

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)  
\*\*\* FINAL MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 IN-PERSON MEETING IN THE  
COMMUNITY ROOM IN BACK AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905\*\*\*

**A. ROLL CALL – MEMBERS PRESENT:** 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 7) Nancy Good; **MEMBERS ABSNET / EXCUSED:** 1) Manuel Casanova; 6) Michael Coyne.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):**

**C. ACT ON DRAFT MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:**

- *Goodnight / Keane: Approve August 4, 2022 minutes as written: Passed: 5-0-0*

**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.

- Brief discussion on reported dry wells and reduced recharge in wells around expanded lake being filled in Tierra Real Rd area. No reported relief for impacted well owners

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

1. **RUGGED SOLAR COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT (CBA) DRAFT RESOLUTION / TABLED FROM AUGUST MEETING:**

- Public discussion was held on draft resolution. No changes were recommended.
- *Keane/Goodnight: Adopt draft Rugged Solar Community Benefit Resolution as written: Passed: 5-0-0*
- The adopted resolution was signed by members present and handed directly to Jim Whalen for expediency, with a request for a digital copy.

2. **100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR PLUS BATTERIES ON 570 ACRES IN 8 AREAS OF JEWEL VALLEY AREA; MAJOR USE PERMIT (MUP) APPLICATION SCOPING LETTER: PDS2022-MPA-22-006: CONSIDER CHAIR'S REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE SCOPING COMMENTS DUE TO NEW PROJECT MAPPING INFORMATION.**

- The new Starlight Solar Site Plan (Figure 3) was provided in the agenda package and reviewed.
- Discussion was held regarding original public disclosure of 20 MW in one location. In fact, the project includes an 80 MW expansion for total of 100 MW solar on 570 acres in 7 locations in scenic Jewel Valley, spaced out along approximately 2.5 miles north to south, with 200 MW of battery storage.
- Main concerns include but are not limited to visual impacts, batteries, fire, groundwater, setbacks from neighbors, and cumulative project impacts.
- Jim Whalen said they are working the idea of apprentice path and temporary union membership. They are trying to figure it out. At least two locals have contacted him about work on his projects but they are not union members and don't necessarily want to become members for temporary jobs.
- Nancy Good said she works as a non-union temporary employee. Prior to retirement, she was a union member. It can be done.
- *M/S: Strand/ Keane: Authorize Chair to submit Starlight Solar scoping comments: Passed: 5-0-0*

**F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **INCUMBENTS FOR EVEN NUMBERED SEATS (2-Goodnight; 4-Tisdale; 6-Coyne) QUALIFIED FOR THE BALLOT:** Candidate filing ended August 12<sup>th</sup>. No other candidates filed to run so no election will be held: See ROV list at page 40: [https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/election/2022Nov/Candidate\\_List.pdf#](https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/election/2022Nov/Candidate_List.pdf#) . Incumbents will be re-appointed to new 4-year terms by Board of Supervisors.

2. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:** No reports made.

**G. PROJECT UPDATES:**

1. **REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION FRAMEWORK:**

- An update presented at Board of Supervisors on 8/31.
- Jim Whalen reported that the Board of Supervisors accepted the staff report on how to get to zero carbon by 2035.
- Staff did bring up Environmental Justice issues for energy projects in the Backcountry.
- Solar on all rooftops in Imperial and San Diego County was also promoted.
- Jim Whalen put forward his concept to add community battery storage – dedicated to Boulevard.
- That concept did not receive much support based on the fact that any battery energy would be limited to just the main hub of Boulevard and not serve the greater Boulevard Planning Area. And huge battery complexes represent increased fire risk in our fire prone area.

2. **UPDATE ON SDG&E'S BOULEVARD MICROGRID & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**

- No news.

3. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION APPROVED BY PLANNING COMMISSION 7/22. EXPECTED TO BE HEARD BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN OCTOBER:**

- Board hearing now set for Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Current PDS Project Manager: [Regina.Ochoa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Regina.Ochoa@sdcounty.ca.gov) (619) 323-8090.
- Planning Commission recommended approval on 7/22/22.
- Project documents posted at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/MUP-12-007W1.html>

4. **TERRA-GEN'S 252 MW-60 TURBINE CAMPO WIND PROJECT. OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 9 AM HEARING IN 9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN PASADENA:**

- 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.
- Case was appealed to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.
- In 2021, the FAA approved project for second time despite SO CAL TRACON objections over significant aviation impacts. An appeal of FAA approval is in process at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

5. **TERRA-GEN'S BOULDER BRUSH SUBSTATION FACILITIES PDS2019-MUP-19-002; PDS2019-ER-19-16-001; APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 3-17-21. CEQA CHALLENGE FILED. DEC 15 MERITS HEARING SET WITH JUDGE FRAZIER. FAA APPROVED TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN FEB-MARCH 2022:**

- 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 new substation and switchyard:  
<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. DECISION IS PENDING IN CEQA LAWSUIT CHALLENGING PROJECT APPROVAL:**

- 90 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility and a battery energy storage system of up to 90 MW (360 MWh) on 613 acres. Project documents are posted at:  
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/MUP-18-022.html>.



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. Terra-Gen was granted another project time extension through September 24, 2022.  
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/TorreyWindNOP.html>
  - The CAISO Grid Queue report (#2177) shows a Boulder Brush Hybrid with 105.8 MW wind and 314 MW battery storage with an online date of 6/1/25:  
<http://www.caiso.com/PublishedDocuments/PublicQueueReport.xlsx>
  
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 progress since approximately 2016: <https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/state-approves-tule-wind-phase-ii-opponents-voice-concern-eagles-wildlife-residents>
  
9. **100MW BOULEVARD ENERGY STORAGE PDS2017-ZAP-17-006: PROJECT WITHDRAWN:**
  - Starlight Solar proposes to use some of the same parcels as the withdrawn Boulevard Energy Storage project that has now been purchased for that purpose.
  
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.
  - Property is for sale by the absentee owner who is still promoting it
  - Permit was set to expire at the end of July 2022. The County can issue further extensions.
  
11. **ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION COMMENCED OPERATIONS:**
  - FEB 8, 2022: Sempra commenced operations of their 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 is exported cross border to SDG&E's ECO Substation.
  - Full capacity at build out is 1,000-1,200 MW.

**H. ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022.**

*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>

Minutes approved at meeting on 10-6-22

Michele Strand, Secretary:  Date: 10.17.22

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