

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP
APPROVED MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MARCH 6, 2014**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM, Thursday, March 6, 2014 at Boulevard Community Center located east of the Boulevard Fire Station

A. ROLL CALL (Determination of quorum):

- Members present: **1) Robert Maupin 3) Chris Noland; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) Paula Byrd 7) Jeffrey McKernan**
- **2) VACANT**
- Chair announced that seat 2 is still vacant and open for application to registered voters living within the Boulevard Planning Area; Contact the Chair for applications. One applicant, Mr. Earl Goodnight, has applied for the last remaining vacant seat. Chair also announced that Paula Byrd is now an approved member of the BPG. Board of Supervisors approved it in their February 25th meeting.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6TH MEETING:

- Minutes were not ready for review and approval. Postponed until the April 4th meeting.

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

- Marie Morgan read a statement about the US Fish and Wildlife removing protections.
- Chris Noland said that sexually violent predator Marshall just got placed at Desert Rose Ranch Road, Jacumba.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. ROUGH ACRES CAMPGROUND (DEFERRED TO APRIL):

- The Chair reported that the County Planner, Jim Bennett, had requested to defer the item until next month after the actual Notice of Preparation (NOP) is provided by the applicant.
- Jim Whalen, project consultant, said that Bruce Robertson, with REC, will be at the April meeting to discuss the Major Use Permit (MUP) and NOP.

2. 45' FAUX WATER TOWER (DEFERRED TO APRIL) :

- The Chair reported a request from the applicant to delay action due to
- Chair made a site visit with Steve Laub of Site Master, Planner Marisa Smith, and neighbor, Oscar Trauble.
- Both the Chair and Oscar Trauble asked that the tower be located further away from Trauble's residence.
- Chair questioned why they needed a tower at that height when they have a direct line of site, to the White Star cell facilities on Tierra Del Sol Road, from ground level.

3. FIRE STATION SITE PLAN:

- Donald Kraft was not present.
- Previously, BPG signed a Site Plan Waiver at the County's request to save \$250,000 in new energy efficient requirements.
- Supplemental application has a few errors with acreage. Boulevard Trail route not shown on vicinity map.
- Access changed from Manzanita Dulce to Ribbonwood Road,
- Increased size from 5k sq ft to 8k sq ft.
- Plan shows non native vegetation and sprinklers, when native vegetation with drip lines should be used

- The 30' communication tower should be located further away from the closest residences, the
- Solar array has not yet been located so we don't know if glare will be a problem or if the communications tower will generate some form of electrical disturbance.
- Residents have expressed concerns with unanswered questions about the on-site well details
- Concerns with continued off road vehicle use, split rail fencing should be installed to allow wildlife to move.

M/S: Noland/McKernan: That we forward comments above: Passed 6-0-0

4. RESIDENT REQUEST FOR TRUCK SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON RIBBONWOOD ROAD

- Linda Shannon asked for speed limits on Ribbonwood Road, where she lives
- She requested 35 mph for trucks and 45 mph for cars
- Concerned about reckless drivers and increased truck traffic on Ribbonwood if new projects proposed for Rough Acres Ranch and McCain Valley goes through.
- There are wild turkeys and occasional loose horses in the area, so speed is a concern
- Linda is asking for posted signs for the proper speed for big rig trucks and passenger cars, one at the beginning near I-8 and one at "Cemetery" road, aka proposed Rough Acres Ranch Road
- Road damage is caused by big rigs downshifting and turning sharply, per Linda's husband who is a professional truck driver.
- Linda went on a ride along with another County DPW tree trimmer earlier in the day.
- Tom Herzberger, Frank Arebalo, and Chris Hanger were present from DPW
- The DPW representatives told Linda they would pass along information to the Traffic Section.
- A posted speed on Jewel Valley is also needed.

