

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES FOR JUNE 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Boulevard Fire Training Room, 39923 Ribbonwood Rd, Boulevard CA 91905

A. MEMBERS PRESENT: 1) Robert Maupin; 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 6) Paula Byrd; 7) Ronald Hynum
ABSENT: 5) Michele Strand (*excused*)

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MAY 5TH MEETING:

- *M/S: Maupin/Byrd: Accept May 5th minutes as written: Passed: 6 YES 0 No*

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Opportunity for public comment on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. No action can be taken on non-agenda items.

- Concerns were raised about rumor that the Golden Acorn Casino may be closing.
- No information was available.

E. ACTION ITEMS (Agenda items may be taken out of order)

1. **EAGLE PERMITS: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS FOR EAGLE INCIDENTAL TAKE AND TAKE OF EAGLE NESTS; ID: FWS-R9MB-2011-0094-1052: Should BPG submit comments by July 5th deadline through the County, as required by PDS?**

- The Chair pointed to the related WSJ opinion piece and Tule Wind maps for BLM, tribal land and State Land Commission land (blue) included in the agenda package.
- Reminder that Tule Wind has applied for an eagle take permit for Phase 2 on tribal land *but has not applied for a permit for Phase 1 wind turbines on BLM land.*
- Attorneys for Tule Wind and BLM have taken the position that Iberdrola is not required to apply for a permit for turbines on BLM land, based on their contention of low use by eagles, but it has been acknowledged that they take a risk in going forward without a permit.
- FWS proposes changing the take permits from current 5-years to 30-years and allowing mitigation compensation fees be paid to a mitigation bank or other programs as an alternative to developing mitigation measures for each project.
- This would potentially allow Tule Wind to install turbines on BLM land that threaten local Golden Eagles, while conservation or mitigation measures could benefit eagles in distant territories outside our area of impact. Similar to Sunrise Powerlink impacts for Bighorn sheep and other sensitive species.
- In response to questions about the legality of relying on Dave Bittner's controversial eagle work for Tule Wind, Jim Whalen confirmed that Bittner's work was the base for the EIR/EIS and that ongoing surveys are required.
- *M/S: Maupin/Hynum: Authorize the Chair to submit comments for the Group opposing the FWS proposed revisions to regulations for eagle incidental take and take of eagle nests, especially in relation to the Tule Wind project: Passed: 6 YES 0 NO.*

F. GROUP BUSINESS & PROJECT UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report

2. **REVITALIZATION REPORT BY TAMMY DAUBACH:**

- The Jacumba-Boulevard Revitalization Alliance is looking into taking over the old Boulevard Fire Dept. A donation has been promised toward the insurance for the first year.

