

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)**

*****MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 11, 2019*****

Meeting was called to order 7:00 PM, Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Backcountry Resource Center- Community Room, 39919 Ribbonwood Rd, Boulevard CA 91905

A. MEMBERS PRESENT: **1)** Robert Maupin; **2)** Earl Goodnight **3)** Kevin Keane (7:05); **4)** Donna Tisdale; **6)** Michael Coyne;
MEMBERS ABSENT: **5)** Michele Strand (excused); **7)** VACANT (applications being accepted)

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: (OPTIONAL) (please silence cell phones)

C. MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR JUNE 6TH MEETING:

- *M/S: MAUPIN/GOODNIGHT: Approved June 6, 2019 minutes as written: Passed: 4-0-0*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- No public comments on non-agenda items.

E. ACTION ITEMS (Agenda items may be taken out of order upon request):

1. No action items on agenda. Information only meeting.

F. GROUP BUSINESS & PROJECT UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY:

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Chair Tisdale announced that applications are still being accepted to fill Seat #7, vacated by Ron Hynum. No applications received so far.
- Chair reported receipt of huge stack of docs (now in binder) on 5G small cell antennas that will be on the July 19th Planning Commission agenda.
- Least preferred 5G sites listed in documents: Rural Zones A70, A72, S81 and S92, Commercial zones C34 & C35, and Residential zones including RR-rural residential.
- There was a strong letter of caution with 360 citations from Beatrice Alexandria Golomb, MD, PhD Professor of Medicine UCSD (2017 – strongly opposing SB649 –taking away local control of 5G antenna permitting): She states that her research group at UCSD had received hundreds of communications from people who have developed serious health problems from electromagnetic radiation following introduction of new technologies. She lists symptoms. She also cites an analysis by a Washington researcher showed that most studies funded by industry reported failure to show physiological effects. However, most studies without such industry bias affirmed effects. She recommended focusing on wired and well-shielded technology.
- Kevin Keane said 5G for our rural area is basically the same as 4G. Frequencies have extremely short range. 5G not really useful in our area.
- Ken Daubach reported attending Staff presentation at Campo. 5G represents more capacity but staff presentation did not really apply to rural areas due to lack of street light poles for antenna use, and more.

- Two additional solar projects are in line to connect to local transmission lines: Starlight Solar #1432 (20MW solar-Empire Ranch) and Tecate Hybrid #106A (50MW Solar /50MW battery- location unknown): <http://www.caiso.com/PublishedDocuments/PublicQueueReport.pdf#search=Grid%20queue>
- Neither Starlight nor Tecate Hybrid solar yet submitted a formal Major Pre-Application with County.
- Jim Whalen reported that SDG&E is also looking from location for 10 MW Microgrid location with batteries.
- Kevin Keane responded that Lithium battery fires are still a major concern.
- Chair thought SDG&E had already selected Boulevard Substation for microgrid site. Recent energy storage battery fire and explosion that injured fire fighters recently reported in Arizona.
- June 20th Bloomberg article: **Avian incident knocks out 84 % of massive California Solar project in San Luis Obispo County:** The incident sparked a fire knocking out 84% of the 250 MW, 1,200 acre California Valley Solar Ranch. No solar panels were damaged but distribution poles and cables need to be replaced. The project was built in 2013 and funded in part with a \$1.24 billion loan guarantee from US Energy Dept.
- June 20: North American Wind Power reported: **House Tax Proposal Would Extend Wind Production Tax Credit (PTC) for One Year:** The PTC offers wind developers \$0.23/kWh = \$23 / MWh. It was previously extended through 2016 and then began phasing down to 80% in 2017, 60% in 2019, and 40% in 2019.
- The PTC is what incentivizes and drives the wind turbine projects.

2. REVITALIZATION REPORT by Ken Daubach:

- 1 PM July 12: Friends of the Library for Jacumba / Boulevard Kiosk meeting at Jacumba Library.
- 7 PM July 18th: Revitalization meeting will be held at the Backcountry Resource Center
- 10 AM July 19th: Preschool story time and crafts at Backcountry Resource Center
- 10 AM July 24th: Adult crafts at Backcountry Resource Center
- New bulletin boards for all types of public notices. Use will be discussed at July 18th Revitalization meeting.
- Only two backcountry people showed up for a Make Your Voice Heard Community Forum held in Campo, Tammy Daubach was one of them. The survey is available online. It is important for our community to have a say.
- 10-2 July 27th: Burgio's Feed Store community market day.

3. FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORT by Ken Daubach:

- 9-10:30 AM July 13: CERT giveaway for 2019 Prepare In a Year Campaign at Boulevard fire station. Camping lanterns and tips will be handed out. Event was almost canceled for our area except for a last minute effort from Calexico Lodge to get people to attend.
- 6:30 Pm July 18th: Next Fire Safe Council meeting at Backcountry Resource Center.
- There are four new community bulletin boards in Boulevard, Campo, Jacumba, and Lake Morena.
- The Boulevard sign is located at the Backcountry Resource Center.
- They will have official information from CalFire, Sheriff Dept., Border Patrol and other agencies.
- This includes information about emergencies.
- Disaster Preparedness Meeting.

4. **60-4.2 MW TURBINE CAMPO WIND: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) RELEASED BY BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**
- Chair reported that formal comment period closed on July 8th and she had submitted 48-page comment letter for BPG.
 - Chair read through the summary of conclusions (attached) that she had compiled from expert comment letters submitted on Campo Wind DEIS, including two law firms, two acoustic firms, one hydro geologist, and two biologists. All called for revised and recirculated Draft EIS due to errors and inadequacies.
 - Nancy Good asked who would pay for any potential lawsuits filed to stop projects.
 - Chair responded that any individuals, non-profits, or labor unions that filed suits would pay for them.
 - Scott Hazelton asked if USGS had investigated the Campo Wind project.
 - He reported that USGS previously conducted study at Double B Ranch. They did blasting and found new fractures / faults that ran from north of I-8 south through the Campo Wind project along ridges where turbines proposed. The fractures were around 450 feet deep. Could be an issue for project.
 - There was a general discussion of issues raised.
 - Kevin Keane thanked the Chair for the comment letter she submitted for the BPG.
5. **CAMPO WIND WITH BOULDER BRUSH GEN-TIE /SUBSTATION; PDSMUP-19-002; ER-19-16-001; PENDING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR):**
- Chair reported that the County's EIR is separate from the Bureau of Indian Affairs EIS but they should have prepared a joint state/federal EIR/EIS like they did for ECO Substation.
 - On June 17th Project Manager Bronwyn Brown reported that the Draft EIR may be released for public comment in September or October
 - Chair submitted 21-page comment letter on June 24th deadline.
 - No new update
6. **TERRA-GEN'S 126 MW TORREY WIND PROJECT WITH 30-4.2 MW TURBINES: PDS2018-MUP-18-014:**
- No news to report on Torrey Wind project.
7. **90 MW JACUMBA VALLEY RANCH ENERGY PARK (JVR SOLAR) PDS2018-GPA-18-010, PDS2018-REZ-18-007, PDS2018-MUP-18-022; PDS2018-ER-18-22-001:**
- On June 17, Bronwyn Brown reported that JVR Draft EIR may be released for public comment late summer.
8. **TULE WIND PHASE 1 – NOISE /COMMUNITY COMPLAINT CONTACTS:**
- If the turbines bother you—file complaints and ask for offending turbines to services, turned off during night time, or hours of shadow flicker.
 - *Toll Free Project Hotline & Noise Complaints directly to Iberdrola /Avangrid: 855-369-9337; windcommunity@avangrid.com.*
 - *Noise complaints can and should also be made to San Diego County Noise Control & Code Compliance: (858) 694-3741 or e-mail PDS.CodeCompliance@sdcounty.ca.gov ; and to BLM: Carrie Sahagun @ csahaqun@blm.gov, 760-337-4437.*

- It may be best to address complaints to Iberdrola/Avangrid and copy all the other contacts on every email complaint filed. Keep a record of all complaints and any responses.

9. **TULE WIND PHASE II:**

- No news on finalizing locations for 24 phase II turbines.

10. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR: PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION-NEW PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

- MUP extended to August 2019:

11. **60 MW 420 ACRE BOULEVARD SOLAR MUP12-010TE PDS2012-3300-12-00 @ 796 Tierra Del Sol Road; MUP was renewed to February 2020:**

- No news on property owner's pursuit of project post Invenenergy's withdrawal.

12. **100MW BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY; PDS 2017-ZAP-17-006; MINOR USE PERMIT FOR 2 ACRE PROJECT LOCATED ON APN'S# 612-09-059; 612-09-019; 612-09-017, NEAR BOULEVARD SUBSTATION:**

- On June 17, Bronwyn Brown reported that Boulevard Energy Storage Facility requested time extension for submittal to August 15.

G. ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING DATE THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019 @ BACKCOUNTRY RESOURCE CENTER.

MINUTES APPROVED BY GROUP

Michele Strand: _____



For More information contact Donna Tisdale, Chair at 619-766-4170 or tisdale.donna@gmail.com ;
Current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted on the County website @
<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/gpupdate/comm/blvd.html>

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