

**Hingtgen, Robert J**

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**From:** Donna Tisdale <tisdale.donna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2014 5:16 PM  
**To:** Hingtgen, Robert J  
**Cc:** Jacob, Dianne; Wilson, Adam; Gungle, Ashley; Fogg, Mindy; Gretler, Darren M  
**Subject:** Soitec Solar's private meetings  
**Attachments:** Soitec private meeting summaries 7-14.pdf

Hello Robert,

For the Soitec Solar PEIR record, please include the East County Magazine article pasted below and the attached meeting summaries from Evelyn Sepin, Earl and Beverly Goodnight., Bob Maupin, and Tammy Duabach who attended Soitec's private meetings that were held at Greg Lansing's Empire Ranch property on July 10th, 17th, and 24th. I heard from several other attendees who supported the information included in the summaries. Another Boulevard resident expressed concerns to me with the amount of irrigated green grass and the pond that is kept full, with pumped groundwater, at Mr. Lansing's ranch and the apparent disconnect with local groundwater impact concerns related to Soitec's own projects and other large projects proposed in our groundwater dependent neighborhoods.

While it is Soitec's right to exclude anyone they want to from private meetings, the way they went about it seems less than professional.

Regards,

Donna Tisdale  
619-766-4170



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## **SOITEC BARS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP CHAIR FROM “COMMUNITY” MEETING**



By Miriam Raftery

August 8, 2014 (Boulevard)—Donna Tisdale is the elected chair of the Boulevard Community Planning Group and has long been a champion fighting for rights of rural residents against an onslaught of industrial-scale development proposals. So why did Soitec Solar snub Tisdale in three invitation-only meetings with residents on Soitec’s controversial industrial-scale solar projects in Boulevard, held at a private ranch?

The snub was intentional, Tisdale confirmed when she sent an email to Jim Whalen, Soitec’s paid consultant, asking for an invitation. Whalen responded that while no “disrespect” was intended, the meetings aimed to allow community members to “speak with Soitec people frankly and individually without fear of being chastened.” In an e-mail to Tisdale, he added, “Sometimes people who don’t have your expertise and experience might feel intimidated to speak up.”

Banning an elected official that Soitec’s own representative admits has “expertise and experience” seems a bizarre step. Even more bizarre given that Tisdale’s own property and her son’s property overlook one of Soitec’s proposed sites, giving her status as an impacted owner as well as a planning official. Plus the only people who are likely to be “chastened” in meetings Tisdale runs are developers who dodge questions or fail to respect the community’s collective concerns. So what was the real motive for keeping Tisdale out?

Planning group member Bob Maupin did get an invitation and attended the most recent Soitec meeting. Fortunately he brought a report back to planners Thursday night. His remarks suggest the session amounted to a propaganda ploy aimed at swaying opinions without the opportunity for Tisdale to correct inaccuracies. “Nobody’s mind was changed that I could see,” he stated, and offered these pithy insights on Soitec’s closed-door meeting.

A former County employee involved in the Soitec project’s early stages and now working for Soitec touted a final groundwater report by the consulting firm Dudek as “exact science,” said Maupin. “There should be no argument anymore because they say so,” he added in a sarcastic tone during his report given at Boulevard’s Planning Group meeting.

Maupin also noted that so-called mitigation pitched by Soitec fails to offer significant benefits for Boulevard. At the Soitec meeting, Maupin said he learned that “Soitec is going to fund an ambulance for Boulevard, because we do not have one. It will be stationed in Campo, not his fault, it’s the fire services decision. They are also going to contribute a couple of thousand to fire services. For Boulevard?” he observed. “We have a new fire station, the lights are on but nobody is home. It has two fire trucks, but no staff or firemen...Also, to benefit Boulevard, they are going to donate to the Indian health center ( in Campo ).”

The meeting also included discussion among concerned residents over water sales for the project from water districts in Jacumba and Pine Valley amid the worst drought in memory. “They say that both districts have an abundance of water so, as per Dudek, there is no problem. They do not want to talk about Dudek being 100% wrong on the subject,” Maupin noted. (Dudek has severely underestimated water use in various major

development projects, from Ocotillo Wind to a golf course in Poway. Residents have also voiced concerns over SDG&E's ECO substation, which used three times more water than estimated.)

