

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP**

*****APPROVED MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 2013*****

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM:

A. ROLL CALL:

- **Members present:** 1) Robert Maupin; 2) Melody Ponchot; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand (confirmed by BOS on Sept 26 with term ending Jan 2017); 7) Jeffrey McKernan;
- **Members absent:** 3) Chris Noland (excused—work related); 6) VACANT; Chair announced that *Seat # 6 is open for application to registered voters living within the Boulevard Planning Area;*

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 5th MEETING:

- **M/S: McKernan: Approve as written: Passed 5-0-0**

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- Megan Jones, Group Program Manager with San Diego County, introduced herself, stating that she is trying to make the rounds by attending at least one meeting of all Planning and Sponsor Groups.
- San Diego Astronomy Association announced and distributed flyers for their Star Party and BBQ on Oct 5th.
- Comments were made on SDG&E's Red-Flag alert announcing potential power outages and intentional shut-off of electricity to impacted areas to help prevent fires.
- Questions were raised on what SDG&E will do if and when Tule Wind and big solar projects are constructed in Boulevard and a Red-Flag event occurs.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / STATEMENT RELATED TO REPEATED FALSE ALLEGATIONS:

- The Chair announced that it seemed important to video tape the meeting, and potentially all meetings, to protect the Group, based on continued false allegations being made by John Gibson of Hamann Companies and previously by other major project applicants like Enel Green Power, Iberdrola, and their hired lobbyists.
- At the September 25th Board of Supervisors hearing on the Renewable Energy Plan, Mr. Gibson accused the Boulevard Planning Group of being dysfunctional and inbred and urged Supervisors to investigate our Group.
- Gibson falsely alleged that liquor bottles were passed around in brown paper bags and that security should be present at the meetings because applicants are threatened and harassed.
- Gibson told the Board of Supervisors that the County should revert Boulevard back to an appointed Sponsor Group from an elected Group so that "property owners" could have some representation.
- Chair noted that Gibson, Hamann Companies, Tule Wind, and Soitec all have paid representation at virtually every meeting through their hired consultant, Jim Whalen.
- Chair also stated that developers, including John Gibson, Hamann Companies and Greg Lansing, were the ones that originally pushed for an Elected Planning Group but failed to get their selected candidates elected.
- These developers or their representatives were believed to be active in the Red Tape Task Force that wanted all Planning Groups eliminated.

- Chair further stated that she believed the same developers were involved in the anonymous “bulk mail” sent out from the unidentified “Bill”, with no return address, that attacked her personally with false allegations.
- When asked what was being said about the Group behind closed doors, one Staffer said that someone allegedly said they “had a gun”. Chair stated her response was that most rural residents have guns for self defense.
- The Chair reported speaking face-to-face with Deputy Matt McClendon, on October 2nd, when he stopped after seeing her parked along Old 80 taking photos of the new Fox Solar project site.
- Deputy McClendon was asked, again, if any complaints had been filed with the Sheriff’s Department about threats of violence or other issues related to our Planning Group— McClendon said ‘absolutely not’.
- The Chair reported asking numerous Sheriff’s Department representatives the same thing when similar false allegations were made by representatives from Enel Green Power, Iberdrola, and their hired lobbyists. The response was “NO”.
- When asked, Deputy McClendon confirmed that it is a misdemeanor to file a false complaint— so maybe that is why no complaints have been filed despite continued false allegations

***JIM WHALEN ACCEPTED THE CHAIR’S OFFER TO TAKE HIS PROJECT UPDATES (Soitec; RAR; RAR Road; Tule Wind) OUT OF ORDER SINCE HE HAS A LONG DRIVE HOME. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS**

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA) UPDATE (SDG&E ALTERNATIVE) & HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE BACKYARD SOLAR AND STORAGE FOR VERY LOCAL RESILIENCE & MICROGRIDS: SHOULD THE GROUP SUPPORT CCA?

