**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**
**BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (BCPG)**
**THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

This 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 (Joined on Zoom, was advised he would not be a voting member)
5) Melanie Hayden (Excused)
6) Vacant
7) Nancy Good
A quorum was present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge was recited.

APPROVE MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR JUNE 1st, JUNE 4th, JUNE 6th MEETINGS
A correction was discussed for the June 4th minutes. Nancy Good moved to accept all three meeting minutes with correction to June 4th minutes, seconded by Carl Anderson.
Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent. 1 Vacant Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
The public communications period opened with remarks from Thomas Wall, who thanked attendees for the turnout at the town hall and provided updates related to county proceedings. He stated that the county had confirmed increased water for battery storage safety and that the applicant agreed to provide pond water from Empire Ranch, totaling 1.8 million gallons. He characterized this as a significant community win achieved through public opposition and participation.

Thomas also reported that no chemical use would be permitted for the matter under discussion and that additional language was still being developed to address community concerns. He indicated that discussions with Jeff and the county were ongoing, particularly around transferability if the property is sold. Several participants requested clarity about the source of the water, the extraction method, and whether groundwater would be affected.

The discussion also emphasized preparation for the commissioner meeting scheduled for Friday, July 10, with attendance and organized public comments encouraged. Thomas explained that the group had been organized into 5 working groups, including an opening group, a fire safety group led by Adam from the tribe of Russell, and a human health and community safety group led by Jeff. Participants were instructed to submit comments by the following Wednesday and to focus on the themes of impact and restoring balance.

Multiple participants raised concerns that environmental laws and groundwater protections were being overlooked in relation to the proposed use of pond water and fire safety planning. One speaker stated that their son had researched the issue and found existing environmental laws related to a fragmented water table. Another participant asserted that the fire suppression system would require at least 6 million gallons of water to extinguish a fire and questioned whether the system could work reliably.

The group discussed where the pond water would come from and whether the pond was spring-fed, pumped from the ground, or could lower the local water table. Thomas and others emphasized that these are the questions that must be asked of the county, particularly because the language can still be negotiated before the supervisor meeting. The board also discussed the possibility of requiring the applicant to truck in water rather than use groundwater.

Later comments addressed emergency extraction access, with Dennis Berglund noting that fire trucks no longer carry suction hoses and therefore require a means of extraction. Another participant suggested that the applicant should not be allowed to refill the pond with local water after an emergency use. The discussion also returned to the broader issue of irrigation, landscaping, and whether environmental protections were being applied consistently.

From Zoom:
Kathleen Lippit offered extended public comments focused on prevention and risk awareness. She cited the Burn Institute and a $25,000 grant related to youth fire-setting intervention, explaining that the Fire Starter program uses evidence-based risk assessment tools, education, and a family-centered approach. She noted that a large portion of arson is linked to youth under 18, with nearly half of those cases involving youth 15 and under.

Kathleen then raised a separate concern about normalization of risk, using the space shuttle O-ring failure as an example of repeated warnings becoming accepted over time. She explained that engineers had warned for 10 years before the disaster, but that the danger became normalized and therefore ignored. Her point was that warning signs should not be dismissed simply because adverse outcomes have not yet occurred.

Kathleen concluded by citing a 6,000% increase in pediatric marijuana exposures in the United States between 2009 and 2024 for children under age 6. She explained that the rise is associated with cannabis products and edibles, especially those marketed with child-like packaging, coloring, and flavoring. She stressed that children are observant and that adults should take such exposure risks seriously.

<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>

1. SUPERVISOR ANDERSON REQUESTS BCPG SUPPORT FOR ENDING SECRET SUBCOMMITTEES
   Proposal to require public notice, agendas, recordings, and accessible records for Board created Ad-Hoc committees.