He added sarcastically, "They also cannot help it if the things that they claim are being done for the benefit of Boulevard don't actually benefit Boulevard. After all, if they say that it does who are we to question them. Refer back to " exact science " because they declare it to be so."

Maupin also cast doubt on groundwater claims made by Dudek on behalf of Soitec. "On their groundwater graph of my wells, they show the pump test as happening the day before there was a drastic drop in the water level. I thought that was very convenient and they believe that County staff is going to be dumb enough to fall for it."



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**Source URL (retrieved on 08/19/2014 - 16:39):** <http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/soitec-bars-community-planning-group-chair-%E2%80%9Ccommunity%E2%80%9D-meeting>

## **Summary of Soitec meeting at Lansing's Empire Ranch, July 10, 2014, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

I responded to invitation from Soitec for a meeting at the Lansing Ranch on July 10, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The following residents of the area attended this meeting:

Andy and Theresa deGroot  
Kevin and Janice Keene  
Art Gore, from Inkopah Equipment  
Gordon, caretaker at the Lansing Ranch  
Earl and Beverly Goodnight  
Marty Kennell  
Evelyn Sepin

Those representing Soitec were: Karen Hutchens, Patrick Brown, Jim Whalen (the skinny grey-haired guy from Ocean Beach) and Kenny Moore (a younger man in his 20s who was working on a laptop).

The meeting was said to be Soitec's attempt at meeting with local citizens to explain their operations in the area and to dispel any rumors that may have caused residents to oppose the project(s). Patrick Brown (said to be the Project Manager) explained Soitec and its intentions. He stated the Rugged Project was the only project going forward at this time. The Lansing (two parcels) and Tierra del Sol projects are on hold and most likely will not go forward.

There was definite displeasure voiced among those from the community. Most of the residents attending agreed with my definition of what Soitec offered in the way of mitigation for the community going along with their project as "hush money". Brown tried his best to convince everyone otherwise.

Andy deGroot highlighted the issue of employment for those in the area and stated he had NEVER gained a single job from any of these projects and didn't know anyone else who had, either. Jim Whalen said it was because of the type of work and certain requirements by the unions. It became pretty obvious that any statement by Soitec that they would be bringing jobs to the area were for others, not those who live here.

Patrick Brown made a statement regarding the source of our water in the mountain area, to which Marty Kennell responded with facts from his own personal observations as owner of a water well pump service for almost thirty years. Marty stated that he had personally witnessed the decrease of water to as much as 140 feet. Brown eventually gave up on discussing the water issue, and admitted he had insufficient knowledge of the groundwater to dispute Marty's claims. He did say, however, that a special meeting addressing groundwater would be set in the near future.

Evelyn Sepin  
Jacumba, CA  
619/995-0928

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Soitec's meeting of 7/10/2014 that was held at Lansing's ranch.

Comments from Earl and Beverly Goodnight.

We were told the invitations were sent to persons that had expressed concerns in the EIR and they were attempting to keep the numbers in the groups to 10 to 20 persons.

The presentation was for Rugged Solar. Patrick Brown did the presentation, and he explained the reasons for the location site, and that brought some comments and concerns from home owners in attendance which numbered between ten to fifteen people.

Then he talked about the time factor and said by late fall it would be going to the planning commission.

He went to great lengths to explain that most of this time already used has been due to the heavy amount of letters that had been written and how every letter had been read and screened to resource every issue and concern the writers had expressed. They wanted to make sure they had answers for all the concerns.

A map was displayed showing other solar projects in the area. He covered all of the areas and stated that the Terra Del Sol site was no longer an interest to Soitec. Lansing East and Lansing West were not viable locations and they do not see Los Robles I & II as being in Soitec's plans. Rugged Solar is Soitec's only project for this area.

He ended with telling the benefits they were giving our community. Among these was an ambulance and paramedic for the boulevard station, and funding for Mountain Empire schools and the new Campo health center. These benefits were not met well, and he was interrupted several times as unhappy expressions were expressed.