- Chair reported that Mr. Sharman had to cancel and asked to reschedule to November 7th meeting

2. NEW BOULEVARD FIRE STATION:

- Should Group provide updated input to the new project manager on plans and design for new fire station to be built at new Ribbonwood Road site; address new well concerns; address current station’s dark days?
- There was a brief discussion on the need for a Q & A session with Darlene Cervantes, the County’s new project manager for the new Boulevard Fire station; artesian well /water loss concerns; major concerns with consistent lack of staffing / dark days at existing Boulevard Fire and Jacumba Fire.
- **M/S: Maupin/Strand: Request project manager for new Boulevard Fire Station to come to November 7th meeting for Q & A session: Passed: 5-0-0**

3. REAL EAST COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL:

- Request for Group input for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) by end of October.
- Received Howard Cook’s Jacumba Sponsor Group comments and request to Dianne Jacob for help on dark days at Jacumba and Boulevard stations—dated 9-27 before & 9-30-13 after Fire Safe meeting.
- At the Aug 2 meeting, it was agreed that Jeff McKernan and Tammy Daubach would be an ad-hoc committee for the Planning Group that would report back.
- Daubach introduced Orson who is consulting with the Real East County Fire Safe Council on the CWPP.
- Daubach and McKernan reported they learned at the Sept 30th Fire Safe Councils meeting that ECO Substation mitigation funding meant for firefighting apparatus and special training is going to non-impacted stations at Lake Morena and Descanso instead of disproportionately impacted Boulevard & Jacumba fire stations that are currently dark.

- It was reported that SDG&E's Cameron Durckle stated, at that meeting, that ECO Substation had the largest footprint of any substation in California / nation.
- ISO inspector is due any day for fire insurance rating. Currently rated 9 with increase to 10 expected due to increased fire hazards generated by Sunrise Powerlink, ECO Substation, Boulevard Substation, new power lines and pending industrial scale wind and solar projects.
- Bob Maupin noted that CalFire's White Star station was built on high point on Tierra Del Sol Road to avoid heavy water trucks having to go uphill when leaving on a call and for the 360 degree views.
- **M/S:McKernan/Maupin: Authorize Chair to write CWPP letter with current and previous concerns raised by November 1st: Passed: 5-0-0**

F. GROUP BUSINESS: Announcements; correspondence; discussion items; project updates

- Chair reported receiving information on a ***new 12.5 MW 75 acre Kumeyaay Solar project planned by Infigen Energy*** on Campo tribal lands between Infigen's Kumeyaay Wind turbines and the turbine substation on Williams Road, just north of I-8 (map provided in agenda package)
- No tribal action was taken on Kumeyaay Solar at Campo's September General Council meeting. No word if it will be on placed on the agenda for the Oct 13th General Council meeting. Map is included in agenda package.

1. Border Patrol Report:

- No report. Budget cuts are reportedly restricting activities like community meetings.

2. Revitalization Report:

- Tammy Daubach reported that East County has been taken off the maps and out of SANDAG plans
- Mt Health is still offering Senior Transportation Service for those over 60

3. Fire Safe Council Report:

- Tammy Daubach gave the report. Next meeting will be 6:30 Oct 28th at USFS Cottonwood Fire Station at 3134 Buckman Springs Road.
- Oct 16th Start Smart community service program with Sheriff's Dept and Mt Empire Collaborative will be held at Mt Empire High from 5:30-9:00 PM. Dinner and child care. RSVPs are necessary.

4. COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN UPDATE:

- Chair reported on Sept. 25th Board of Supervisors hearing. County vote / minutes provided in agenda package (see related Chair's report on page 1)
- Community Choice Aggregation (SDG&E alternative) was well supported. I spoke for the planning group, Bob Maupin and Ted Tibbetts, both neighbors of Soitec's TDS project spoke out.
- Industry was well represented, including Jim Whalen for ECRC, John Gibson For Hamann Companies; Patrick Brown (former Soitec project manager for County) was there for Soitec, Consultant Chris Brown (Sol Orchard and others?), cleantech, taxpayers association and others.
- Industry successfully pushed to remove critical economic cost/benefit analysis on the costs of various forms of renewable energy generation and the cost of transmission—and against pipelining projects—now gone from study.
- Supervisors voted to support Phase One of the plan that includes community choice,

5. MAJOR PRE-APPLICATION MEETING SUMMARY FOR INFIGEN'S 30 MW FOX ACRES SOLAR (PDS2013-MPA-12-012):

- Chair reported that no MUP application has yet been filed. Review and discuss Pre-application Meeting summary of major issues, key decisions/determinations and guidance for project

processing documented in PDS letter dated September 5th. County letter was pretty strong on project impacts

- Project address: East of intersection of Hwy 94 and Tierra Del Sol Road: APN'S: 610-062-20, 21,46,47,48, 612-040-03, 53, 57, 59 & 612-041-01; Property owners: Robert & Mele Fox, 38951 Hwy 94.
- Concerns were expressed by group and public over yet another energy project proposal.

