

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

***** APPROVED MINUTES*****

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

In-person at the Borrego Springs Library & also via Zoom

THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME TO OUR MEETINGS.

WE REPRESENT YOU WHEN ADVISING THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ON LAND USE ISSUES.

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

John Peterson, Chair	Present
Jim Dax, Vice-Chair	Not present
Sondra Boddy	Attending via Zoom (cannot vote)
Bill Haneline	Present
Melissa Huston	Present
Anne O'Connor	Present
Nancy McRae, Secretary	Present
Seat #1	Vacant
Seat #2	Vacant

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of May 6, 2026

MOTION: Anne O'Connor
SECOND: John Peterson
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously approved

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (limited to 3 min per person): Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Sponsor Group (SG) on any subject within the Group's authority that is not on the posted agenda.

Jim Wermers: He inquired at the County Supervisor's office about the Palm Canyon sidewalk/crosswalk that has been under discussion and review. He was told an update was sent to Sponsor Group. The issue is going to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) two days from now. The TAC was supposed to meet with the SG first. John Peterson will follow up with county.

Becky Rapp - The Board of Supervisors will be addressing Socially Equitable Cannabis program on 8/19 and 9/2 (date changed from this coming week). The Board of Supervisors (BOS) is focused only on the socially equitable aspect of this - it is their obligation to provide pot shop permits to residents who were incarcerated for drug-related charges. They are not taking into consideration residents in back country, traffic aspects, etc.

Christina Antonia: Noticed that the power lines/poles on BS Rd. Have been replaced with larger ones more than twice the side of the originals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSED

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation by the SDG&E regarding the status of the Microgrid in Borrego Springs and next steps - presentation by Sylvia McNally, Municipal infrastructure Advisor, Beverly Raposa, Principle engineer at SDGE and Joe Galbadon, Sr. Public Affairs Mgr.

The following information was on the power point presentation:

Slide 1

Background - Installed in 2013, America's first and largest community-scale microgrid

- Microgrids - a mini local power grid that can disconnect/connect from the main grid during outages to supply power to the local community.
- Microgrid keeps critical facilities such as fire and sheriff stations, schools, gas stations, markets energized during outages.
- Demonstrates the capabilities of renewable generation and new technologies to enhance energy reliability.

Challenge - Borrego Springs is connected to the grid by a single transmission line.

- Experiences many outages or PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff) events due to the extreme weather - heat, monsoonal rains, high winds, etc.
- Uses technologies such as energy storage, generators, solar (farms/rooftop), and special controls to power critical loads and specific neighborhoods in an outage.

Slide 2

- Microgrid is typically dormant and main grid provides power to Borrego Springs.
- Local solar plants export power, battery storage and ultracapacitors are "charged and ready" to provide grid support

Slide included a map of the microgrid showing locations of: BESS - Battery Energy Storage System Under Construction 7.3 MW, 14.6 MWh; 0.50 MW 1 min Ultracapacitor; 1000 kW, 3000 kWh Batteries; Two NEW Diesel Generators Tier IV Final 2.15 MW each 5.3 MW total; Control Room; 3MW / 3MVA Load Bank; Customer Solar Generation 8.6 MW; Solar Array Desert Green 6.5 MW; Solar Array Clearway 26 MW.

Slide 3

Grid Outage Scenarios

Planned Outage - scheduled compliance maintenance & repairs

- Microgrid seamlessly transitions to and from the regional grid to provide power.
- Island Mode on Demand - operates both locally and remotely to support and response to an outage

Unplanned Outages:

- Microgrid can be activated to restore power.
- Community Safety First - SDG&E ® must patrol the region/lines to identify and isolate any cause of the unplanned power outage.

- Once Safe Microgrid Activated - using the batteries and/or generators to power the community and critical facilities - fire and sheriff's station, local gas stations, food mart
- Day vs. Night Outages:
- During the Day - microgrid harnesses power from the batteries, generators, local solar plants and rooftop solar to power the community.
 - During the Night - microgrid's batteries and generators can only power designated critical load areas.
 - As needed, non-critical loads are shed to balance load vs. generation to maintain microgrid stability.

Slide 4

Progress of Microgrid Enhancements & Next Steps

Dec-March 2026 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Megapack troubleshooting

March 2026 - BESS battery and microgrid controller integration testing

April 2026 - Microgrid controller testing in an isolated configuration (no customer impact)

May-June 2026 - Controller refinement

Q3 2026 - Re-test microgrid controller in isolated configuration (no customer impact)

End of Q3-Q4 - Planned outages (1 hour each) for microgrid controller end-to-end testing with customers connected

Q4 2026 - Fully functional microgrid controller

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work on improving the microgrid.

Other Comments by SDGE during presentation:

Team of 15 people onsite to control microgrid.

Had issues with megapack, working with vendor.