   Supervisor Anderson is requesting a letter of support from the Boulevard Community Planning Group.
   The board discussed a proposal from Supervisor Anderson concerning transparency requirements for the Board of Supervisors and its ad hoc committees. Chair Goodnight explained that the proposal would require public sources, public notes, agendas, recordings, and accessible records for board-created ad hoc committees. The idea was presented as a formal framework to improve transparency and participation.

   Debate followed regarding whether the proposal would create more bureaucracy or strengthen public access. One participant voiced concern that the proposal might limit a community's ability to call a last-minute meeting, while the Chair clarified that the proposal applies only to the Board of Supervisors and not to countywide subcommittees. Other participants argued that transparency would be improved because the public could see what subcommittees are doing and participate in those conversations.

   Another stated that he had read the material and considered it a supportable proposal for specialized subcommittees. He described the opposition arguments as being centered on exposure of juveniles to meetings under this framework and said the proposal ultimately did not pass in that context. After discussion, the board took action to support the proposal and send a letter of support to Supervisor Anderson's office.

A motion was made by Nancy Good to send a support letter to Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Manny Casanova.
Vote: 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain (Anderson), 2 Absent, 1 Vacant Motion failed to pass.

GROUP BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NEW BOULEVARD COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS
  Information and updates on the program to purchase and install community bulletin boards in the Boulevard areas. The presentation was to be made by Thomas Wall, Thomas reported that he was not prepared for the presentation and requested the item be moved to next month's agenda. Chair Goodnight agreed to the request.

- PLANNING GROUP SEAT VACANCIES
  The BCPG will have three (even numbered) seats up for election in the November election.
  Chair Goodnight reported that the community planning group would have 3 seats open in the upcoming November election. The candidate filing period was announced as July 17th through August 7th, with the filing deadline at 5:00 in the evening on August 7th. Instructions were provided for filing in person or obtaining and returning a candidate packet through the registrar of voters.
  Chair Goodnight also stated that he would not reapply for his seat, making this his final year of service. It was further noted that Seat 6 was already open and that Anthony still needed to commit to filling for his seat. Concern was expressed that if the vacancies are not filled, the board could fall to 4 members, which would leave it unable to function reliably if one member were absent.

  Several participants emphasized the importance of filling seats to maintain representation and community control. One participant argued that when boards are not filled, the county can proceed without meaningful local input. Another participant stated that the board should represent the community fairly, including Native, Mexican American, and women over 50 and 60 years of age, while also recognizing the practical difficulty of recruiting candidates.

- MORATORIUM ON GREEN ENERGY PROJECTS
  During the County's town hall meeting on the Starlight Solar project, a moratorium on battery projects was raised. The Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group is supporting a moratorium on Green Energy projects east of Alpine.

  Chair Goodnight explained that the battery moratorium discussion was raised at the county town hall because of the Starlight Solar project. He said that he had received a call from Stephen Biddle, Chair of the Campo Lake Morena Planning Group, who is working with Andrew Hayes from County Supervisor Anderson's office to determine whether a broader moratorium on green energy projects is feasible. The discussion included concern that if batteries are restricted, developers may shift to wind or other project types.

  Chair Goodnight added that the moratorium would affect projects 2 and 6 on the agenda, both of which are presently submitted as solar projects without batteries. If those projects later return with batteries, they will need to restart the county process.

- CRESTWOOD CEMETERY UPDATE

Dan Wery representing the Crestwood Cemetery project provided an update to the Campo Lake Morena Planning Group at their June meeting.

Agenda time is allotted for sharing the updated information. Chair Goodnight introduced the update on the Crestwood Cemetery project because of its impact on nearby residents. Ben Good explained that he has a direct boundary with the project and that the issue has been active for approximately 3 years. He said the project originally was described as a compound, but later a major use permit was filed for a cemetery. Ben described the project's early communications as misleading and said the community later learned that the plan was always for a cemetery. He stated that the project has relied on repeated studies and presentations intended to show that groundwater and the environment would not be harmed. He challenged several claims, including assertions that groundwater is 100 feet below the surface, and said that his own well water is only about 30 feet deep.