M/S: Maupin/Noland: Motion to support the request and forward to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) requesting that the County install speed limit signs on Ribbonwood Road. Passed 6-0-0

5. DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST TO HELP IDENTIFY PRIORITY ROADWAY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN BOULEVARD PLANNING AREA:

- Thomas Herzberger and Frank Arebalo are with the Field Operations Group at the Dept of Public Works.
- Chris Hanger was also present and he is with the Capital Projects section (separate projects).
- The Chair reported that Ken Daubach went to Cal Fire's White Star station and secured recommendations on the road improvements.
- Jewel Valley Road is in terrible condition and getting worse with the ECO Substation construction.
- Ribbonwood Road is substandard and going to be overburdened by Tule Wind, Rugged Solar, Rough Acres Ranch Campground.
- There are line-of-sight issues at Rough Acres Ranch Road and Ribbonwood Road, especially with big rock.
- McCain Valley Road is substandard and was overburdened by Sunrise Powerlink and potentially Rugged Solar, Tule Wind, and Rough Acres Campground /conference center project.
- Bad line-of-sight Site at Hwy 94 and Tierra del Sol Road which would be used for construction for Tierra del Sol Solar, which is a very bad intersection that's already been on the list. Last time it was estimated at over \$1 million to fix. Hard to imagine heavy construction traffic going up and down that road and trying to get across there.
- DPW reminded the Group that Hwy 94 is a state highway and not under County jurisdiction.

- Tierra del Sol Road has a narrow, twisty spot in the High Pass area with oaks and boulders on the shoulders.
- Bad line-of-sight at the corner of High Pass and Tierra Real Lane (active Bus Stop right there).
- Robert Maupin raised questions on whether or not his section of Tierra del Sol Road is County Maintained or not. When his family gave up land to the County for Tierra Del Sol ROW, they were promised that their section of the road would be graded and maintained to their house. However, it has not been maintained.
- He has struggled in the past with a berm the County created that had to be knocked down so he could exit his property.
- The County is taking a long range look at resurfacing throughout the County and DPW is visiting every single Planning Group to find out the priorities.
- The preliminary DPW map was reviewed.
- Arebalo went over the identified areas and asked for suggestions or changes.
- It was brought up that SDG&E and developers should be responsible for the cost of the resurfacing projects when they are the ones causing the most damages.
- Arebalo said SDG&E and the developers do not easily negotiate or take responsibility for damage
- The Chair brought up concerns that DPW is not in the loop with Planning Groups on these projects.
- An example of this is SDG&E started a project on Jewel Valley Road and we kept asking what it was. Turns out they were burying an experimental 12kv line. That project was actually a Connected Action to the ECO Substation construction project that was not included in the EIR review.
- The community was totally left out of the loop. Trying to track down what a project is after it's been started is very difficult.
- Arebalo stated that SDG&E has an overhead and underground section. So sometimes information is sent to one side, but not the other and it does not get to the right person.
- 80 ton cranes and 40 tons of equipment will be coming down Ribbonwood Road for Tule Wind, if that project moves forward.
- That road was never designed or built properly to begin with because no one ever envisioned the road being used for this amount heavy traffic or so many large-scale projects.
- Jim Whalen asked if a county road was rated for 50,000 pound, but the crane/equipment is 80,000 pounds, how that gets resolved. DPW didn't know.
- The Chair stressed that during the construction of 1 to 2 years, these roads will be ruined and these roads are one way in, one way out roads used by residents. Community members will not only have to deal with traffic, but with damaged roads.
- Why didn't DPW require the Border Patrol to fix Ribbonwood Road when their huge facility went in?
- The Chair said project applicants need to kick in road funds and asked DPW how the Group can help DPW get funding for roads from those that damage them.
- DPW said the planning group can help by requesting road work tied to projects. The Chair answered that we do. DPW thought our recommendations carried a lot of weight.
- The other Planning Groups and communities are not as disproportionately impacted as Boulevard is.
- DPW said that they have to fight to get anything paid for by SDG&E or developers, just like we fight them to get them to mitigate. DPW was not familiar with Soitec Solar or Iberdrola Renewables.
- Jeff McKernan suggested that DPW review the traffic section of the DEIR so they can figure out the average daily trips, etc, to compare increased use and potential damage. DPW acted totally unaware of the existence of the DEIR for the Boulevard projects.
- DPW wants a prioritized list from BPG within 45-60 days. They are visiting all other groups by this summer.

