

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)
*** MINUTES / SUMMARY FOR IN PERSON MEETING HELD ON 7 PM JULY 1, 2021 *****

A. MEMBERS PRESENT 2) Earl Goodnight; 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Michael Coyne; 7) Nancy Good **MEMBERS ABSENT:** 1) VACANT

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR JUNE 3RD MEETING:

- *M/S: KEANE / GOOD: Adopt June 3rd minutes / summary as amended: Passed: 6-0-0.*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- Nancy Good commented that on reports that the State now wants counties to absorb more wind turbines that are taller and more powerful.

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

1. **90 MW JACUMBA VALLEY RANCH ENERGY PARK (JVR SOLAR) JULY 9TH PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING: FINAL EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PDS2018-GPA-18-010, PDS2018-REZ-18-007, PDS2018-MUP-18-022; PDS2018-ER-18-22-001:**
 - The chair circulated packet of project photos / simulations sourced from the JVR Visual Resource Report.
 - Public discussion was held including previous BPG votes to continue to oppose the project, and the Jacumba Sponsor Group's Equity for Jacumba alternative.
 - *M/S: STRAND/GOODNIGHT: AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SUBMIT COMMENT LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE JVR SOLAR PROJECT IN JACUMBA HOT SPRINGS. Passed 6-0-0*
2. **CONFIRM GROUP MEMBERS TOUR OF EMPIRE RANCH /STARLIGHT SOLAR SITE IN TWO SEPARATE GROUPS TO AVOID A QUORUM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE BROWN ACT:**
 - Meeting set up by Jim Whalen will potentially set for July 28th. Mr. Haagen will be there.
 - 2 separate groups with 3 or less members necessary in order to avoid quorum violation of Brown Act.
 - Whalen said drone video will compliment power point presentation and possible helicopter tour.
 - Solar site still in flux. Waiting for feedback. Majority of property is open space.
 - Focus will be on visibility of proposed project from different locations.
 - 4000 acre property runs approximately 1.5 miles wide and 6 miles long down to the border.
 - Current runway at Empire Ranch is no longer needed since Mr. Haagen travels by helicopter now.
 - The trees to the north of that runway would potentially block the view solar installed at that location, but would not block the sun.
 - Tisdale questioned statement that trees would block views for adjacent neighbors.
 - *M/S: KEANE/GOOD: TO APPROVE THE BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP'S TOUR OF EMPIRE RANCH IN 2 SEPARATE GROUPS IN ORDER TO AVOID A QUORUM. Passed 6-0-0*
3. **DPW PRIORITIZATION REQUEST FOR ROADWAY PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE IN BOULEVARD PLANNING AREA:**
 - DPW recommendations were discussed: accept the proposed DPW list or provide alternative list?
 - County wants to repave the shoulders of Old Hwy 80 with asphalt as they are in bad shape now.

- ***M/S: KEANE/COYNE: TO SUPPORT/ACCEPT THE COUNTY'S PRIORITIZATION AS PROPOSED AND TO ASK COUNTY TO TAKE A LOOK AT TIERRA DEL SOL ROAD DUE TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC. Passed 6-0-0***

G. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Applications for vacant Seat #1 are still being accepted.
2. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:** Written update provided by Mark Ostrander:
 - Currently working on \$2,500.00 grant partnering with San Ysidro Health for senior wellness.
 - Work at the old apparatus bay is almost complete and the next project is the old court house.
 - Looking for monthly sponsors and donations – no amount is too small. Tax deductible 501c3.
 - Donations can be made to JBRA (Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance), 43577 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba CA 91934.
 - Facility costs \$900 per month to operate. Call 201-890-3344 for rates and availability.
 - Need help/volunteers with various events. clasictraclayer@att.net
 - Next chipping event is July 17th.
 - Community support is desperately needed to keep these programs going.

H. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. **STARLIGHT SOLAR:**
 - Application is pending for this 20 MW project planned on Empire Ranch, Jewel Valley, with intent to connect to grid via the Boulevard Substation.
 - Jim Whalen is working on identifying opportunities and constraints. Biologically rich, lots of water.
 - Had kickoff meeting with County. Want to resolve project description, footprint. All reports to follow.
 - Batteries are required. Kevin Keane suggested safer Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries.
 - No solar company partner yet.
 - More interest in County now. San Diego Community Power (SDCP) needs more renewables.
 - Staff now working on streamlining renewable with infill projects.
 - Susan Winn USFWS now head of County area.
 - Whalen wants Starlight Solar to be first to contribute land to East County Multiple Species Program.
2. **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.
 - Reported 20% reduction in project footprint. Additional public review pending.
 - Need to resolve project description and footprint. Final submittal made in response to County.
3. **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:**
 - Approved for Campo Reservation land by Dept of Interior April 2020. Federal lawsuit filed 7-8-2020. FAA approval was remanded December 2020 with reconsideration still pending. So Cal Tracon objected to Campo Wind over significant aviation impacts. The federal judge granted Campo Band's Motion to Intervene and is now considering their Motion to Dismiss the case.
 - Campo Wind project info: <http://www.campowind.com/>
4. **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:**

- Boulder Brush Facilities include 3.5 miles of overhead 230 kilovolt generation transmission (gen-tie) line on private land, approx. 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>

5. **ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION:**

- Current 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 be 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/>
- Clearing on ridge top southeast of Jacumba now underway.

6. **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>

7. **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>
- It was reported that Harley McDonald, who helped get Tule Wind permitted, has quit Avangrid.

8. **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 landowner Joe Brown who lives in Tennessee.

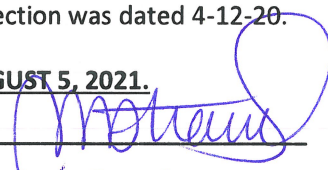
9. **100MW – INVENERGY'S BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY; PDS 2017-ZAP-17-006:**

- No action or progress since approximately 2017. Project was placed in idle status (Aug 2019) but could be revived at later date.

10. **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.

I. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021.

Minutes Approved by Group on: 8/5/21 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>