

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)  
\*\*\* MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR IN-PERSON MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2022 \*\*\***

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM: Community Room at 39919 Ribbonwood Road, Boulevard, CA 91905**

**A. MEMBERS PRESENT:** 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Michael Coyne;  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** 1) VACANT; 7) Nancy Good (excused- Covid) (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 JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:**

- *M/S: Keane / Goodnight: Approve January 6<sup>th</sup> minutes as written: Passed: 5-0-0*

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:**

- Fire Safe Council received letter from State Insurance regarding certain expanded coverage.

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

**1. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PRESENTATION (CAP):**

- Joe Cryer, CAP Sustainability Team Manager, provided a CAP update presentation and Q & A session.
- County staff is currently gathering feedback and ideas for alternatives regarding plans to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions generated from sources like transportation, energy, waste; and perceived impacts at the local level.
- Mr. Cryer displayed boards and discussed CAP plans / update Climate Change impacts:
  - Cars = 45% Green House Gas emissions (GHG) ; waste = methane; energy = GHG
  - The original CAP plan has been litigated twice.
  - Now they have 26 options to reduce GHG emissions; streamlining not included this round.
  - County is going further than State; want net-zero emissions by 2035-45.
  - Working on economic and environmental benefits.
  - Currently in community engagement and GHG data collection.
- Chair Tisdale displayed and went over large map of proposed cumulative energy projects map. Pointing out that the communities of Boulevard and Jacumba are disproportionately impacted.
- Tisdale commented that CAP is allegedly aligned with County Sustainability Efforts: "Improving Access to Healthy Lifestyles; Encouraging Physical Activity; Conserving Open Space; Reducing waste; Improving Air Quality; Enhancing Community Resiliency; Conserving Agriculture; Reducing Water and Energy Costs."
- For our targeted and predominantly low-income backcountry communities, these are just catch phrases where renewable energy projects are concerned.
- Concerns were raised over excessive SDG&E rates. Andy DeGroot said his bill was over \$1,000/ month.
- Cryer responded that Board of Supervisors has no control over rates but will talk to them about co-benefits.
- Jacumba resident commented that rates increase due to large projects like Jacumba Valley Ranch Solar that result in money for SDG&E. Need to focus on on-site solar with batteries. Need to remove middleman to reduce costs. Unions and SDG&E want more large projects.
- It was noted that the County is on a collision course with aspirations and goals. Four - 100 MW projects per year are needed to reach that goal which is not feasible. Most projects take years to develop. San

Diego Community Power (SDCP) did do feed in tariff for up to 2 MW. The distribution grid is not is adequate. Unions opposed plan to eliminate all natural gas from City buildings.

- Coyne said the shutdown of San Onofre Nuclear's 2, 640 MW was a big loss. There is new technology for small nuclear the County should consider. It is more energy dense, base load, and takes much less land than big wind and solar.
- Cryer asked for comments / ideas to be sent to him. Said he will use what he learned going forward.
- Tisdale said the BPG has submitted numerous detailed comment letters that have been ignored.
- Keane raised concerns with electric vehicles being impractical for backcountry use, especially with lack of charging stations.
- Coyne said his EV worked fine but the County should subsidize electric charges for the EVs they are forcing on us.
- Jim Whalen suggested that if the goal is to maximize large-scale energy projects then SANDAG should send any community benefits to the actual impacted area.
- Questions and comments can be directed to: [CAP@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CAP@sdcounty.ca.gov). See CAP website for details: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/cap.html>

**2. CALTRANS NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR FUEL TANK UPGRADE AT BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE STATION AT 40945 OLD HWY 80:**

- Upgrade includes the decommission and disposal of the existing above ground double-walled diesel fuel tank storage tank and replaced with a new dual gasoline / diesel double-walled tank.
- The IS/MND is posted online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-11/current-projects/fuel-tanks> . Contact Emery McCaffery, Associate Environmental Planner, at (858) 289-1270 or [emery.mccaffery@dot.ca.gov](mailto:emery.mccaffery@dot.ca.gov).
- No concerns were expressed since the project is replacing one existing above ground tank with another.
- *M/S: Keane/Coyne: Submit comments confirming lack of concerns with project / MND: Passed: 5-0-0*