6. CHAPMAN RANCH SOLAR PROJECT:

- Preliminary informal information received regarding a 50 acre solar project reportedly planned by Solar Electric Solutions LLC on 132.94 acres (APN 612-030-15) known as Chapman Ranch located at McCain Valley Road and Rocky Knoll Road north of I-8: Company website: <http://www.solarelectricsolutions.com/>
- A copy of the project area map included agenda packet.
- Chair reported that David Revelt, Director of Development, had met with her previously and with Bob Maupin, separately on the day the blade fell off one of the Ocotillo Wind turbines.
- Revelt later told the Chair they had decided not to meet with our planning group
- Chair reported having messages out to David Revelt and PDS to see where the project stands.

7. PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR 4 SOITEC SOLAR PROJECTS: 168.5 MW OF CONCENTRATING PV SOLAR (7,290 tracking CPV modules @1,200 sq ft each) TOTALING 1,473 ACRES: AB900 CERTIFICATION FOR FAST-TRACKING SIGNED BY GOVERNOR FOR RUGGED SOLAR AND TIERRA DEL SOL SOLAR:

- 60 MW Tierra Del Sol Solar & 80 MW Rugged Solar projects are being evaluated at a project-specific level. 6.5 MW LanWest and 22 MW LanEast evaluated at a programmatic level. County project manager: Ashley Gungle: 858-495-5375; Ashley.gungle@sdcounty.ca.gov; Documents posted here: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/ceqa/GPA12-010.html>
- Consultant Jim Whalen was present for applicant.
- Whalen confirmed that LanWest MUP application had been withdrawn.
- When asked why and if LanWest would return, Whalen responded that the LanWest Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was needed for another project and that LanWest could return.
- Chair reported talking to Ashley Gungle earlier in the day—who reported that the EIR release had been pushed back to end of October—waiting for applicants to answer all their questions.
- Staff is considering taking Soitec's tour of 1.5 MW Newberry Springs project – had been delayed on Soitec's end.
- Chair reported going to Newberry Springs and strongly suggested others take the trip to see just a small example of what is coming to Boulevard.
- Soitec's Groundwater investigation is still under review by Jim Bennett, County groundwater geologist
- Discussion on whether to hold the Soitec Draft PEIR public meetings as part of a Planning Group meeting guided by our group, or to hold a separate meeting controlled by County staff
- There was a consensus that it would be better to hold the Draft PEIR meeting through our Planning Group.

8. ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPGROUND/CONFERENCE CENTER/ROCKCRUSHING: COUNTY'S FIRST ITERATION REVIEW OF INITIAL STUDIES: MUP #11-002; 3300-12-020(P12-020); 3300-12-021(P-12-021):

- 2750 MCCAIN VALLEY ROAD: 753 ACRES ZONED RL80/A72: Rough Acres Foundation / Jeff Hamann: MUP for Conference /Corporate Retreat Center; Skeet Shooting range; 2

Campgrounds; 200 seat amphitheater; 3 private residences with barns; agricultural barns. Project access via Ribbonwood and McCain Valley Road. County Project Manager: Jim Bennett; jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov; (858) 694-8846. *Group recommended EIR at Sept 5th meeting*

- Jim Whalen was present for applicant.
- Letter requesting EIR is under review by the County
- EIR decision expected in 2-3 weeks.

9. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD MAJOR GRADING PERMIT: PDS2011-2700-15622: APPLICANT GREGG HAMANN: CONSIDER ENDORSING CHAIR'S COMMENTS:**

- New private connector road proposed between Ribbonwood Road and McCain Valley Road to serve as access for Iberdrola's Tule Wind, Soitec Solar's Rugged Solar and proposed Rough Acres Campground & Conference Center. Director of Planning and Development Services, Mark Wardlaw, will make decision without holding a public hearing. Project Manager: Kenneth.Brazell@sdcounty.ca.gov ; 858-694-2728 ph; 858-694-8928 fax.
- Jim Whalen was present for applicant
- Project neighbor, Linda Shannon, again stated that the new road needs to be chained off to prevent public (riff-raff) access and trespassing
- Shannon also raised concerns with road impacts on flooding and erosion to her property and has already seen some problems.
- Whalen agreed to Chair's request to help Shannon arrange a meeting with the County project manager to address her concerns.

