

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

***** MINUTES / SUMMARY FOR VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON 7 PM JUNE 3, 2021 *****

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99879696715?pwd=ZlVqYWQ1aE5rNzRvNWl2dTR4Mk1uUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 7969 6715; Passcode: 12345; Dial in: 669-900-6833

A. MEMBERS PRESENT 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 6) Michael Coyne; 7) Nancy Good

MEMBERS ABSENT: 1) VACANT; 5) Michele Strand (excused).

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: (WAIVED FOR VIRTUAL MEETING)

C. MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR MARCH 4TH MEETING (Meetings were cancelled for April & May):

- *M/S: Keane/Good: Adopt March 4th minutes / summary as written: Passed: 5-0-0.*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- Camille Von Kaenel introduced herself as a backcountry reporter, with inewsource.org. She has covered several local issues, including JVR Solar and Campo Wind and is looking forward to doing more local stories.

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

1. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE- POTENTIAL GROUP VOTE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:

- San Diego County will hold a series of virtual workshops to "...present an overview of the project, describe goals and objectives related to centering equity in the CAP Update, solicit feedback from attendees to aid in the identification of underserved/frontline communities within the unincorporated county, understand and define equity, develop an engagement approach that is inclusive and effective, and develop a greater understanding of the climate-related issues facing identified communities". Comment letters may be submitted electronically via e-mail at: CAP@sdcounty.ca.gov. See link for more information: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/climateactionplan.html>
- Chair Tisdale said she signed up for but was unable to participate in the June 2nd virtual workshop.
- Concerns were expressed by one June 2nd participant that the facilitators and other participants seemed more focused on unincorporated cities and are not fully aware of the impacts of major projects on rural communities. There was no rural representation. They just don't get it. Direct communication from our Group was recommended on this issue.
- Michael Coyne expressed his counter position that many urban folks are fully aware of rural impacts. He referenced Governor Newsom's recent comments that offshore wind projects are coming because onshore wind projects are unduly burdening rural communities.
- Chair Tisdale offered to submit some brief comments if authorized.
- *M/S: Coyne/Keane: Authorize Chair Tisdale to submit comments on Climate Action Plan: Passed: 4-0-0 (Nancy Good's call dropped temporarily)*

2. HOMELESS SOLUTIONS: SAN DIEGO COUNTY IS SEEKING INPUT ON HOUSING AND SERVICE LOCATIONS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS:

- Chair Tisdale read the following excerpts from the County's website (emphasis added):
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/advance/ZOAmendmentsShelters.html> :
 - "On April 6, 2021, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to continue with the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, and suspend current efforts previously directed by the Board on May 19, 2020,

that authorized the development of ordinance intended to minimize the impacts associated with homelessness on park and recreation users and facilities. Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance will continue as per the April 6, 2021 direction shown below:

- Direct the CAO to accelerate work on future Zoning Ordinance changes previously directed by the Board on May 19, 2020, in order to streamline the location of emergency and permanent supportive housing, and other facilities to support people experiencing homelessness, and seek input from the community, led by appropriate HHSA staff, to establish a framework for the appropriate siting of such locations, to determine the best approach to address environmental or other regulatory consideration that are current barriers to such changes, and report back to the Board within 90-days.”
- Tisdale expressed concerns that this recent change would fail to protect the safe use of parks and recreation areas by the general public, whose taxes pay for those services, by allowing the continued use of those public areas to be dominated by the homeless. It makes it unsafe in numerous ways.
- She also expressed empathy for the homeless after recently losing a homeless family member who had chronic substance abuse issues, like so many others. Many do not want to take advantage of services offered to them that require certain rules be followed.
- Excerpts were reviewed from the County presentation “Emergency Homeless Shelter”.
- There was a discussion of our limited homeless problem locally, with the exception of the Live Oak Springs area where some tend to congregate around the two liquor stores there.
- Concerns were expressed with “importing” homeless people into isolated areas of our underserved rural area that could result in exacerbating any underlying conditions they may have instead of helping them.
- Homeless services should be focused in ‘opportunity zones’ with real shelters, services, facilities, and job opportunities.
- The only local potential option would be converting use of the now closed McCain Conservation Camp on McCain Valley Road, to a homeless shelter with daily shuttle services to urban/suburban “opportunity zones”.
- Kevin Keane noted that better transportation services / options are needed for the backcountry, overall.
- *M/S: Keane/Coyne: Authorize Chair Tisdale to submit comments on this issue as discussed: Passed: 4-0-0 (Nancy Good was back on call but Earl’s call had dropped)*

G. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Applications for vacant Seat #1 are still being accepted.
2. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:** No one was present to provide update.

H. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. **400 MW BOULDER OAKS HYBRID 2 WITHDRAWN FROM CAISO GRID QUEUE– 205.8 MW WIND AND 205 MW BATTERY:**
 - Tisdale reported that this project had been proposed to connect to the grid at an undisclosed location between ECO Substation and San Miguel Substation. It was withdrawn from the grid queue position # 1804 on 3-10-21, by the applicant. The original application for grid connection was dated 4-12-20.
2. **STARLIGHT SOLAR:**
 - This 20 MW project is planned on Empire Ranch, Jewel Valley, with intent to connect to grid via the Boulevard Substation.

