

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)
*** MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR IN-PERSON MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2023***
COMMUNITY ROOM IN BACK AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905**

A. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT: 1) Manuel Casanova; 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Michael Coyne; 7) Nancy Good

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):

C. MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 3RD MEETING (December meeting was cancelled):

- *M/S: GOODNIGHT/GOOD: Approve minutes for November 3, 2022 as corrected: PASSED: 7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.*

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.

- *None*

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

1. **ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Group members will vote to elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for 2023.
 - *Chair: M/S: STRAND/GOOD: Nominate Donna Tisdale for Chair: PASSED: 7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.*
 - *Vice-Chair: M/S: GOOD/TISDALE: Nominate Earl Goodnight as Vice-Chair: PASSED: 7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.*
 - *Secretary: M/S: TISDALE/COYNE: Nominate Michele Strand as Secretary: PASSED: 7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.*
2. **REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION FRAMEWORK (RDF) OUTREACH:**
 - Tisdale reported that this RDF project still focuses on large-scale wind and solar projects in the Boulevard / Jacumba area to allegedly reduce carbon emissions regionally, instead of focusing on roof tops and parking lots.
 - Various outreach meetings are being held by County staff, but none are currently listed for rural East County which is the targeted area. See details:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/regional-decarbonization/outreach-and-engagement.html>
 - Since the agenda was published, Supervisor Anderson's office emailed Tisdale saying that they are trying to hold a meeting in Mountain Empire that will simulcast a meeting in El Cajon. She asked for a meeting to be held in the backcountry since we are the most-targeted.
 - Staff contacted Tisdale and promised to try to do presentation at BPG's February 2nd meeting or plan another community meeting date in either Boulevard or Jacumba.
 - Jim Whalen reported having meeting with Supervisor Lawson-Remer; Bill Powers; Greg Hamann and others. San Diego Community Power (SDCP) rep reportedly missed the meeting.
 - They are proposing to start with 30 MW on 30,000 sq ft of commercial rooftop. Hamann Companies already has that much roof top space available.
 - Jim will follow up with SDCP procurement representative.
3. **FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE (FHSZ) MAP RELEASED BY STATE FIRE MARSHALL:**
 - The FHSZ is a comprehensive map that ranks California's State Responsibility Area (SRA)—or rural, unincorporated areas—based on the likelihood different areas will experience wildfire. A public hearing was held Jan 9th.
 - The majority of Boulevard Planning Area south of I-8 was reduced from Very High to High Severity Zone. See Cal Fire link: <https://calfire->

forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd937aba2b044c3484a642ae03c35677;

State Fire Marshall's link: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>

- Tisdale reported trying to print out current and proposed maps but maps would not print.
- Mark Ostrander, retired Cal Fire battalion chief, said the change is likely based on the County's fire mitigation planning.
- Regardless, the change from Very High to High may help with insurance.

F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Reminder: Form 700's are due within 30 days of assuming or leaving office: Tisdale, Goodnight & Casanova were just re-elected for new 4-year terms. Their election certificates were distributed.
- Annual training can be done online if you have already participated in at least one in-person training.

1. REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Mark Ostrander reported on their Halloween and Christmas events. Left over gifts were taken to the Tecate orphanage.
- They are still working on the building maintenance. SDG&E may donate a solar system for building.
- Firesafe finished chipping and clean up events. They need new volunteers to keep the events going.
- They are also seeking a grant for an 'air curtain burner' to replace chipping. The machines reportedly burn wood naturally in a way so that all that remains is a nutrient rich soil amendment called biochar.

G. PROJECT UPDATES:

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

- The County requested public input to expand the identification of "Environmental Justice Communities". Contact: Denise Vo: PDS.LongRangePlanning@sdcounty.ca.gov ; 858-505-6677. Project website: <https://sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/longrangeplanning/ejcriteria.html> .
- Chair Tisdale submitted brief comments on Nov 7th prior to that meeting. Copies were included in the agenda package.

2. 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/ceqa/BoulderBrush.html>.
- An appeal notice has been filed with the court by the non-profit Backcountry Against Dumps.

3. 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 three options for the Mountain Empire area: <https://bosagenda.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/cosd/cob/doc?id=0901127e80f2ae72>
- Jim Whalen said project is working on the Grading Permit and start of construction is about 1 year out.
- All new and existing wind and solar projects are now required to have batteries so a minor amendment or EIR Addendum will be needed since batteries were not included in the approved EIR.
- Kevin Keane requested use of LFP batteries instead of Lithium Ion Batteries that are more fire prone.
- Keane also asked how we could request a change in building codes to favor LFP batteries.

4. DECORATIVE COMMUNITY SIGN:

- No news. Still waiting for response to our interest from Kenton Jones at DPW.

5. **SDG&E's BOULEVARD MICROGRID & STRATEGIC UNDERGROUNDING:**
- No news. CPUC approved the project on 6/23/22. It will serve selected Boulevard and Campo Reservation facilities.
 - There has reportedly been some activity at the site.
 - Jim Whalen will contact SDG&E for an update.
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 IS PENDING:**
- Project is industrial scale 100 MW solar facility with battery energy storage system (BESS), collector substation, transformers, inverters, gen-tie line, and 24' internal roads, water tanks for fire protection, security fencing, lighting, and signage. South of I-8 and Old 80 and east of Tierra Del Sol Road. Project has proposed eight solar array areas with approximately 300,000 PV modules on support structures.
 - Jim Whalen reported the project has signed 20 MW Standard Operating Contract Power Purchase Agreement with SDG&E with a COD of April 30, 2025.
 - They are going through the screening process for East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP)
 - Whalen reported that some studies are indicating that solar is better than wind in regards to adverse impacts.
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:**
- No news to report.
 - 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 sovereignty. The case was appealed to 9th Circuit. In 2021, the FAA approved the project 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:**
- 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>.
 - Locals report that the Power Purchase Agreement with San Diego Community Power had to be renegotiated due to the delayed status of project construction. There are also still major issues / concerns with community benefit agreement.
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. Terra-Gen was granted another project 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:**
- No progress since approximately 2016.
 - 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>

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. 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. Property is for sale.

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.

13. SEMPRA'S CIMMARON WIND:

- 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>

H. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023.

Minutes approved by Group on 2-2-23

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>

**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.*