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County of San Diego
BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday May 7, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.
Borrego Springs High School Community Room
2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, California

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Administrative Items

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- A. Chair R. Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
 - B. Roll Call of Members. Members present: Tom Beltran, Rich Caldwell, Rebecca Falk, David Farley, Judy Haldeman, Bonnie Petrach and Sam Webb. Member absent: None
 - C. Approval of the Agenda. Webb moved to approve the agenda; Haldeman seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Haldeman, Petrach, Webb voted “aye”. Farley abstained.
 - D. Members’ review of maps and other printed materials for meeting: Not applicable.
 - E. Consideration and approval of Minutes from the meeting(s) of April 2, 2015 and workshop meeting with Dept of Parks and Recreation of April 29, 2015: Minor corrections were noted for the April 29, 2015 minutes. Falk moved to approve; Haldeman seconded. Caldwell, Falk, Haldeman, Petrach, Webb voted “aye”. Beltran and Farley abstained.
 - F. Public Comment: an opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Sponsor Group on any subject matter within the group’s jurisdiction that is not already on today’s agenda, with a time limit of three minutes (3:00) per speaker.
None
 - G. Correspondence & Chair’s report: None
 - H. Committee reports
 - a. Study Groups: No Meetings since April 2, 2015.
 - b. Parks Committee – Caldwell reported that he worked with the County Dept of Parks and Recreation to coordinate the April 29, 2015 public meeting to discuss ideas for the new park. The April 29, 2015 meeting was attended by a lot of the community including many children. There were many suggestions given to Parks and Recreation for their consideration in developing the 16 acre park. Parks and Recreation will bring back a plan in the fall for the community’s consideration.

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Non-Action Items

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- A. Briefing and Update on the Micro Grid Project by San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E). Juanita Hayes and two of her staff made the presentation. SDG&E had spoken to the sponsor group several years ago when the original micro grid project started. They have now received more funding. The original micro grid received \$10.8 million in funding. The plan was to distribute power to meet peak usage. The micro grid gave participants tools to manage their own usage. This was the first large scale utility micro grid in the United States. It established the model and other companies have visited Borrego Springs to learn how to establish one in their community. Beltran asked if each household could install their own batteries to have power during power outages. Staff said that yes they could but that is usually done when solar is installed and is not usually done in a home. SDG&E wanted to install batteries to smooth our power delivery not to provide power during power outages. Farley asked if batteries could cut in when power goes out and disconnect when restored. SDG&E said that yes they could but they are extremely expensive. During the original micro grid tests and outages occurred. Some were planned and some were not (windstorm, flash flood, intense thunderstorms (Sept 2013). SDG&E received a new grant from the California Energy Commission to conduct the next phase. They will install new large battery storage. These new

48 batteries will help energize downtown faster due to new switches that they are working on now. If
49 the power goes down then the solar farm by the airport will serve all Borrego Springs customers.
50 Webb asked if SDG&E could build their own solar farm. SDG&E is working on ways to possibly
51 do that but there are a lot of legal problems. Getting the power back on line after it goes out is
52 difficult. They are trying to receive some grants this year so they can buy all the power from the
53 solar farm. Haldeman said that SDG&E has been collecting money for underground lines for years.
54 Is there any plan to underground lines in problem areas? SDG&E collects the money and turns it
55 over to the County and the County decides where to use the funds. They are not sure which
56 department in the County handles that decision. There are many technical problems with putting
57 lines underground. It is very costly to do and much more costly and harder to repair if there is a
58 problem. With the lines on the poles it is easy to see if one is down or they can go from pole to pole
59 to test. If the lines are underground they have to dig up areas to test them and then rewire if
60 necessary. Webb asked if they are going to work with more solar companies such as Desert Green
61 and they said they are starting to work with them.

