

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

**\*\*\*MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR IN-PERSON MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2021\*\*\***

**A. MEMBERS PRESENT:** 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 6) Michael Coyne; 7) Nancy Good.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** 1) VACANT; 2) Earl Goodnight –excused; 5) Michele Strand – excused (Applications are being accepted to fill vacant Seat #1. Must reside in and be registered to vote in Boulevard Planning Area)

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**C. ACT ON DRAFT MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 7TH MEETING (November meeting was cancelled):**

- *M/S: Good/Keane: Approve draft minutes / summary for 10-7-21 as corrected: Passed: 4 YES; 0 NO.*

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:** Opportunity for public comment on any subject matter within the Group’s jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. No action can be taken on non-agenda items. Items can be added to future agendas.

**F. ACTION ITEMS – SDG&E’S DALLIN YOUNG ACCEPTED CHAIR’S OFFER TO GO FIRST:**

**1. RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS - DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**HEARING:** Discussion and vote on preferences for community benefits for large scale wind, solar, and related infrastructure projects.

- Chair reported that County staff plans on presenting on this issue to BPG at our January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Chair distributed and read the itemized list of staff recommendations / options provided the Board of Supervisors.
- Public discussion / consensus on following (see more details in BPG comments submitted on 12-3-21):
  - CBA should be mandatory NOT voluntary. Benefits should be restricted to the project impacted zip code or other similar boundaries to ensure they go to most impacted community.
  - Guidelines should be developed with direct community input / involvement.
  - CBAs should be focused on industrial scale renewable energy and related projects and not housing development due to housing shortage.
  - Strongly oppose incentives for renewable energy developers – there are already too many subsidies and tax credits for them.
  - Community Planning and Sponsor Groups should be allowed to participate in community benefit negotiations. They are the closest to impacted communities.
  - Benefits should be for life of the project NOT just a onetime drop in the bucket.
- *M/S: Coyne/Keane: Authorize Chair to submit CBA comments: Passed: 4-0-0.*

**2. SAN DIEGO COUNTY INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC):**

- Public meetings are being held regarding the regular redrawing of County Supervisor districts. Some community planning areas may be split between different supervisor districts.
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, the IRC selects draft map for adoption. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the statutory deadline for IRC to file Adopted Map and Final Report with Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Draft maps are still changing. They are posted at this link along with directions for public comment:  
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/redistricting/IRCmeetings2.html>
- Chair provided copies of her personal letter submitted due to cancellation of BPG’s November meeting and lack of the IRC presentation and vote. She supported Map 13 and opposed Map 14 that splits the BPG planning area.
- *M/S: Coyne / Good: Authorize comments endorsing Chair’s letter supporting Map 13 and opposing Map 14: Passed: 4-0-0*

**3. SAN DIEGO REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION DRAFT FRAMEWORK:** Discussion and vote. The Board of Supervisors was updated on this item on November 17<sup>th</sup> with final decision expected in early 2022. The first draft is now available. It shows wind, solar, and transmission projects highly concentrated in the Candidate Project Areas (CPA) that dominate the Boulevard and Jacumba Planning Areas. See Figures 2-7 and 2.8 on pages 27-28 of the

draft pdf at this link: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/regional-decarbonization.html> . Comments can be submitted to: [ZeroCarbon@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:ZeroCarbon@sdcountry.ca.gov).