- Jim Whalen reported that they just had their 1st meeting with County. He wants this to be the first solar project approved by the BPG. In his opinion, it will enhance our credibility and standing with County.
- Tisdale said she could not make any promises at this stage.
- Whalen wants time to do this right. Actual location still pending. Proximity to Boulevard Substation is important.
- Southern end of Empire Ranch has border infrastructure issues. It is also biologically rich including Rattlesnake Mountain area. He wants that area to be first preserved in re-initiated East County MSCP.
- Tisdale asked if same area was still considered as mitigation land for Soitec Solar's impacts.
- Whalen said no. Rugged Solar's footprint has been reduced and pulled back to the point of it being feasible to keep all mitigation land on Rough Acres Ranch with some on Thibodeau land.
- Michael Coyne and Kevin Keane both stated their opinions that solar projects generally have fewer impacts than wind projects.
- Whalen offered a tour of Empire Ranch for the BPG Group so they can see the property.
- Tisdale said the presence of a quorum would violate open meeting laws unless the meeting is noticed and public access allowed.
- Liability and trespass concerns were raised over even limited public access.
- Tisdale agreed to contact County liaison for legal options available for members in numbers that do not reflect a quorum, and report back.
- Tisdale also agreed to listen to project details before seeking Group action. Her main stated concern is project proximity to, and impacts on, immediate neighbors. Based on her experience and conversations with solar project neighbors, there are numerous impacts from solar projects, including glare, noise, electrical pollution, dust, and more.

3. **90 MW JACUMBA VALLEY RANCH ENERGY PARK (JVR SOLAR) FINAL EIR PENDING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PDS2018-GPA-18-010, PDS2018-REZ-18-007, PDS2018-MUP-18-022; PDS2018-ER-18-22-001:**

- Tisdale reported that on May 18th, the Jacumba Sponsor Group voted 5-0 to deny the 623-acre JVR solar project plan as presented.
- On May 27th, San Diego Community Power voted to approve a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement for JVR Solar.
- The alleged community benefits agreement was made with the Jacumba Community Services District (JCSD) and the Desert Museum in Ocotillo. The benefits agreement was included on the JCSD's May 25 agenda.
- Project documents are posted at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/MUP-18-022.html>. Project Manager: Nicholas.Koutoufidis@sdcounty.ca.gov; 858.495.5329.

4. **TERRA-GEN'S 252 MW-60 TURBINE CAMPO WIND PROJECT APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON 3-17-21 WITH VOTE TO APPROVE BOULDER BRUSH FACILITIES:**

- The FAA apparently issued a Public Comment Notice on April 7, 2021 with comment ending on May 15th. We did not receive that notice.
- Next court hearing is currently set for August 19th on the Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction that was filed on May 19th. Terra-Gen currently claims there will be no construction for 6 months.
- Campo Wind project info : <http://www.campowind.com/>

5. **TERRA-GEN'S BOULDER BRUSH SUBSTATION FACILITIES PDS2019-MUP-19-002; PDS2019-ER-19-16-001; UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 3-17-21:**

- On April 19th, a CEQA lawsuit was filed challenging the County's approval. Hearing date: December 2021.

- Boulder Brush Facilities include 3.5 miles of overhead 230 kilovolt generation transmission (gen-tie) line on private land, approximately 32 steel poles at a maximum height of 150 feet, a high voltage substation, a switchyard, in/out connection to the existing Sunrise Powerlink, and access roads on private land. These facilities will connect Terra-Gen's 60-4.2 MW Campo Wind turbines on the Campo Reservation to Sunrise Powerlink via the substation and switchyard on private land. See more project details at this link: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/BoulderBrush.html>
6. **ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION:**
 - Construction has started on the 108 MW (26-Vestas V150-4.2MW) expansion of existing 155 MW ESJ Wind I project (47-3.3 MW turbines) on 13,000 acres south of the border just east of Jacumba and Ejido Jacume. Energy will exported cross border to SDG&E's ECO Substation per Power Purchase Agreement with SDG&E: <https://www.bnamerica.com/en/news/ienova-reportedly-seeks-full-ownership-of-baja-california-wind-farm> ; <https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/wind/vestas-wins-108-mw-epc-order-in-20200220/>
 7. **TERRA-GEN'S 126 MW TORREY WIND PROJECT WITH 30-4.2 MW TURBINES: PDS2018-MUP-18-014:**
 - No project progress reported since approximately 2018. Torrey Wind will rely on Terra-Gen's Campo Wind Boulder Brush Substation:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/TorreyWindNOP.html>
 8. **TULE WIND PHASE II-69MW:**
 - Currently permitted to erect up to 24 new turbines on State land and the Ewiiapayaap Reservation, with a capacity of 69 megawatts, as expansion to existing 131.1 MW Tule Wind I with 57 -2.3 MW turbines. No evident project progress since approximately 2016:
<https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/state-approves-tule-wind-phase-ii-opponents-voice-concern-eagles-wildlife-residents>
 9. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR: PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION-NEW PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Project originally approved in 2014 but never built. Clean Focus is moving forward slowly.
 - Jim Whalen reported that they had just submitted what they believed to be their final set of biology reports.
 - Still working on noise and Green House Gas Emissions.
 - Project footprint cut back by 20%. Pulled back from Ribbonwood Road, Tule Creek bed and other sensitive areas. Mitigation can be limited to Rough Acres Ranch and some Thibodeau land.
 - Expect more news in 90 days or so.
 10. **60 MW 420 ACRE BOULEVARD SOLAR MUP12-010TE PDS2012-3300-12-00 @ 796 Tierra Del Sol Road;** No project progress reported. Approved in 2014 and terminated by Soitec Solar in March 2015. Invenergy withdrew from project in 2018. Project is still being promoted by absentee land owner Joe Brown who lives in Tennessee.
 11. **100MW – INVENERGY'S BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY; PDS 2017-ZAP-17-006:** No action or progress since approximately 2017. Project was placed in idle status (Aug 2019) but could be revived at later date.

I. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 1ST, 2021.

Minutes Approved by Group on 7-1-21. Michele Strand, Secretary: 

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>