10. **LIVE OAK SPRINGS BULK WATER SALES; DUDEK'S NEW WORK PLAN FOR SOURCE CAPACITY STUDY & MODIFIED CPUC DECISION FOR RECEIVERSHIP:**

- CPUC's Decision D1307036 - Modifies Presiding Officer's Decision Authorizing Superior Court Action for Appointment of a Receiver for Live Oak Springs Water Company and closes Proceeding: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M074/K173/74173903.PDF> . All CPUC proceeding documents are posted here including Nazar Najor's Request for Rehearing filed August 7th and CPUC's response: <http://delaps1.cpuc.ca.gov/CPUCProceedingLookup/f?p=401:57:966144526716101::NO>
- Nothing new to report

11. **SDG&E's NEW 85-ACRE ECO SUBSTATION, 13 MILES OF NEW TRANSMISSION LINE, AND NEW LARGER BOULEVARD SUBSTATION:**

- Currently under construction in Jacumba and starting in Boulevard and Jewel Valley.
- Controversial bulk groundwater sales have been challenged.
- Contacts during construction: ecosub@dudek.com; (800) 371-8854. CPUC Construction Mitigation & Monitoring documents and reports are posted here: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ecosub/MMCRP.htm>
- CPUC project manager informed the Chair that Campo bulk water sales are in compliance-
- Chair stated it looks like manager just re-approved her own decision
- Project was reportedly stopped for over a week over cultural resources
- Boulevard site and Jewel Valley FLY YARD are in full swing
- 10,000 gallon water trucks fill up tanks at Jewel Valley and then smaller trucks fill up from there and drive back out Jewel Valley Road to Boulevard site
- Chair reported stopping across from the Boulevard Substation construction site to take photographs, standing in Old 80 public Right of Way, and was immediately approached and

watched by at least ½ dozen men—all monitors were huddled near a truck away from all the work—Chair was told it was too dangerous for them to do their work

- Chair was also told that it was illegal to take photographs of the site—which she challenged.
- No answer for why no traffic control was present – at least between 11AM-2: PM—one worker said he commutes from Murietta.

12. SEMPRA'S CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION LINE WILL CONNECT THEIR ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ WIND PROJECT WITH SDG&E'S ECO-SUBSTATION:

- Vestas 3.3MW turbines purchased. Import capacity of 1,250 MW. Approved by the CPUC, BLM and DOE. Litigation filed against federal approval on 12-26-12: <http://esjprojecteis.org/>
- Chair reported that a Federal court ruling expected soon

13. SDG&E'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW CPUC APPLICATION NO. 12-12-007 FOR PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT TRANSMISSION LINE 6931: FIRE HARDENING /SHU'LUUK WIND INTERCONNECTION PROJECT:

- SDG&E's application for withdrawal was filed on June 21st due to Invenergy's request to cease permitting and licensing of Shu'luuk Wind gen-tie.
- The fire hardening issue may be revisited in the future. Withdrawal not yet posted on CPUC project website: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/Wind_Interconnect/Wind_Interconnect.htm

14. REPORT ON LAND DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S SEPT 19TH MEETING:

- The Performance Review Committee was formed as part of the Board of Supervisors' response to Red Tape Task Force recommendations. Streamlining efforts are underway. New online services now available at Planning & Development Services: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/Performance_Review_Committee.html
- Chair pointed to helpful project flow charts included in agenda package that were discussed at the meeting she was not able to attend.

15. IBERDROLA'S 200 MW TULE WIND:

- Permits from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and State Lands Commission are still pending. Tule Wind's Golden Eagle expert sentenced for working without a permit and other offenses: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/aug/13/eagles-wildife-ramona-sentenced-bittner/all/?print> . A complaint for injunctive and declaratory relief was filed against BLM approvals in US District Court by non-profit groups in March: <http://eastcountymagazine.org/print/12724> . Tule Wind Map: <http://tulewindeccmp.com/Figure2-ProjectLocation.pdf> .
- Chair reported the Federal Court date is currently Jan 30, 2014 @ 1:30 downtown

16. WIND ENERGY ORDINANCE & PLAN AMENDMENT WERE APPROVED IN MAY: CEQA SUIT FILED IN JUNE.

- County documents and maps are posted here: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/advance/POD10007FEIR.html>
- The CEQA suit is posted here: <http://www.sandiegoreader.com/documents/2013/jun/18/lawsuit-over-wind-turbines-backcountry/>
- Chair reported current court date is Nov 15 9:15 Am Dept C-72 San Diego Superior Court @ 220 W Broadway downtown

G. ADJOURNED AT 8:45PM / NEXT MEETING SET FOR December 5, 2013:

Approved by Group: 11-7-13

Submitted by Donna Tisdale, Chair: 

For More information contact Donna Tisdale, Chair at 619-766-4170 or tisdale.donna@gmail.com