**3. VOTE ON REQUESTING SDG&E TO DESIGNATE BACKCOUNTRY RESOURCE CENTER AS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER TO BE USED DURING PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF AND OTHER EMERGENCY EVENTS:**

- Chair Tisdale requested a formal vote to follow up on consensus at January meeting when the issue was not on the agenda.
- *M/S: Coyne/Keane: Authorize Chair to request SDG&E to designate the Backcountry Resource Center as official Community Resource Center to be used during Public Safety Power Shutoff and other emergency events: Passed: 5-0-0*

**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. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:**
  - Earl Goodnight reported that chipping events were successful. Applying for 2022 Boulevard / Jacumba events. Working with other funding opportunities for safety events. Free martial arts class on Saturdays, clean mattress recycling. More to come.

**H. PROJECT UPDATES:**

- Tisdale reported that CAISO released their \$30 BILLION - 20 year transmission planning that shows best locations for wind and solar that include our Backcountry and imports from Baja via ECO Substation. There is current work at ECO Substation, but no one knew what that project is or when it was approved; chrome-



1. **PARK LAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE:**

- Chair Tisdale reported that following the recent BPG letter to Park & Rec and Supervisor Anderson, a line of communication opened up with Dept of Parks and Recreation over the alleged need for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Backcountry Resource Center to receive funding.
- On 2-2-22, Tisdale and Mark Ostrander had a good conference call with Chelsea Jander of Park & Recreation.
- The current needs list, lack of funding opportunities, and potential solutions were discussed.
- The Backcountry Resource Center is owned and operated by the Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance (501 c 3). Mark Ostrander is director of that Board and manages the Center.
- Chelsea informed us that a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), not a MOU, is needed between the 501 c 3 and the County.
- Once a JPA is in place, the County can help apply for grants and other funding.
- In the meantime, the PLDO list the BPG provided can move forward on a rolling basis.
- Concern was expressed with Campo dominating the Mt. Empire pool of funds.
- Chelsea will look into the potential timeline to coordinate a JPA and report back ASAP, hopefully in 2 weeks or less.

2. **BOULEVARD MICROGRID & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**

- The CPUC conditionally approved the project on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. SDG&E is reportedly still working through the final process with the CPUC. Completion / online date expected to be August 2023.

3. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR: PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION-NEW PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

- Jim Whalen said Planning and Development Services (PDS) is working on the CEQA EIR Addendum. Release for public comment is expected in next month or two.
- As of January 2022, new PDS Planner is [Regina.Ochoa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Regina.Ochoa@sdcounty.ca.gov).

4. **STARLIGHT SOLAR:**

- Tisdale display old map of Los Robles Solar and asked how Starlight Solar footprint compares.
- Jim Whalen said footprints are similar. There are lots of cultural and drainage issues. They are dealing with several solar partners. Mr. Haagen has strict conditions. One is looking at fixed tilt panels. Expect to submit to County by April 1<sup>st</sup>. He talked to Mark Ostrander about potential community benefits like tearing down community room updating community center overall. Open for public input.

5. **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-9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT APPEAL OF FEDERAL APPROVALS OF CAMPO WIND APPROVAL:**

- 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. 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 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit
- Appellants Opening Brief in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Appeal is due Feb 22. Still awaiting hearing schedule.
- Appellants FAA approval appeal is pending in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. Opening Brief is due April 13.

6. **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. CEQA CHALLENGE FILED:**

- 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. See more project details at this link:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/BoulderBrush.html>

- The Administrative Record was compiled and submitted to Judge Frazier. Terra-Gen and the County have an opportunity to respond with additions or corrections. No hearing date set.

**7. 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>.
- Active litigation continues.

**8. 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. 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/>

**9. 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. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/TorreyWindNOP.html>

- PDS has extended their project resubmittal with a due date of *March 24, 2022*:

**10. 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>

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

**I. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022.**

Minutes /Summary approved by Group on 3-3-22 Donna Tisdale: President: *Donna Tisdale*

**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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