- Discussion on need to update previous comments.
  - *M/S: Good/Coyne: Authorize Chair to submit updated comment letter: Passed 4 Yes 0 No*
4. **COUNTY REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021-22 PARK LAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE (PLDO) AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING PRIORITY LISTS:**
- Discussion of previous requests.
  - Add new request for County to acquire Live Oak Springs Park for public use.
  - Mark Ostrander reported that previous requests for Backcountry Resource Center have been denied with Staff claiming there is no County MOU with the Center.
  - Chair stated that she would follow up with Staff on lack of MOU and need to get one.
  - *M/S: Coyne / Good: Authorize Chair to resubmit previous 2020-21 PLDO list with request for County to look into acquiring Live Oak Springs park area for Public Park. Passed: 4 Yes 0 No.*
5. **SDG&E PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF EVENTS & LACK OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS:** Discussion and vote on issues of concern and potential proposals for local resource centers and more.
- SDG&E Public Affairs Manager, Dallin Young, introduced himself and stated he is taking over for Todd Voorhees. He provided his contact: 619-626-6628.
  - The Chair stated that Boulevard is one of the most frequently impacted by PSPS events.
  - Concerns raised included frustration over having power shut off and paying high prices for backup generator fuel (if you are lucky enough to have a generator and can use it when there is no power for local fuel pumps) while Kumeyaay Wind, Tule Wind and Energia Sierra Juarez Wind turbines continue to operate and pass energy through our community to serve others during high PSPS events.
  - Complaint that SDG&E had cancelled 3 appointments with one resident for a backup generator to run medical devices during PSPS events. They never followed through.
  - Mr. Young responded that those were likely sub contractors hired by SDG&E and he would follow up if he was provided with the name and contact info for that subcontractor.
  - Concerns were also raised with lack of local SDG&E PSPS Resource Center for Boulevard and Jacumba.
  - A request was made for SDG&E to add Backcountry Resource Center as a PSPS Resource Center for Boulevard. There used to be one located at Golden Acorn Casino. Driving to Descanso is too far during high winds and with high fuel costs.
  - Chair asked about providing backup generator with transfer switch to run local Mountain Top Market and or Live Oak Springs so we can access staples and fuel for our own gas & diesel generators during PSPS that can last days. The longest outage lasted about 10 days.
  - Chair said that she knows of at least one local who has received a free backup generator and transfer switch from SDG&E. How can others apply? One market reportedly lost about \$10k in perishables in PSPS over Thanksgiving holiday.
  - Mr. Young promised to research and report back on how locals can apply for the backup generators.
  - He will also look into potential for local markets to receive backup generators to serve communities during PSPS and to prevent loss of perishables and to add Backcountry Resource Center as a PSPS Resource Center.

#### **G. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Applications for vacant Seat #1 are being accepted.** Contact: [tisdale.donna@gmail.com](mailto:tisdale.donna@gmail.com) ; 619-766-4170
2. **PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST FOR PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE RELATED TO LIVE OAK SPRINGS:**
  - Chair reported that the County of San Diego and the BPG received a letter from Loftin / Bedell Attorneys at Law to preserve records for communications related to a list of Live Oak Springs related entities.
  - BPG provided about a 2" stack of response documents and a 3-ring binder to the County.
3. **BOULEVARD MICROGRID (Dec 2 CPUC Decision) & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**
  - The Chair asked if Mr. Young had any information to share on the new Boulevard Microgrid. It appeared that the strategic undergrounding of utilities to the Post Office, the Boulevard Sheriff Substation,

Backcountry Resource Center, and the Boulevard Fire Dept. were almost complete, before CPUC approval.

- The CPUC was supposed to vote on the project December 2<sup>nd</sup> but she had not heard if it was approved.
- Mr. Young said he had an appointment next week to get an update on the Boulevard Substation and promised to report back.
- Mark Ostrander confirmed that the current undergrounding was for the connection of local essential facilities to Boulevard Substation. He had talked to the men doing the actual undergrounding work and connection to the Backcountry Resource Center.
- In response to questions about backup batteries being installed at the Boulevard Substation, both Mr. Young and Mark Ostrander stated their belief that there would be a direct connection to the grid through the substation.
- The Chair repeated the request for local markets to be added as essential services for rural communities.