- \$6 million a year budget from the gas tax.
- Ken Brazell is in the Land Development Department.
- The Chair stated that Ken Brazell does not respond to her.
- The Chair informed DPW that we have a brand new proposed (major use grading permit) road going in (Rough Acres Ranch Road) across the Tule Lake floodplain.
- Seems like that project should be coordinated with what DPW is doing now (resurfacing projects).
- Ken Brazell is one of the men that sit in the negotiating room with SDG&E and DPW.
- The Chair said that she has tried to contact with him, but so far it's a one way conversation.
- Chris Hanger, with Capital Improvement projects for County ROW only, asked for BPG suggestions on new projects.
- In response to a question, Hanger said they can use eminent domain when necessary, but they try to stay within existing ROWs.
- Two railroad bridge projects are now going on in Jacumba.
- DPW said they are restoration projects to make them safe.
- They are aware of need to protect historic bridges and concrete sections of Historic Route 80.
- Hanger said they also deal with trails, sidewalks and ADA compliance.
- Bob Maupin inquired about the ownership of the culvert on his section of Tierra del Sol Road.
- Arebalo suggested that Maupin send him the map and information and they will try to track it down, but Maupin should also try to track it down.
- Paula Byrd raised concerns with alleged illegal moving of the gate to Opalocka Road to include property that was never included as part of the Rancho Boulevard Estates.
- Opalocka Road used to be maintained by the County and now it is not.
- Byrd was directed to go to Planning and Development Services, or Code Enforcement.
- Jim Whalen offered to ask Ken Brazell to respond to the Chair.
- **Selected DPW maintenance priorities:** 1. Jewel Valley Road, Old 80 to end of pavement 2. Ribbonwood Road from I-8 to end of pavement.
- **Selected Capital Improvement priorities:** 1. Line-of-sight on Jewel Valley Road at Jewell Valley Way, 2. Ribbonwood Road (north) line-of-sight and transition at Opalocka Road 3. Ribbonwood Road , previous line-of-sight project.

M/S: McKernan/Maupin: submit approved priority lists (DPW maintenance & CIP): Passed: 6-0-0

6. PRIORITIZE UPDATED BOULEVARD NEEDS AND MITIGATION LIST; ACTION:

- The DEIR does not address the impacts that they are claiming are being built for climate change, but they are not talking about the predicted impacts of reduced rainfall, reduced recharge rates, reduced water resources and increased fire risks. Can't have it both ways.
- The Chair said that she thinks her well is being impacted by the bulk water sales of Campo Reservation.
- The well is not recharging like it was before.
- **Selected Priorities:**
 - **#1: Public Health and Safety: Water is top priority:** Large-scale projects, including Soitec Solar projects should provide funding that is contractually dedicated to support the County's current and expanded Groundwater monitoring network of willing well owners, using transponders, within the Boulevard Planning Area, for the life of their projects, including any project extensions.
 - **#2: Emergency Services:**

Request a written commitment from the County to re-designate Boulevard Fire to full time career/staffed station with funding from Soitec Solar for staffing and specialized training and equipment for electrical fires for the life of projects—with equipment and staff to be stationed in Boulevard only, not some other community 50 miles away.