The discussion expanded to include burial practices, cultural identity, and whether the project aligns with the local community. One participant with funeral industry experience explained that the project is being framed as a natural burial operation, and that Muslim burial practices involve dirt burial and facing Mecca rather than the sun. The conversation emphasized that the local culture in Boulevard and Pine Valley is a rural homestead lifestyle and that the project should be evaluated based on compatibility with that culture and environment.

- SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION
  Association of Planning Groups (APG) May meeting minutes from The SANDAG Board of Directors meeting is included in the agenda packet. The APG also held an in-person meeting in May - information on that meeting is included in this report.
  APG's next in-person meeting will be on Saturday, December 5, 2026.

- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
  Chair Goodnight referenced a flyer concerning an additional rate hike request from SDG&E that was included in your agenda packet.

  He noted that the packet included reference to a fire in Los Angeles involving solar equipment without batteries, and he presented that as a cautionary example for the group to consider. Later, another stated that SDG&E had applied to the California Public Utilities Commission for another 8% rate increase and noted that the company had made $1 billion in profit last year and the year before.

  He also explained that there was public resistance to the rate increase at city council and referenced SD Public Power as an organization advocating for municipalized power. He stated that some cities are already paying about half as much through alternative power models. This discussion framed utility rates as both a financial and policy concern.

- FIRE SAFE & REVITALIZATION (JBRA) REPORTS
  Dennis Berglund provided an update on fire-safe and community facility activities. He reported that a grant had been awarded to provide 150 signs for residents of Boulevard, Campo, and Live Oak Springs. The signs would be made locally by a Makers Group and distributed with the help of the fire department.

  Dennis also described tire disposal and resource center operations. He noted that tire drop-off attendance had been poor, which led to only 1 container being used instead of 2. He stated that tire disposal costs approximately $4,000 per container and warned that tires pose a major fire hazard because they burn and require thousands of gallons of water to extinguish.

Additional updates included volunteer opportunities, chipping events, CPR training, cleanup work, a grant-writing seminar, and community social events. The group discussed a chipping event on July 18th, a CPR class with 25 attendees and another class scheduled for July 25th, a cleanup work party on July 25th, and a grant-writing seminar on July 23rd in the evening. A future bazaar was also announced for Sunday, August 16th, along with a recurring art show.

Dennis reported progress on a patio project measuring about 1,600 square feet that would connect the kitchen to the auditorium. He also described kitchen upgrades involving a better sink and refrigerator, with the goal of achieving an NFPA 92 approved kitchen. These improvements were presented as important for hosting pancake breakfasts, meals, and other events.

Infrastructure repairs were also discussed, including lighting, electricity, and air conditioning. Speaker 1 stated that two front lights were supposed to be replaced on the prior Friday, additional lights would be added to the back, and electrical work on the well pumps was needed. He also said that one air-conditioning leak was being fixed and that another unit had been restored to operation.

The discussion made clear that many of these repairs were being completed by volunteers and friends, though more qualified tradespeople were still needed. Dennis specifically asked for help from a plumber, sheet metal worker, or electrician. The updates underscored the ongoing reliance on volunteer labor to maintain the building and support community use.

PROJECT UPDATES

1. 100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT DRAFT EIR RELEASED 7/31/2025 (PDS2022-MUP-22-010)
   Current project progress was presented in public communications. No further information added by Jim Whalen.

2. 74 MW RUGGED SOLAR DISCRETIONARY PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 TIME EXTENSION PERMIT
   Nothing new to report from Jim Whalen.

**NO MOVEMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 3,4,5,6**
Chair Goodnight explained that County Planners were not reporting new movement on these items.

ADJOURNMENT
BCPG meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday August 6, 2026

BCPG July meeting minutes were approved by the Group, with noted corrections, on August 6, 2026

Signed: Earl Goodnight, Chair

For more information contact Earl Goodnight, email boulevardplanninggroup@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.