#### **4. REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Mark Ostrander reported on their successful Halloween event, the upcoming Christmas event (Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 12-2) and toy drive with toys being collected at Burgio Feed Store.
- They held 7 chipping events with the last set for December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- He also reported their clean up events in Boulevard, Campo, Jacumba and Potrero collected almost 90 tons of trash that included 25 tons of metal.

#### **H. PROJECT UPDATES:**

- The Chair reported that according to the CAISO website, Tule Wind turbines were fully curtailed / forced off Nov 8-23<sup>rd</sup> and were turned back on Nov 24 the same day Boulevard's power was shut off for 2 days and nights for Thanksgiving due to high winds – PSPS.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, ½ of the Kumeyaay Wind turbines were curtailed.
- The old Soitec Solar Lan East and Lan West sites are posted online for sale for \$3.5 million. The two parcels are between Old 80 and I-8 and are split by McCain Valley Road.

#### **1. 74 MW RUGGED SOLAR: PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION-NEW PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

- Jim Whalen reported that the remaining tech studies are close to being done.
- He wants to bring it to the BPG for a vote. He read off a list of comparisons between the old Rugged Solar and the new Rugged Solar and promised to send a copy.
- Rugged Solar will share the Tule Wind gen-tie and likely have to underground the line south of I-8 to the Boulevard Substation.
- Whalen also discussed use of the open space easement for passive recreation for the public.
- Chair commented that the public would need access which is not currently available as the access gates are locked on both McCain Valley Road and the new secondary access road from Ribbonwood.
- Coyne said a re-circulated EIR is needed but Whalen said only an EIR Addendum is needed.

#### **2. 20 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR:**

- The application is pending for this 20 MW project planned on Empire Ranch, between Jewel Valley Road and Tule Jim Road, with intent to connect to grid via the Boulevard Substation.
- An 80 MW expansion and 200MW battery storage project are also reportedly planned by the developer.
- Jim Whalen said project will use 3 acres per MW with use of bifacial panels.
- He displayed draft maps with outlines of proposed project and potential expansion locations.
- Concerns were raised over some locations appearing to be located on /near rocky ridges.
- Confirmation was requested from Mr. Haagen that he will not allow overhead lines on his property.

#### **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 7-8-20. On August 6, 2021, the federal judge granted the Campo Band's Motion to Dismiss the case filed in 2020.
  - FAA approved project for second time despite SO CAL TRACON objections over significant aviation impacts.
  - An appeal of FAA approval is pending.
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:**
- 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>
  - CEQA lawsuit was filed 4-19-21 challenging the Board of Supervisors' approval.
5. **90 MW JACUMBA VALLEY RANCH ENERGY PARK (JVR SOLAR); APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON 8-18-21. CEQA LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST APPROVAL ON 9-20-21:**
- No news to report.
6. **ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION:**
- Current 108MW (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.
  - New turbines are huge and number of flashing red night lights is growing
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 Campo Wind's approved but not yet built Boulder Brush Substation.
  - PDS has extended their project resubmittal with a due date of *March 24, 2022*: <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. <https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/state-approves-tule-wind-phase-ii-opponents-voice-concern-eagles-wildlife-residents>
  - No project progress since approximately 2016.
9. **BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE PDS2017-ZAP-17-006:**
- 100 MW battery storage project, to connect to Boulevard Substation, is on County's idle project list.
  - County will be sending letter to applicant to withdraw, reactivate, or moved forward for denial after April 30, 2022.
10. **BOULEVARD SOLAR:** Formerly known as Soitec's Tierra Del Sol Solar.
- The online real estate ad lists part of this site at \$887,500 and claims the 2015 solar permit is good through July 2022. However, comments were made that the 5 plus mile overhead gen-tie to Boulevard Substation makes the development of a solar project economically challenging.

**I. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022.**

Minutes approved by the Group on 1-6-22

Michele Strand, Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

*For More information* contact Donna Tisdale, Chair at 619-766-4170 or [tisdale.donna@gmail.com](mailto: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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