April planned outage, isolated microgrid from grid. Test to see if microgrid controller is working as designed. A lot of refinement that goes along with this process with the assets.

Overnight outage 4/29-30 Results: Successfully started microgrid using the controller to turn it on. Validated coordination with all assets within microgrid.

Before we can deem it fully functional, will schedule planned outages for 1 hour each, use controller to transition customers to microgrid support, and then back onto power grid.

Trying to stay mindful and engaged with community. Borrego days in Q4, weather concerns, will take this into consideration when scheduling planned outages, but they are essential to vetting the controller.

Goal is to have it fully functional by Q4.

Questions from SG

Haneline: With the daytime/nighttime use and priority locations constraints, what happens to homes - do they lose out or will all homes have power all the time or is that further down the road? A: It depends, increase life and extend capacity, if something were to go

wrong, other factors to consider, load, issues with the batteries must be factored in. If there is not enough generation to serve the entire load, must prioritize.

McRae: Are there two diesel tanks to power the generators? A: Yes, they prolong life of battery. The challenge is the size of the microgrid. To be transparent it is not always large enough to accommodate all of the load variations such as agricultural pumping, time of year, etc. We reach out to ag customers to ask that they minimize pumping or change schedule

McRae: Are there other microgrids? A: None this large of a scale, can be as small as feeding a building, as large as feeding a community. To our knowledge we haven't encountered a microgrid this comprehensive or that has the unique variables - seasonality, customers - of this one.

O'Connor: What happens to customers on medical electronic equipment for non-planned outages? A: I think it's on your account that says your medical baseline, however, I'm not aware of what other services we would provide in the event of a power outage. Joe: encourages folks who have a medical situation to visit my energy center.com to find out more about the program, get registered, helps us understand the types of customers and their medical needs, allows us to plan, prepare and additional ways to support. Encourage individuals to have a resiliency plan and preparedness plan. He will follow up to get more info. Anne - so they need a generator? Joe: will try to get more info.

Questions from the Public (MP = Member of the Public):

MP: Rich Pannell, resident - wanted to question cleanliness of panels, haven't mentioned maintenance. The sand blowing and bird droppings must take down capacity. Many of the grids have software that shows how much they're down due to this. Will there be any washing of the panels, etc? A: SDGE doesn't own the solar farms, owned by ClearWay and Desert Green. SDGE doesn't have awareness of maintenance schedule, should have routine maintenance but we don't have visibility on that.

MP: Christina Antonia, resident - There is only one transmission line to main grid, do you plan on building more? A: One transmission line feeds the substation. Main community served by substation. Not aware of plans to build a second line. Joe Galbadon - No plans to develop a 2nd transmission line for Borrego, but do have an agreement with Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to provide backup power, so we have resources available to help us provide electricity to the community.

Haneline: question about the future, wind events, some can go on for a long time, in the future will this be large enough to work for the entire community? Or just switch to IID? A: Not aware of long-term plans aside from getting controller integrated. In terms of capacity and future planning we'll have to get back to you.

MP: Christina Antonia - What is the estimate on how many hours the microgrid. can cover the town's outages? A: depends on loads the day of - if we have unplanned outage, do a

study to see during this time of year last year, what was the load profile of the area. The amount of load determines how long the resources can last. Can't give you a definite time frame because it depends on what time of day, how much load is being used, multiple factors come into play. Analogy: if you have a hybrid Prius, the car usually runs on battery and driving will help recharge it, but when battery is depleted, the gas will get you through. Finite amount of fuel - can only go so far. If the Prius starts towing a boat, it will consume the battery faster so need to start re-fueling it.

MP, Christine Antonia - Replacement power poles, twice as high and thick - is the the plan to replace all wooden poles with 60 ft poles, or are there 30' metal poles? A: There are new standards the poles have to meet - they go higher for wildfire safety, wind, other issues - to have a larger "belly" in the line so they're not slapping together. Metal withstands the elements better than wood poles.

Peterson: The micro grid can be used in different ways for us. When SD County lost the whole grid 12 years ago, the micro grid can help us for that. But it can't help us for some localized disaster. Big wind storm. Dropped 10 poles, micro grid not going to help us on that. Another example, if we have a wildfire up in Warner Springs, we're going to lose the main transmission line into the community, but the micro grid will help us on that. A: The microgrid uses the same distribution infrastructure that the substation uses. Some poles have lines at the top, and some lines in the middle, telecom lines are at the bottom, Usually a transmission pole has transmission up top, distribution in the middle above the communication lines. If an event does de-energize transmission line coming in, need crews to verify it is still safe to energize community and then can activate the micro grid. If a storm brings poles down in the community, if poles are between the microgrid and community, it would be difficult to supply the community with power.