Then the meeting turned to questions and discussion. The first issue that was brought up was the water that would be used. The drought was brought up, and how

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some of the local wells had levels already dropping. He would not comment on the amount of water they would be using except to say it would be a lot.

The dust issue was also brought up. His only answer to that was that there wouldn't be any dust. Then the question of using local help came up and he said they couldn't control the use of local help, the unions control these workers. He did say they can control operational works after site is built, they wouldn't need to be union workers and they would pay prevailing wages. Another concern brought up was wildlife and loss of vistas. His only comment was that the proposed area is a fenced cattle ranch. So, there is no wildlife on a cattle ranch?

When the loud concern about property values was raised, he had no comment just shook his head in an understanding way. He was asked about the glare from the panels on the freeway and on homes and he said they would be on timers and not facing the sun directly at prime times. All in attendance were still voicing their concerns when he declared the meeting was over as they were out of time.

We were served a good meal, and were thanked for attending, but this did little to sway our agreement with the ideas or opinions of Soitec.



Nome Tudec &lt;tudec.donne@gmail.com&gt;

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## Soitec meeting

1 message

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**bob** <rom904@hughes.net>

Fri, Jul 25, 2014 at 10:14 AM

The meeting was interesting. Our friend ( the former county employee ) is now touting the Dudek final ground water report as " exact science ". I got a copy in case you don't. There should be no argument anymore because they say so. He also said that Soitec is going to fund an ambulance for Boulevard, because we do not have one. It will be stationed in Campo,not his fault its the fire services decision. They are also going to contribute a couple of thousand to fire services. For Boulevard? We have a new fire station, the lights are on but nobody is home. It has two fire trucks, but no staff or firemen. ( firepersons to be P C ). Also ,to benefit Boulevard, they are going to donate to the Indian health center ( in Campo ). The dropping of the Tierra Del Sol project is all smoke and mirrors to distract from the original plan.

There was much discussion about the water that they have contracted from Jacumba and Pine Valley. They say that both districts have an abundance of water so , as per Dudec, there is no problem. They do not want to talk about Dudec being 100% wrong on the subject in Ramona. That does not apply out here. They also cannot help it if the things that they claim are being done for the benefit of Boulevard don't actually benefit Boulevard. After all if they say that it does who are we to question them. Refer back to " exact science " because they declare it to be so.

On there ground water graph of my wells, they show the pump test as happening the day before there was a drastic drop in the water level. I thought that was very convenient and they believe that county staff is going to be dumb enough to fall for it. Probably because the report is, in there view, " exact science ".

Bob Maupin

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<http://www.avast.com>



Donna Tisdale &lt;tisdale.donna@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fire Dept. & Soitec**

2 messages

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**Ken Daubach** <dumptruck.01@wildblue.net>  
To: Donna Tisdale <tisdale.donna@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 27, 2014 at 9:07 PM

Donna,

Soitec Meeting: Community mitigation will be for the high school and Mt. Health. There will be \$40,000 a year for the Fire Dept. and a 2nd ambulance in Campo. Patrick claims that he cannot demand where the money goes or why Campo was chosen for the ambulance. I told him that there will be an ambulance bay in the new fire dept. without an ambulance and that we have a need for one out here and that the \$40,000 should go toward hiring fire fighters. I told him that they should give the fire dept. more money and designate the funds and ambulance to Boulevard. Jim Whalen claims that he will try to make that happen.

Fire Safe Meeting: Chief Zingheim stated that everyone who attends the meet and greet at Manzanita Diner should request a fully manned station, called a Schedule A, at Boulevard and that White Star should be left as it is. He was unaware that Soitec is offering an ambulance. He does know that the County is trying to get an ambulance for the new fire dept. It will have to be determined by statistics which station gets it.

Tammy

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**Donna Tisdale** <tisdale.donna@gmail.com>  
To: Ken Daubach <dumptruck.01@wildblue.net>

Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 8:40 AM

Thanks Tammy!

Would you be willing to put your information into a report form that I can be shared at the Planning Group meeting on August 7th and sent to the County with other reports on the Soitec meetings? It would be very helpful.

Donna  
[Quoted text hidden]