EIR requirement.
 - The Fall of 2016 is target for the FEIR with revisions, CEQA findings, and Fish/Wildlife fees paid
4. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD – MAJOR GRADING PERMIT PENDING: PDS2011-2700-15622: APPLICANT GREGG HAMANN:**
- Chair reported contacting project manager who reported NO ACTION
5. **DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP) DRAFT DEIR/EIS COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED BY 45 DAYS TO FEBRUARY 23, 2015:**
- Chair reported that extensive comments were filed by a wide array of comments.
 - Many recommended a revised, re-circulated, or Supplemental EIR/EIS
 - USEPA comments were interesting in that rated the DRECP as Environmental Concerns- Insufficient Information (EC-2) they suggested a re-evaluation of the quantity of renewable energy that may need to be produced in the Plan Area and need to work with EPA staff to identify disturbed sites in the Plan Area.
 - The Sierra Club recommended revisions to the EIR as well.
6. **SEPV BOULEVARD: 2.9 MW SOLAR PROJECT PDS2014-MPA-14-027 (CHAPMAN RANCH):**
- Nick Dongess reported that the Application was expected to be submitted on March 6, 2015 with all technical studies.
 - They are pushing County for "expedited" review to take advantage of the taxes incentives before they expire in December 2016. (Unless incentives get approved again by Congress.)
 - Chair asked Dongess about a project Power Purchase Agreement with SDG&E
 - Dongess responded that this was not his project and he did not have an answer.
7. **NEXTERA'S 20MW JACUMBA SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE:**
- Chair reported that SDG&E documents indicate that Jacumba Solar was not selected by SDG&E in 2014 request for offers.
 - Jacumba Solar had offered two 20MW projects.
 - Documents indicate that SDG&E only listed two of almost 50 projects as meeting RFO criteria and that they declined all projects because the energy prices were higher than 2013 project offers.
8. **TULE WIND'S LEASE APPLICATION HEARING WITH STATE LANDS COMMISSION TO ALLOW WIND TURBINES, ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- SLC staff reported that Tule Wind had submitted their Land Appraisal needed for their lease application.
- June is the earliest the lease application will be on the Commission's agenda for action.

9. **IBERDROLA'S 200 MW TULE WIND: OPENING BRIEF WAS FILED OCTOBER 1ST IN NON-PROFIT GROUP'S 9TH CIRCUIT APPEAL OF DISTRICT COURT RULING THAT SUPPORTED BLM APPROVALS FOR THE TULE WIND PROJECT:**

- As of right now, there is still no Power Purchase Agreement in place.
- The BLM approved an extension of Tule Wind's Notice To Proceed to the end of December 2015, when Iberdrola had requested an extension through the end of December 2016.
- The BLM response to Iberdrola said the longer extension may not be in the best interest of public lands.
- Documents provided to the Chair by BLM included a San Diego County letter informing Tule Wind that they had met necessary requirements and that the September 2014 MUP expiration date no longer applied. This was new information that the County had not provided before.
- Wind energy prices are reportedly too high and cannot compete with lower solar project costs.
- Unresolved litigation

10. **TULE WIND PHASE II:**

- "Eagle Take" Permit not issued yet.
- Unresolved litigation

11. **APPEAL OF WIND ENERGY ORDINANCE AND PLAN AMENDMENT:**

- Chair reported that the County was late in filing a response.
- They failed to file within the 60 days allowed after the appeal was filed on December 22, 2014.
- The Court of Appeals reportedly notified the County that they now had two weeks to file a response.

12. **STATUS OF \$100 MILLION LAWSUITE FILED AGAINST THE COUNTY, SUPERVISOR JACOB, DONNA TISDALE, BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP, AND OTHERS BY VARIOUS ENTITIES RELATED TO DEVELOPER GREGORY LANSING:**

- Court date is currently set for Friday, March 13th, but is subject to change if the case is kicked out by the Judge or an extension is requested.
- Chair reported that her legal representation costs are currently being paid by the County in her indemnified capacity as Planning Group Chair and by insurance for her capacity as non-profit representative.

13. **SOITEC SOLAR'S FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIR WAS APPROVED FOR THE 765 ACRE RUGGED SOLAR AND 420 ACRE TIERRA DEL SOL SOLAR PROJECTS BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2015:**

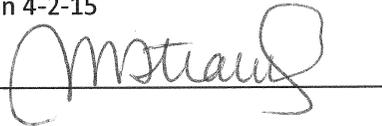
- Chair reported that a non-profit group filed a lawsuit on March 4th challenging County approvals for the TDS and Rugged Solar projects.
- The Franchise Agreement for burial of Tierra Del Sol gen-tie line in the Tierra Del Sol Road bed was approved by the County on February 4th with other project approvals.
- At Soitec's request, on March 4th, the Board of Supervisors voted to deny the Franchise Agreement Ordinance, needed to implement the approved agreement.
- Soitec had requested a denial of the Ordinance because they could not find a buyer for the project.

- The Chair noted that Soitec's March 2nd request for denial to the County, and related backup documents, were included in agenda package.
- Soitec's March 2nd letter (signed by Patrick Brown) confirmed they are exiting the solar business and are selling their assets in San Diego County, including their manufacturing facility; they have terminated their Tierra del Sol Solar project, the related CAISO grid queue connections (Q-794 and Q-895), and land option agreements with the Brown family, due to lack of interests and expensive carrying costs.
- Patrick Brown informed the Board of Supervisors that TDS property owner, Joe Brown, has informed Soitec that he intends to pursue a solar project on his own; Soitec's Rugged Solar has potential buyers and efforts to complete that project continue; Patrick Brown indicated they expected a sale by the end of the month.
- Joe Brown's reported efforts to pursue a solar project on his own were questioned by BPG members in light of the termination of expensive grid queue connections; need to go to the back of long line for grid connections, and Soitec's inability to market the project.
- Tisdale reported that during March 4th Board hearing, Supervisor Jacob had asked Staff to confirm that County MUP approvals were tied to use of Soitec's CPV units which Soitec is no longer producing; and that any new Soitec project buyers would need to make significant changes to the MUP/project plans to accommodate any other form of photo voltaic equipment; and any project changes would need to meet the current 2016 Investment Tax Credit deadline; Staff had basically agreed with Supervisor Jacob.
- BPG members agreed that the Tierra del Sol appears to be dead despite approved MUP.

G. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:33 PM/NEXT REGULAR MEETING SET FOR APRIL 2, 2015:

Minutes approved by Group on 4-2-15

Michele Strand, Secretary:



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

***Disclaimer Language included as directed by San Diego County PDS:**

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