- **#3: Road improvements & maintenance:**

Soitec to pay for Road improvements prior to construction of Rugged Solar, Tierra Del Sol Solar, LanWest, LanEast and/or Los Robles

#4: Written commitment form County for future new Multi-use community center at current Boulevard Fire station property, once new station is up and operating, with funding from Soitec Solar

#5: Property Value Guarantee Agreements

#6: Wildlife and Biological protection and mitigation

#7: Noise reduction and mitigation

#8: Tree Propagation & Replacement program

M/S:McKernan/Byrd: To support priorities 1-8 as adopted. Passed 6-0-0

7. APPLICATION FOR VACANT SEAT ON BPG FROM MR. EARL GOODNIGHT; ACTION:

- Earl Goodnight made his statement of reasons for wanting to serve on the Planning Group.
- He and his wife have lived in Boulevard since 2001.
- Lived in El Cajon 40 years before that.
- Moved to Boulevard to enjoy the peaceful scenery and lifestyle. He wants to do his part to help out.
- He does not support any of the proposed renewable energy projects.
- Will be potentially impacted if Soitec's Los Robles site is approved.

M/S: Strand/Noland: Recommend approval of Mr. Goodnight's appointment to the BPG. Passed 6-0-0

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

- Notice in the Federal Register that the Shu'luuk Wind Project EIS was formally withdrawn by the BIA
- Supplemental scoping hearing in Alpine for SDG&E's Master Special Use Permit in the Cleveland National Forest and CPUC Permit to Construct. Full house at the hearing. Sunrise Powerlink expansions appear to follow the same ROW maps. The poles are extra tall. It appears to be a stealth expansion. SDG&E said they don't know how many miles or how wide their easements are. Letters say there is an increase in carrying capacity. Some angry residents were there. Home owners upset over losing big chunks of their land.

1. Revitalization Report:

- Tammy Daubach attended Residential Leadership Academy.
- Jacumba Hot Springs May 24th Healing Waters Centennial still looking for participants
- Par Electrical Contractors refused request to support the Centennial with funding

2. Fire Safe Council Report:

- Tammy Daubach gave the report.
- Next meeting is March 29th at 5:30 at Jacumba Hot Springs Fire Station. Meetings are now bi-monthly and the last Saturday of the month.

- At the February 26th meeting the Protection Program for the Sheriff's Dept was held at the Jacumba Highland Center. 70 plus people stayed for the Sheriff's presentation and there were 31 kids in day care.
- Round 2 coming soon. Campo doing same program later.
- No local Sheriff Deputies attended.
- Bob Spanbauer in Supervisor Dianne Jacob's office was contacted by the Fire Safe Council about the insurance rating in Jacumba. It could go from a 9 to a 5 if career fire fighters are brought in.
- Boulevard Fire is not yet committed to career full time fire fighters.
- The Sheriff's Dept needs another Boulevard representative for a quarterly meeting, weekdays in Pine Valley.
- Next meeting in May. Bob Maupin volunteered. Tammy will submit his name for approval.

3. COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED: SOITEC SOLAR PROJECTS (PDS2012-3910-120005): DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (DPEIR) REPORT FOR FOUR BOULEVARD PROJECTS WITH 7,409-8,415 CPV SOLAR TRACKERS @ 1,200 SQ FT EACH:

- Public comment period extended to 4PM on Monday March 3rdth.
- Chair reported submitted comments for the BPG
- Good comments came in from Volker Law for Backcountry Against Dumps, the Protect Our Communities Foundation, the Anza Borrego Foundation, Cleveland National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, Conservation Biology, Chris Noland, Howard Cook, Mark Jorgensen (former ABSP Superintendent), local residents, Newberry Springs Alliance listing their objections and bad experiences with Soitec, a Newberry Springs group called CEQA Now, and others.
- It may be 60 days or more for the County to respond to all the comments

4. REPORT ON FEBRUARY 19TH SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING HEARING IN ALPINE FOR SDG&E MASTER SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST AND CPUC PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT APPLICATIONS:

A supplemental scoping meeting will be held February 19th in the at Alpine Community Center (Oak Room), 1830 Alpine Blvd from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

- Supplemental scoping comments are due March 7, 2014, send to: cnfmsup@dudek.com.
- There was a full house at the Feb 19th hearing. This project appears to be a stealth expansion of Sunrise Powerlink when you connect all the projects, all the interconnected power lines, and proposed solar projects.
- SDG&E claims they are not increasing carrying capacity of their lines—but impacted homeowners were there that pointed to letters they got from SDG&E that said they are increasing capacity.

5. ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD MAJOR GRADING PERMIT: PDS2011-2700-15622: APPLICANT GREGG HAMANN:

- Nothing new...this should be a connected action project for Rugged Solar since they cannot move forward without it.

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

- Construction is ongoing
- Lots of destruction, lots of water being used, still waiting for the January Water Supply report for how many gallons were used and where they came from

- Word is that bulk water sales from the Campo Reservation wells may start up again—but the wells are recovering slower than expected—we have one well that seems to have been impacted by those bulk water sales
- It's March and there is no January report.
- Campo wells recovering very slowly and selling water for .02 per gallon.
- Challenges and recalls are looming for Pine Valley and Jacumba Water Boards if they are improperly selling water outside their sphere.

7. IBERDROLA'S 200 MW TULE WIND:

- Federal Court hearing rescheduled to March 3rd @9:30 Room 4A US District Court San Diego on the legal challenge to the BLM approved 2012 Record of Decision.
- At the March 3rd hearing, Judge Sammartino, surprised everyone by stating she had a tentative ruling that she read aloud—
- The Judge sided 100% with the government claims that no adverse impacts will be generated by Tule Wind,
- Took a 15 minute break for both sides to gather their arguments,
- Gave each side 30 minutes to argue their points and said she will issue her final ruling soon.
- No copies of her ruling were distributed and none are available now.

8. TULE WIND PHASE II:

- Demand letter written by a non-profit, not sure of status.
- The Chair reported on the Dec 16th approval by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for up to 20 turbines of Ewiiyaapaayp tribal lands.
- They are claiming that Iberdrola is going to apply for an Eagle take permit for golden Eagles. State Lands Commissions still has to approve.
- Need new road through BLM lands in McCain Valley or through tribal lands.
- It has been reported to the Chair that the health and sleep quality of residents living nearby the existing turbines has been improving since the turbines have been out of service since the December 16th turbine explosion/fire at Infigen's Kumeyaay Wind. They were experiencing much relief from the stress.
- Fuller reported that, as of December 3rd David Bittner, eagle expert who was taken to court by the feds, has not turned in eagle data, as required by his probation.
- Noland stated that the main author of the AB32 (reducing green house gases), who claimed to be a Harvard graduate, reportedly got his degree online.
- The whole bill was based on his reports and he was allowed to keep his job despite his false claims regarding his education.
- Chair reported submitting the Dec 16th turbine fire and Bittner guilty plea information to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, not knowing the Record of Decision (ROD) had been approved on the 16th.
- The ROD has still has not been published in the federal register. How long do they have?

9. WIND ENERGY ORDINANCE & PLAN AMENDMENT WERE APPROVED IN MAY 2012 AND A CEQA SUIT WAS FILED IN JUNE.

- Superior Court hearing with Judge Timothy Taylor on April 25 at 1:30 in Department C-72 in San Diego Superior Court at **220 West Broadway San Diego**.

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

- Nothing new to report. No formal application yet filed.

11. CHAPMAN RANCH SOLAR PROJECT PROPOSAL:

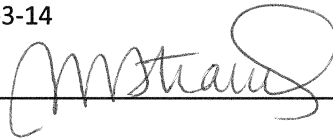
- Nothing new to report. No formal application yet filed by Solar Electric Solutions.

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

G. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM/NEXT REGULAR MEETING SET FOR APRIL 3, 2014:

Minutes approved by Group on 4-3-14

Michele Strand, Secretary: _____



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