Peterson: the 12 hour turn-offs are an issue for our community, the planned long outages are a problem. A: SDGE teams are working together to keep service going, have tools to support the community, if we do need an outage, we do it as sensitively as possible. This meeting is an important part of maintaining that dialog. People with medical devices need to go to www.sdge.com/customers-medical-devices. SDGE will notify in advance, however, the customer needs to take responsibility to make arrangements for back-up power (hospitals, generators, etc.). Send questions to JP to send to Sylvia McNally. Peterson: Please put resource list in an email to send to the community.

Peterson: Six years ago we did a field trip to microgrid - can we do that in the fall? A: Yes, they can coordinate something.

2. Status of Golf Cottages at Rams Hill, Mark Linman, Director of Development presenting.

Update on lodging, 16 units, have gone through grading, county building review, done in conformance with existing approvals, will start construction within next 30-60 days.

Next steps will be two more phases, two clusters of 4 buildings each, separate hospitality building. Have been working on site plans with county, This phase is different from the first phase which have 4 units each and surrounding common area, this phase has 4 separate rooms in each building, no kitchen, patios in back. Amenity building with roof deck for each cluster. - can accommodate larger group.

Amenity building - larger room to accommodate conferences, storage areas, dark sky roof deck, hospitality building, check in area, lobby, housekeeping and things that go along with running hotels, limited food and beverage service.

Peterson: This is information only - not an action item.

Questions from SG:

McRae: Plans look great. What's the estimated timeframe for completion? A: Could take another year to get this built out. Swaback PLLC are the architects.

Huston: With beautiful expansion, offering more opportunities and jobs to local Borregans.

O'Connor: Four-plex units adjoining internally if need be? A: No common living area. Q:

Occupancy per unit? A: 2 per unit (double queen), some will be single king. Q: Will they be available for sale? A: No. A Rams Hill entity will own them.

Haneline: Open to the public? A: Yes. Q: Maximum stay? A: No more than 30 days.

McRae: Another golf course? A: Waiting to see about groundwater. This development (current and proposed) will service existing golf course.

Public: No questions

3. Consideration of application to the CSG by Dave Duncan.

Same questions asked of every applicant.

1. Connection and History: Full time resident for 14 years, visiting here all his life since 1951 when he was 10 months old. On Water District BOD, Chairman of Water Master Board for 5 years.

2. Education/Work Experience that would be an asset: Experience with water has led to understanding about land use and how the county operates.

3. Why would you like to serve?: I love this community. Growth is going to happen incrementally. But whatever happens here, it needs to be guided carefully to maintain character of community.

4. Devote 8 hrs/month?: Yes, able to make the time commitment.

5. Situation where other member opinions differed from yours?: Reasonable and thoughtful guy. Hope that everyone comes to the table in a reasonable manner, not the least bit combative, don't need to be combative over disagreements.

MOTION: Haneline - Recommend that the BOS appoint Duncan to the SG for one of the vacant seats.

SECOND: Huston

DISCUSSION: Boddy clarified wording of motion. McRae - timeline for BOS approval? A: When the clerk of the BOS gets it on their docket; that is independent of us, so no way to know, but can get the recommendation to the clerk tomorrow morning. Form 700 and ethics training have already been done by Dave. Brown Act training - needs to do that after board approves recommendation.

VOTE: Unanimous approval of motion. Boddy can't vote, but supports it.

E. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Status report on the Borrego Springs Welcome Signs, Nancy McRae presenting.
Welcome sign is under construction. John Richen, local metalwork artist, has completed the metal part of the sign. Rick Anson, local construction, will be finishing the construction. Hope to unveil at Borrego Days.

2. Status regarding CSG membership, Peterson presenting. Two seats vacant.

F: GROUP BUSINESS:

1. Status of required training for all members of the CSG.
2. Correspondence received: none

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: McRae

SECOND: O'Connor

VOTE. Unanimous - Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2026, at 4:30 at the Borrego Springs Library.

The Chair has appointed the following BSCSG Members to serve as points of contact for the following areas:

1. Road Maintenance, Bill Haneline
2. Dark Sky Ordinance and issues, Anne O'Connor
3. Association of Planning Groups, Jim Dax
4. Landscaping at the La Casa Solar Panel Field, Bill Haneline/Jim Dax
5. Report from the Infrastructure Committee, Bill Haneline.

Emails sent to the Chair at petersonenv@hotmail.com will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Potential items for our next Sponsor Group meeting which is scheduled for October 7, 2026:

1. Presentation on Christmas Circle Non-profit organization, by Jeff Sloan.

To sign up for County of San Diego email or text notices about various programs and topics that you can choose, visit: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASAND/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1> or search the county's website for the program you want to find and scroll down to their email sign up link.

For further information and to be added to the Sponsor Group email list to receive agendas and agenda packets, contact the Chair at peteronenv@hotmail.com . Address U.S. mail to: Community Sponsor Group, P.O. Box 1371, Borrego Springs, CA 92004-1371. For agendas, minutes and Community Plan, visit: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/gpupdate/comm/borrego.html> .

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