

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

***** MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR IN-PERSON MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY JANUARY 6, 2022*****

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

- *Keane/Goodnight: Accept 12-2-21 minutes/summary as corrected: Passed: 6-0-0*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: No public comments made.

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

1. COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS (CBA) FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS:

- Audrey Hamilton, PDS Land Use Planner provided an update on Board of Supervisors' December 8th vote and 180 day review to provide new update with options:
 - Board of Supervisors asked Staff to broaden Community Benefits to beyond renewable energy projects. Expected to come back to Board in May/June 2022.
 - CBAs will be mandatory for large renewable energy projects that impact rural communities.
 - Guidance on types of projects covered by CBAs.
 - Guidelines to enter into negotiations with developers.
 - Staff will be conducting additional webinars and lunch & learn events.
 - Focusing on community impacts.
 - Will send out email alerts and website.
- Chair Tisdale asked about CBA for Rugged Solar, the previously failed Soitec Solar project that is moving forward with Clean Focus. Many changes to project since 2014 approval with Soitec's alleged previous community benefits that were used to support Overriding Considerations. There are NO Soitec San Diego manufacturing plant or jobs, the Mt Empire Schools Foundation has basically failed, and more. Really nothing to show for Boulevard community impacts.
- There seemed to be consensus that support for a project cannot be required for Community Benefits as it would represent a quid-pro-quo (something for something agreement) that is illegal and not allowed under County Policy I-1.
- Jim Whalen commented that Soitec Solar was an AB900 fast-tracked project. Soitec's failure left a blank slate for community benefits. Rugged Solar is coming back to Board of Supervisors this quarter.
- Whalen raised list of community needs previously provided.
- Tisdale commented that the author of that list has moved out of state.
- It was confirmed that the previous list was never presented to or approved by the BPG or the Jacumba-Boulevard Revitalization Alliance.
- Current community needs focus on the Backcountry Resource Center and necessary upgrades to better serve community needs overall.
- Kevin Keane commented on poor local services and internet access. Not everyone has access for Zoom or other forms of virtual meetings.
- Audrey Hamilton stated that she is also on the Environmental Justice staff and can come out for future in-person meetings and events, depending on any Covid restrictions at that time.

2. ANNUAL ELECTION OF BPG OFFICERS:

- *Chair: M/S: Strand/ Good: Nominate Donna Tisdale as Chair for 2022: Passed: 6-0-0*
- *Vice-Chair: M/S: Keane/ Good: Nominate Earl Goodnight as Vice Chair for 2022: Passed: 6-0-0*

- **Secretary: M/S: Coyne/Keane: Nominate Michele Strand as Secretary for 2022: Passed: 6-0-0**

3. REQUEST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FROM COUNTY FOR BACKCOUNTRY RESOURCE CENTER:

- The Backcountry Resource Center that is located on land purchased from the County.
- An MOU is reportedly required to receive grants and / or PLDO funds. But there is no MOU.
- Chair Tisdale reported lack of follow-up response from Dept of Recreation (DPR) contact, Chelsea Jander who had promised to have DPR investigate the MOU issue.
- Recommended going through both Joel Anderson's office and the County.
- Jim Whalen offered his help on this issue. Suggested matching grant applications.
- ***M/S: Coyne/Keane: Authorize Chair to submit request to Supervisor Anderson and the County to enter into an MOU for Backcountry Resource Center. Passed: 6-0-0***

G. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tisdale provided copy of an email response, in the agenda package, from SDG&E's Dallin Young to questions raised at the December meeting where he was present.
 - Response was received too late to add to agenda. Not a formal vote.
 - There was a consensus to support a request that the Backcountry Resource Center be designated as one of SDG&E's Community Resource Centers during Public Safety Power Shutoffs and other emergency events.
 - Tisdale said she will reach out to Dallin Young with this information to get process rolling.
- 1. **APPLICATIONS FOR VACANT SEAT #1 ARE BEING ACCEPTED:** Contact: tisdale.donna@gmail.com ; 619-766-4170
- 2. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:** No reports made or available.

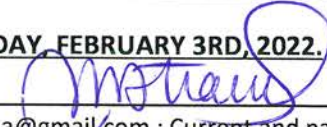
H. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. **BOULEVARD MICROGRID (Dec 2 CPUC Decision) & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**
 - SDG&E's Dallin Young reported that Project was only been conditionally approved by the CPUC on December 2nd. Still working through final process with CPUC. No start date available yet but current online date is August 2023.
2. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR: PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION-NEW PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Chair Tisdale reported receiving call from project Planner Nick Koutoufidis who is leaving the County to go work for City of Encinitas. New PDS planner not yet selected.
 - Jim Whalen reported that the County has signed off on most of the updated technical studies.
 - The Draft CEQA EIR Addendum was submitted in December.
 - Whalen will send email to request adding project to February BPG agenda for a vote.
3. **20 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR:**
 - The final technical studies are pending for this 20 MW project planned on Empire Ranch, Jewel Valley, with intent to connect to grid via the Boulevard Substation. An 80 MW expansion and 200MW battery storage project are also reportedly planned and are in the CAISO grid queue.
 - Jim Whalen reported that they are working on Site Plan first.
 - Project Description will be available soon for Staff review.
 - Some requests from BPG have been incorporated.
 - Transmission line will be underground, as requested.
 - There will be more information to share in a few weeks.
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:** 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. An appeal was filed in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. FAA approved project for second time despite SO CAL TRACON objections over significant aviation impacts. An appeal of FAA approval has been filed in the 9th Circuit. Court dates are pending.

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:** 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. 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. A CEQA suit has been filed in Superior Court. See more project details at this link: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/BoulderBrush.html>.
6. **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:** 90 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility and a battery energy storage system of up to 90 MW (360 MWh). The development footprint of the proposed solar facility is approximately 623 acres. 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.
7. **ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION:** Current construction of 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. Energy exported cross border to 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/>
8. **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>
9. **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 project progress since approximately 2016: <https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/state-approves-tule-wind-phase-ii-opponents-voice-concern-eagles-wildlife-residents>
10. **BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE PDS2017-ZAP-17-006:** 100 MW battery storage project proposed 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.
11. **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 who lives in Tennessee. Permit reportedly expires in July 2022. Property currently listed for sale: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/Tierra-Del-Sol-Rd-17-22-Boulevard-CA-91905/2069245114_zpid/

I. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2022.

MINUTES APPROVED BY GROUP ON 2-3-22. 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>

**Disclaimer Language included as directed by San Diego County PDS: Public Disclosure: We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected 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 Notice and any County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control. Access and Correction of Personal Information: 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 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, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting access or making corrections.*