

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (BCPG)  
AUGUST 6, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

This meeting was shared on Zoom.

BCPG meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was recited by those in attendance.

**APPROVE MINUTES FOR July 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING**

A motion was made by Casanova, second by Anderson to approve the July minutes with noted corrections.

**Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Nancy announced a newly approved 4H program for the Mountain Empire area, serving children ages 5–12 (grades K–12). A meet-and-greet is scheduled for Saturday at the Steele Bridge location in Campo.\

Kathleen Lippit announced the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 9:00 AM and encouraged community members to attend and share concerns. She also noted the Social Equity Cannabis Program is scheduled to return to the Board of Supervisors on August 19 and September 2, and urged community attendance and advocacy.

Thomas Wall raised concerns about two marijuana farm greenhouse facilities west of Boulevard. One with approximately 50 greenhouses — and whether cleanup is ongoing. Plastic debris is spreading onto surrounding land. Deborah Gonzalas confirmed that code enforcement is involved and one property is being leveled with approximately 2 weeks of cleanup remaining. However, the status of the second property (the newer greenhouses on the opposite side of the road) remains unconfirmed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

No action items on this month's agenda.

**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.

Thomas Wall proposed a community-driven project to install 5 beautiful, durable bulletin boards across Boulevard to improve community communication. The first board (6 ft x 8 ft) will be fully donated — wood by

Urban Timber (Dan), roofing funded by Thomas, with support from Dan at Rose Acres. Locations: (1) Back Country Resource Center, (2) Mountain Top, (3) Cowboy Coffee, (4) Jamison Liquor, (5) Post Office.

- **ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) PUBLICATION "INSIGHTS FROM EPRI'S BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) FAILURE INCIDENT DATABASE"**

This database has been implemented into San Diego County's Best Practices Policy on BESS construction.

Anthony Ralphs had done extensive search into Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Tony will share several key findings from the EPRI's **BESS Failure Incident Database**.

Anthony Ralphs presented findings from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) publication on BESS incidents. Key findings:

(1) No current federal, state, or local jurisdiction requires incident reporting or disclosure for BESS failures. (2) The number one root cause of incidents is integration, assembly, and construction — not the battery cells themselves. (3) The most dangerous period is the first 1–3 years operation, with failure likelihood dropping significantly after year 3. (4) Legal barriers often prevent root cause analysis from being shared publicly. (5) New York State encouraged OEMs to disclose root cause analysis but stopped short of requiring it. (6) San Diego County has included this report in its BESS best practices policy but has not implemented it as mandated county code. Tony spoke with Corey Schumacher from IBEW, who confirmed the report is referenced in the county's best practices but is not a mandate. OEMs resist mandatory disclosure due to liability concerns. Tony proposed the planning group advocate for San Diego County to become the first county to mandate incident disclosure, with provisions protecting OEM proprietary technology. Statistical analysis by Jeff indicated an approximately 20% annual incident probability for a facility of this size (~868 MWh), with a ~99% probability of at least one incident over the project lifetime.

**Needs Improvement:** No mandatory incident disclosure exists at any government level. The same skilled labor crew that install BESS systems should maintain them, Crew changes at Escondido and Otay Mesa projects contributed to fire incidents Certification and Training requirements for all personnel working on BESS installation and maintenance need to be mandated. Security concerns (cyber-attacks, human-caused fires) have not been addressed in any planning documents.

- **UPCOMING DRAFT BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) ZONING ORDINANCE PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

The County of San Diego Planning & Development Services (PDS) is pleased to announce that the Draft Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Zoning Ordinance amendment will be made available for public review in mid-August. The 45-day public review period will end in late September.

Chair relayed the information about the upcoming release of the County's BESS Ordinance Amendment and the possibility of County Staff presentation at our September meeting.

- **PLANNING GROUP SEAT VACANCIES**

The BCPG will have three (even numbered) seats up for election in the November election. You may file for candidacy in person at the Registrar of Voters, or documents may be picked up by the candidate, or by the person authorized by the candidate. The form needed to authorize someone to pick up the candidate's documents is available. To make an appointment, call **(858) 505-7260** or email:

[CandidateFiling@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CandidateFiling@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Chair advised the final day to file for candidacy was Friday 8/7.

- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION**

Association of Planning Groups (APG) June 2026 meeting minutes from The SANDAG Board of Directors meeting were included in the agenda packet.

APG's next in-person meeting will be on Saturday, December 5, 2026.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair advised for those interested in the following programs; the information was in the agenda packet.

Summer 2026 Aging & Independence Services Bulletin is available.

Intel to Action Workshop number 2. The session will focus on how to utilize PACE for wildfire evacuation and strategies and tactics for survival.

Sexually violent predator released to home in Borrego Springs

Chair also relayed the following:

Supervisor Desmond is reportedly bringing a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to prevent the 145-mile Golden Pacific PowerLink transmission line from running through Anza Borrego Park, which may require rerouting the line west near or through Boulevard where two transmission lines already exist.

- **FIRE SAFE & REVITALIZATION (JBRA) REPORT**

Dennis Burlung delivered The Fire Safe and Revitalization reports via Zoom.

**Fire Safe:**

- (1) First community cleanup of 2026 scheduled for August 15 at the Back Country Resource Center with 3–4 compacting dumpsters. Recycling and e-waste accepted. Funded by SDG&E and County.
- (2) 150 free address signs available for the first 150 sign-ups; schools participating — children who get parents to sign up receive a free first aid kit.
- (3) Tentative meetings arranged with Sheriff and Cal Fire for community Q&A evenings; dates are not yet confirmed.

**Revitalization:**

- (1) Art show displayed in auditorium; bazaar scheduled for August 16.
- (2) \$46,000 grant received for kitchen, patio, and door repairs but county has not yet disbursed funds.
- (3) Board recruitment ongoing — multiple volunteer responses received.
- (4) Sheriff's department may be moving out, potentially freeing space for community use (youth center, business, etc.).
- (5) New electrical work being done by a volunteer; well repair in progress.
- (6) Halloween event being planned — volunteers needed.
- (7) Several new grants are being explored.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

1. **100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT DRAFT EIR RELEASED 7/31/2025 (PDS2022-MUP-22-010):**  
Nothing new to report.
2. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR DISCRETIONARY PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 TIME EXTENSION PERMIT:**  
Nothing new to report.

**NO MOVEMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 3,4,5,6**

**ADJOURNMENT**

BCPG meeting was adjourned at .8:53 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 3, 2026

BCPG August meeting minutes were approved. as written. by the Group on September 3.2026.

Signed: Earl Goodnight, Chair

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