62 B. Discussion and possible information briefing on Governor of California Executive Order B-29-15 as
63 it relates to the Borrego Springs Community Plan and County ordinances and regulations. Beth
64 Hart, President of the Borrego Springs Water District made the presentation. The Governor issued
65 the Executive Order on 6/1/15 and it is in effect for 9 months. All water in Borrego Springs has now
66 been consolidated under the Water Board. These new regulations are State wide and they also apply
67 to people and businesses with private wells. The Executive Order requires each water district to
68 reduce the usage by 25% or limit irrigation watering to 2 days a week. The Water District has
69 decided to reduce by 25%. Because of the size of the water district they will only report once at the
70 end of the year instead of monthly. They will hold meetings twice in May 2015 to discuss how to
71 recoup this decrease in income. Water rates can only increase by a maximum of 5% and meter rates
72 can only go up 19%. Residential use is already down 10%. The Water District wants to create a
73 desire for water savings. They are working to hold classes for landscapers and homeowners to learn
74 what plants are best for saving water. Rate increases this fall are being considered because they
75 didn't raise the rates last year. They will forecast expenses to decide an increase. If residents cut
76 usage they may get a credit for the future. Conservation is here to stay and there is no way around a
77 water rate increase but they want it planned. Falk asked if wells are currently being monitored and
78 Ms. Hart said they are not currently monitored but eventually all wells will be metered. Falk asked
79 if farmers are being monitored. The State will check on them but she's not sure how or when that
80 will occur. Falk asked if they are looking at mulch because it holds the water close to the plant so it
81 doesn't require as much water. Ms. Hart said that their list of ideas is just starting. They are hoping
82 the reduction will work voluntarily. There will be lots of changes in Borrego Springs for the future.
83 Mike asked how much water does the average family use a month. The April report shows that they
84 use about 200 gallons a day. Caldwell said that this discussion started because Lyle Brecht called
85 him and asked what are the County and the Sponsor Group doing to help. He asked if there were
86 things in the Community Plan regarding water reduction. Caldwell contacted the County but had not
87 heard back. Caldwell asked if turf grass was a problem. Ms. Hart said they don't know how much
88 turf there is. They are looking to give credit for reducing turf, oleanders and non-native plants. De
89 Anza and Ram's Hill have the most turf and the water district is working with them. Farley said that
90 agriculture and golf courses use the most water and to get them to cut water is going to be difficult.
91 Ms. Hart said that currently the farmers are not under 25% reduction requirement. The biggest
92 problem will be next spring if we do not have a wet winter. Farmers are aware of the problems. The
93 water district is working with groups to answer the "what if" questions. This is a community that
94 can work together to make this work.

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Action Items

97 A. 2015 General Plan "Clean-Up" Amendment, DPS Staff Recommendations for review, input,
98 comments and approval. Caldwell distributed documents that show the changes. There are no clean-
99 up changes to our Community Plan. There are changes for other groups. Section 3-7, 3-9 and 3-11
100 were changed to correct errors of lands that are listed for no jurisdiction. No proposed changes for
101 Borrego Springs. Section 5-14 is being deleted because it is a duplicated paragraph. Section 22 is
102 changed because it referenced the wrong policy. Webb motioned to offer support for the proposed

103 changes; Falk seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Haldeman, Petrach and Webb voted “aye”. Farley
104 abstained.

105 The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. after Webb so moved, Falk seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk,
106 Haldeman, Petrach and Webb voted “aye”. Farley abstained.

107 Bonnie Petrach, Secretary

108 The next regular meeting will be held June 4, 2015 at 4:30 P.M. at the Borrego Springs High School Community
109 Room, 2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. **If this Agenda is revised, a revised copy will be**
110 **posted 72 or more hours prior to the meeting. The final Agenda may include additional Administrative or**
111 **Non-Action items.** For further information contact the Chair at Rich@BorregoValleyInn.com or (760) 767-3319.
112 Address all U.S. Mail to: Rich Caldwell, Chair, Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group, P.O. Box 1371,
113 Borrego Springs, CA 92004-1371.

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115 **Public Disclosure**
116 We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected
117 becomes public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of a conflict between this Privacy
118 Notice and any County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control.

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120 **Access and Correction of Personal Information**
121 You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information you believe is in error by submitting a
122 written request that credibly shows the error. If you believe that your personal information is being used for a purpose other than what was intended when submitted,
123 you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting access or making corrections.