

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)
*** MINUTES / SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 3RD, 2022—IN-PERSON MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM IN BACK AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905*****

A. MEMBERS PRESENT: 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane (few minutes late); 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Michael Coyne: **MEMBERS ABSENT:** 1) Manuel Casanova (EXCUSED); 7) Nancy Good (EXCUSED)

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):

C. ACT ON DRAFT MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 6TH MEETING:

- **M/S: COYNE/GOODNIGHT: Approve October 6th minutes/summary as corrected: PASSED: 4 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAINED (KEANE)**

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.

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

1. NOVEMBER 9TH VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING TO HELP IDENTIFY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED REGION:

- Discussion was held on the lack of recognition for low-income and disproportionately burdened rural communities included in the provided map of EJ communities.
- Rural communities, especially Boulevard and Jacumba, are repeatedly targeted for unwelcome projects and are currently home to over 70 % of Sexually Violent Predators placed in San Diego County.
- Jim Whalen expressed need to make the case for Boulevard.
- There are 5 requirements for designation but only one needs to be met.
- Chair Tisdale stated her opinion that there are pros and cons to any such designation, including claims from some in power that placing renewable energy projects in disadvantaged communities is a benefit.
- Tisdale reported that she had a conflict for the November 9th virtual meeting and asked for volunteers to represent the BPG.
- No members could confirm their ability to participate so it was agreed that any available member could represent the BPG.
- **M/S: KEANE/COYNE: Authorize Chair to submit comments on EJ Communities and authorize members to participate on BPG behalf at November 9th virtual meeting: PASSED: 5 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAINED.**

2. ROUNDUP SPRAYING ALONG OLD HWY 80 AND OTHER LOCAL ROADS:

- Chair reported that several public concerns have been raised with the current spraying of the weed killer Roundup and the potential for runoff concentration into local drainages and groundwater.
- While the EPA and FDA have concluded that glyphosate is safe for human use, the International Agency for Research on Cancer categorizes glyphosate as possibly carcinogenic to humans—essentially saying it may cause cancer.
- Jeff McKernan reported on his personal research after talking to those conducting the spraying on Old 80 who said they use a 1.25% mixture:
 - Program has been going on for 47 years on about 2,000 miles of roadway between Lakeside and Jacumba and the Mexican border. It costs between \$300-400,000 annually.
 - Agriculture Department rep said spraying does not impact groundwater.
 - 2020 study by UC Riverside reportedly concluded that using organic alternative would cost millions.
 - Supervisor Joel Anderson sent query to CEO Helen Robbins Wade.
 - The pesticide regulation department had not returned McKernan's call by BPG meeting time.
 - There is a County-maintained no-spray list but you need to agree to keep the road shoulders in the same condition as sprayed shoulders. Very difficult and expensive for citizens to handle.

- Tisdale reported that, after major lawsuits, the most controversial active ingredient, glyphosate, is allegedly being phased out of consumer Roundup products by January 2023.
- She asked if the County should be contacted with a request to use less toxic weed killer options in groundwater dependent areas.
- Michael Coyne recommended, and there was agreement, that Jeff McKernan draft a letter for the BPG to review and consider at the next meeting.
- ***The item was tabled with NO ACTION taken.***

3. **PRIVATE PONDS / LAKES:**

- Currently, it is not unlawful for private property owners to use finite groundwater to fill vanity lakes / ponds regardless of the potential for adverse impacts on adjacent property owners / wells.
- In light of recent allegations of adverse impacts to neighbors' wells, should authorities be contacted to request exploring potential regulation options in regards to vanity bodies of water that are filled / supplemented with well water in groundwater dependent areas, especially during extended drought conditions?
- Multiple concerns were raised that regardless of how well-intentioned, any such request could ultimately lead to authorities placing meters and restrictions on all private wells that were drilled at property owner's expense.
- There was no interest in potentially triggering that scenario.
- ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:** No report

2. **SEMPRA'S CIMMARON WIND:**

- Tisdale reported on new 300 MW wind & 500 MW Volta Mexicali battery storage project in Mexico announced for Jacumba border area. Both projects to connect cross border at SDG&E's ECO Substation.
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/story/2022-10-28/sempra-power-purchase-deal-with-santa-clara>

G. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. **TERRA-GEN'S BOULDER BRUSH FACILITIES (SUBSTATION GEN-TIE) PDS2022-MUP-19-002TE:**

- On October 21, Judge Ronald Frazier granted Intervenor-Defendant Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians' Motion to Dismiss the legal challenge to the County's approval of this project, due to their sovereign immunity: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/cega/BoulderBrush.html>
- There were questions over how sovereign immunity could be used for a project on private land.

2. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION APPROVED ON 10-12-22.**

- The developer agreed to remove the concertina wire from fencing; to reduce interior pole height to 40ft; and to include additional \$25,000 to community benefit donation.
- The Board of Supervisors approved the project on October 12 with direction to the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board within 180 days with the following options for the Mountain Empire area:
 - 1. Options to pursue funding sources to operate the resource and community centers for intergenerational programming activities
 - 2. Explore locations where the County can provide funding, match funding or pursue grants/scholarships for educational and workforce training opportunities
 - 3. Coordinate with the Mountain Empire Union School District to pursue opportunities to close funding and programming gaps: See Minute Order:
<https://bosagenda.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/cosd/cob/doc?id=0901127e80f2ae72>
- Tisdale expressed concern that there was no actual mention of a park for Boulevard.

- Jim Whalen recommended that the BPG follow up with staff, Deb Mosley's group to remind them that we want to stay involved in County's plans for the Back Country Resource Center and a pocket park.
3. **DECORATIVE COMMUNITY SIGN:**
 - Waiting for response from Kenton Jones at DPW to BPG's expressed interest in a sign.
 4. **REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION FRAMEWORK:**
 - Update presented at Board of Supervisors on 8/31.
 - Jim Whalen reported that Supervisor Lawson-Remer wants as much rooftop solar as possible and asked him to help. Solar companies can lease rooftops and sell energy to community power.
 5. **SDG&E's BOULEVARD MICROGRID & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**
 - CPUC approved the project on 6/23/22. It will serve selected Boulevard and Campo Reservation facilities.
 - SDG&E's Dallin Young is reportedly looking into population and undergrounding.
 - Jeff McKernan reported talking to surveyors who said SDG&E is planning to underground Boulevard's Circuit 445.
 - Tisdale noted that, if true, ratepayers who are already paying for SDG&E's "fire hardening" wood to steel pole conversion program and will then have to pay for very expensive undergrounding of those same lines.
 6. **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. MAJOR USE PERMIT APPLICATION EXPECTED BY NEXT YEAR:**
 - Jim Whalen reported that they have been waiting since July for the County's response. Staff is overloaded.
 - They are trying to get some of Starlight's batteries connected to grid to help Circuit 445.
 - Tisdale said that only a few businesses and homes in Boulevard's core area along Old 80 will be allowed to have emergency power during Public Safety Power Shutoff Events. Most of Boulevard will be excluded from any such emergency power.
 - Still waiting for Draft EIR.
 7. **TERRA-GEN'S 252 MW-60 TURBINE CAMPO WIND PROJECT. ON OCTOBER 27th THE 9th CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS DIMISSED THE LEGAL CHALLENGE BASED ON TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:**
 - Campo Wind was 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 based on sovereign immunity.
 - The case was appealed to 9th Circuit and dismissed October 27, 2022.
 - In 2021, the FAA approved Campo for second time despite SO CAL TRACON objections over significant aviation impacts. An appeal of FAA approval is still in process at the 9th Circuit.
 8. **90 MW JACUMBA VALLEY RANCH ENERGY PARK (JVR SOLAR); APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON 8-18-21. CEQA LAWSUIT WAS FILED AND DISMISSED. AN APPEAL IS REPORTEDLY BEING FILED:**
 - No news.
 9. **TERRA-GEN'S 126 MW TORREY WIND PROJECT WITH 30-4.2 MW TURBINES: PDS2018-MUP-18-014:**
 - Torrey Wind will rely on Campo Wind's approved but not yet built Boulder Brush Substation.
 - Terra-Gen was granted another project MUP Time Extension through March 22, 2023.
<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>
 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 progress since approximately 2016: <https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/state-approves-tule-wind-phase-ii-opponents-voice-concern-eagles-wildlife-residents>

11. 60 MW 420 ACRE BOULEVARD SOLAR MUP12-010TE PDS2012-3300-12-00 @ 796 Tierra Del Sol Road;

- Approved in 2014 and terminated by Soitec Solar in March 2015. Invenergy withdrew from project in 2018. The absentee owner still promoting it. Permit was set to expire at the end of July 2022.
- Another Major Use Permit Time Extension is reportedly being processed by the County.

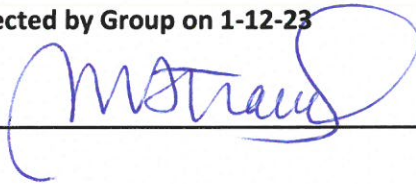
12. ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ) WIND II-EXPANSION COMMENCED OPERATIONS:

- 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. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2022.

Minutes were approved as corrected by Group on 1-12-23

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>

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