

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)
*** MINUTES / SUMMARY FOR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 5TH, 2023 ***
COMMUNITY ROOM IN BACK AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

A. MEMBERS PRESENT: 1) Manuel Casanova Jr; 2) Earl Goodnight; 3) Kevin Keane (excused); 4) Anthony Ralphs; 5) Melanie Zarddeneta-Hayden; 6) Michael Coyne; 7) Nancy Good

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):

C. MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 7TH MEETING:

- ***M/S: Coyne/Good: Approve September 7th, 2023, minutes/summary. PASSED: 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 EXCUSED***

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Chair Goodnight announced the public communications has been moved to the end of the agenda due to tonight's SDG&E presentation.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

- **SDG&E IN-PERSON PRESENTATION:** SDG&E representative Dallin Young introduced the team to the community and offered a brief explanation of:
 - What the undergrounding project was about
 - Which teams were involved in Boulevard
 - The progress achieved thus far.
 - Future plans for more work through years 2023 - 2026
 - Costs incurred by ratepayers for these upgrades.
 - The difference between "lithium ion" V.S. "lithium iron phosphate" (the second is allegedly not flammable and is in use for these battery projects)
 - The fire safety benefits of undergrounding power
 - They fielded a Q&A segment at the end of the presentation and answered questions and heard concerns from several community members.

Kevin O'Beirne delivered an update on the Boulevard Microgrid and Battery Storage Project.

- Late October 2023 microgrid storage batteries go online.
- Microgrid only keeps power for critical business facilities.
- Lithium-ion phosphate batteries "cannot ignite or explode" - claimed several representatives for SDG&E.

Lynette Aquino, program manager for the Strategic Undergrounding operation for SDG&E, presented updates on the undergrounding program and the status of the Mountain Top Market connection to the Underground Microgrid.

- Circuit 445 is the circuit that pertains to Boulevard's undergrounding and power hardening.
- There we be 9 miles of undergrounding of power completed this year.
- Through years 2024 / 25 / 26 there will be approximately 50 miles of underground power installed.

Mountain Top Market power update: Lynette stated SDG&E engineers had reviewed the property and determined that the underground power will be run beside and around the back of the market. This results in a permit from Caltrans for the right-of-way in front of the market.

Questions/Comments from the public as follows:

- What will undergrounding do to the cost per kilowatt? (a major concern raised by several community members)
- The cost of undergrounding is borne by all customers, not only in Boulevard.
- Some community members questioned why they had not been notified prior to commencement of work on their property, and questioned if such trespass was legal.
- Several concerned citizens felt like SDG&E wasn't giving back enough to the community, and they questioned why certain individuals had been compensated for use of their property and easement access, while others hadn't.

The prevailing concerns of community members centralized on three key issues:

1. Lack of consultation, compensation, or concern for the financial, environmental, and personal ramifications that these projects have on the community, and the individuals involved without their consent.
2. Outrage over the increased cost of utilities being passed onto local/state rate payers as a byproduct of undergrounding services they didn't ask for, don't agree with, and don't feel it's their responsibility to pay.
3. Frustration with SDG&E's lack of respect for private property rights, privacy, and common courtesy; concern that SDG&E has not been entirely accurate with their easement mapping and planning of this underground grid system.

SDG&E cited and referred to Statutes in California law that provide easement access for the purpose of public utility as defined by the California Energy Commission.

Patterns emerged from many different community members sharing their opinions, questions, and perspectives, it became apparent there was a large percentage of locals that had a similar shared unpleasant experience with SDG&E. To gauge how pervasive and repeated this issue was within the community (statistically speaking) the question was posed by planning group member Anthony Ralphs, for community members to be tallied by virtue of raising their hands when asked "If SDG&E has come onto your property without your consultation, permission, and without offering compensation, please raise your hand."

Out of approximately 70 attendees present at the meeting - more than 11 people raised their hands. (Roughly one in seven).

- **PARK LANDS DEDICATION ORDINANCE (PLDO) PRIORITY LIST:** A reminder was given to the public in attendance to turn in the PLDO list at this meeting. The priority lists must be received at PLDO by 11/30/2023.
- **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPO LAKE MORENA CPG:** Resident Rhett Lawrence had requested this item added to the 10/5/2023 agenda to show support for CLMCPG in their opposition to the Crestwood Cemetery Project. Rhett Lawrence also asked a letter be sent to the Pine Valley Planning Group against the project. Chair Goodnight relayed his interaction with CLMCPG Chair to the Group regarding the project. A motion was made and passed to submit the support letters to CLMCPG and PVCPCG.
- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION:** The association of Planning Groups are requesting votes from the Planning Groups to join the APG, if voting to join, select a representative and alternate. A motion was made and passed to join the Association. Earl Goodnight was selected as BCPG representative and Nancy Good as the alternate representative. Chair Goodnight added a footnote saying the SANDAG Board had voted to remove the mileage use tax from their 2025 Regional Plan.

F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **LETTERS WITH SCHEDULED SDG&E ELECTRIC WORK:** Chair Goodnight relayed information on SDG&E's next planned undergrounding and steel pole replacement projects in the Boulevard area.
- **MESSAGE FROM MARIE WALDRON STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER, ON PROP 13:** Information was shared from Assemblymember Waldon regarding Amendment 13 (ACA 13) which will remove property tax protection from Prop.13. Chair Goodnight urged all in attendance to make sure you are registered to vote and exercise your rights and vote when this issue comes up on the ballot.

- **CANNABIS PROGRAM EIR- PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:** The NOP for the EIR is being circulated for public review from 9/13/2023 to 10/31/2023. Information on the two PDS virtual meetings was provided.

REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS: Mark Ostrander gave a brief presentation about the need for community fund raisers and donations both big and small. Mentioning that the Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance is solely financing the community center and needs help to keep the lights turned on.

G. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. 100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR PLUS BATTERIES ON THE EMPIRE RANCH:

- Jim Whalen was asked to read the eight suggested improvements for the Boulevard area that could possibly come from financial benefits in the Starlight Solar Project. No consensus was achieved after discussions with the Planning Group and attending community members, though there was support expressed for a pocket park next to the community center.

2. RUGGED SOLAR:

- This Project is undergoing change of ownership.
- Chair Goodnight gave a brief statement to clarify some misinformation on the benefit package presented to Boulevard that's within the Project. The \$900,000 monetary donation remains within the project under the new ownership.

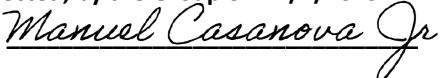
H. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Rhett Lawrence referenced Pamela Haas's petition letter for the Cemetery Project.

- Gave a brief presentation about the importance of defending water quality against the contamination of the proposed cemetery near Miller Valley.
- He mentioned that this petition would be available on the Facebook page he launched called "Mountain News & Views" and he encouraged everyone to sign it and asked that the Boulevard Planning Group vote in favor of taking swift action to support Campo in this matter.
- Rupert Pedrin shared comments before meetings end: He hopes Starlight Solar will increase their voluntary donation and would like to see commercial proposals for the use of their donated funds.

I. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2023.

For More information contact Earl Goodnight at blvdgoodnight@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 were approved, as corrected, by the Group on 11/2/2023.

Manuel Casanova Jr., Secretary: 

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