

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (BCPG)  
JANUARY 8, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

Tonight's meeting was shared on Zoom.

BCPG meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

**ROLL CALL**

- 1) Manuel Casanova, Jr.
  - 2) Earl Goodnight
  - 3) Carl Anderson III
  - 4) Anthony Ralphs
  - 5) Melanie Hayden
  - 6) Vacant
  - 7) Nancy Good (absent, excused)
- A quorum was present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVE MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 4th MEETING**

A motion was made by Casanova to approve the minutes with correction of typo, second was made by Anderson.

**Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, 1 Absent      Motion carried, minutes were approved**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. DESERT JEWEL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)**

Michael Huynh, and his team from the AES Corporation were present to provide updated information and to answer questions that were left unanswered from the September meeting on the Desert Jewel BESS Project. The project is still in the Preapplication process with the County.

The meeting had an overflow attendance. The Q&A session ran quite long.

AES was questioned extensively regarding battery types, noise, fire risks, and the possibility of future expansion of the project at this site. They were grilled heavily for a community benefit package but were unable to offer anything at this time. They assured the group this could be worked out. Consensus of the community was this project was not wanted in our area. Rupert Pedrin informed AES he would be their worst neighbor.

**2. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Group members shall nominate and vote to elect officers for positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to serve year 2026. Newly elected members assume office effective February 5, 2026.

Following nominations motions were made and seconded to elect Earl Goodnight Chair, Anthony Ralphs Vice Chair, Manuel Casanova Jr., Secretary.

**Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant      All officers were elected for year 2026**

**GROUP BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **DISCRETIONARY PERMIT FOR AMERICAN TOWER'S 43.5 FT. COMMUNICATION SITE UPDATE**  
Chair relayed information received after BCPG's recommendation.

Submittal of Form #534, denying the request, initiated the following response from Patricia Caldron, County Planner:

She stated the facility had been in place for 15 Years. The re-permitting was requested to ensure compliance with the current County Wireless Ordinance; she also supplied the following.

"The Boulevard Planning Group had expressed concerns regarding potential health effects from EMF (Electromagnetic Field) and RF (Radiofrequency Field) energy. We appreciate the planning group's concerns regarding the potential health effects from the existing wireless facility, and we will do everything we can to address your concerns or answer any questions. By federal law, the County is prohibited from regulating the placement, construction and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency (RF) emissions, if the facilities comply with the FCC's regulations concerning RF emissions. Therefore, information or comments relating to such effects will not be considered by the County in determining whether to approve this Use Permit Modification.."

- **SOCIALLY EQUITABLE CANNABIS PROGRAM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING**

Information was shared for the upcoming BOS meeting

The Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the Socially Equitable Cannabis Program. The hearing information is as follows:

**Date:** January 14, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 310, San Diego, California 92101

- **COUNTY'S AGING & INDEPENDENT SERVICES (AIS)**

AIS had requested their information be shared with the community.

AIS provided a link to their winter 2026 newsletter, The link is listed below:

[AIS Community Newsletter for Winter 2026.](#)

- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION** The Association of Planning Groups (APG) minutes for SANDAG's Board of Directors December 2025 meeting was included in the agenda packet.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

These items were included in the agenda packet

From a San Diego article. The CPUC trimmed the rate of profit that investor-owned utilities this includes (SDG&E) will make.

Days later an article ran, Prepare for a bump in your SDG&E bill.

San Diego is fast tracking fire safety rules for homes. If you fall under the Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grants Program, they are providing grants for financial assistance for the Zone Zero requirement.

BOS voted 4-1 to pass a resolution opposing Trump's plans to reopen California offshore for oil drilling. The lone NO VOTE was Joel Anderson.

- **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS**

The last chipping event for the year was December 13<sup>th</sup>. Aaron Pierson (chipping vendor) spent 3 days trimming trees and general clean up of the area.

Fire Safe & Revitalization meetings will be Monday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 & 7:30

## PROJECT UPDATES

1. **100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE**

Per Jim Whalen: Nothing new to report, things are moving along.

**2. 74 MW RUGGED SOLAR**

Per Jim Whalen: Nothing to report.

**NO MOVEMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 3,4,5,7 SINCE THE JUNE UPDATE.**

Item 6 90 MW Solar and Battery Storage JVR Park project is now under construction.

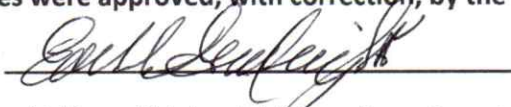
**ADJOURNMENT**

BCPG meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 5, 2026

**BCPG January meeting minutes were approved, with correction, by the Group on February 5, 2026**

**Signed: Earl Goodnight, Chair**



For more information contact Earl Goodnight, email [blvdgoodnight@gmail.com](mailto: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>.