- The next Jacumba-Boulevard Revitalization Alliance meeting will be June 6th at 6:30 PM at the old Boulevard Fire Dept. The alliance will be discussing the Boulevard Fire Department property, the buildings, and their future.
 - Plants and trees from the grant that Danielle Cook secured last year have all been purchased and distributed to the areas picked out for them.
 - June 25th will be the 100th year celebration for the Jacumba Library. There will be cake and activities for all.
 - Campo Locket Equestrian and Event Facility (CLEEF) is looking for memberships to support their cause. For \$50 for a family, you get unlimited access to the park.
3. **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORT BY TAMMY DAUBACH:**
- Property clean-up citations have gone out. Watch for snakes as you do yardwork.
 - For seniors in need of help, please contact Greater San Diego Fire Safe Council @ 619-562-0096 or info@rcsandiego.org . For anyone else, please contact the Real East County Fire Safe Council and to see if there is any way to assist you.
 - This fall, the Real East County Fire Safe Council will be hosting an S-215 class (Fire Operations Wildland/Urban Interface areas) on **August 20th** at the Highland Center with a breakfast and lunch provided. It will be all about fire safety and you will need to RSVP.
 - SRA fire fees are due again. Remember to go online to firetaxprotest.org and fill out and send in your protest.
4. **20MW JACUMBA SOLAR LLC MUP PDS2014 MUP-14-041; REPORT ON MAY 20th PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING:**
- The Chair reported that she could not attend the May 20th Planning Commission hearing, due to other obligations, but she did file comments on time for the group as promised.
 - The agenda packet included the emailed response from project manager Ashley Smith regarding the Planning Commission's recommendation for full approval of Jacumba Solar:
 - Adopt the EIR findings; Grant the MUP; Approve the Fire and Emergency Services Agreement between the County and Jacumba Solar LLC.
 - Planning Commissioners added a condition to MUP requiring removal of invasive and non-native plant species for 5 years following decommissioning of the 108-acre project site.
5. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPGROUND/CONFERENCE CENTER: PDS2012-3300-12-021 (MUP); DRAFT EIR PENDING:**
- Jim Whalen reported the DEIR is still several months out.
6. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD - MAJOR GRADING PERMIT PENDING: PDS2011-2700-15622: APPLICANT GREGG HAMANN:**
- Road construction is still tied to the Tule Wind project.
7. **SOITEC SOLAR:**
- Jim Whalen followed up on comments at last meeting regarding rumored sale of Rugged Solar to Sempra.
 - He thinks Rugged Solar has been sold but not to Sempra or SDG&E. Buyer unknown.
 - No news on any sale of the Tierra Del Sol Solar project.
8. **TULE WIND PHASE 1– SCE's 15-YEAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PPA) FOR 132MW APPROVED BY CPUC ON 4-21-16:**
- In response to request for update, the County reported the following:
 - "...the Tule Wind project is still in the process of satisfying the Major Use Permit conditions of approval and an application was received for a Minor Deviation to the approved Major Use Permit, which is currently under review by County staff".

- "Staff recently received the first submittal of the building plans, which are also under review by County staff. Staff is also processing grading permits for the proposed project, which are still under review".
 - Regarding the question of public review, staff responded as follows:
 - "We're in the process of determining whether or not any additional environmental review is required. If the grading permits and Minor Deviation are within the scope of the environmental analysis that was previously completed, no additional public review would be required because those permits would rely on the previous environmental analysis completed. Building permits are ministerial and are exempt from environmental review."
9. **TULE WIND DECISION PENDING FROM 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS APRIL 6TH HEARING CHALLENGING BLM PROJECT APPROVALS:**
 - No news to report.
 10. **PUBLIC HEARING IS CURRENTLY SET FOR JUNE 28TH IN SACRAMENTO FOR TULE WIND'S LEASE APPLICATION FOR PHASE II WIND TURBINES, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSED FOR STATE LANDS COMMISSION LAND ABUTTING MANZANITA RESERVATION'S NORTHWEST CORNER AND THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST EAST OF THING VALLEY:**
 - Still on track with no changes to date.
 11. **TULE WIND PHASE II:**
 - No news to report
 12. **COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN (CREP) POD 13-007:**
 - The draft CREP report that was posted to the County website did not include an executive summary
 - The County provided the executive summary dated 8-31-15, at Chair's request, but she had not yet reviewed it.
 13. **LANSING PRIVATE ROAD GRADING PDS2012-2700-15676, LOG NO. PDS2015-er-15-21-002: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION:**
 - Chair reported no news
 - Bob Maupin reported that former caretaker for Mr. Lansing said Lansing had lost the property and it was going back to the Haagen family June 2nd.
 - Jim Whalen asked what the community would like to see done with the Empire Ranch property.
 - Conservation was mentioned.
 14. **SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC'S MASTER SPECIAL USE PERMIT / PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT APPLICATION A1210009. THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE CPUC HAVE APPROVED THE FINAL EIR/EIS AND PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT:**
 - On May 26th, the CPUC issued the Permit to Construct and mitigation monitoring and reporting requirements.
 - No word when SDG&E will start, but it will probably be soon.

G. ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM. NEXT MEETING DATE IS THURSDAY, JULY 7TH, @ BOULEVARD FIRE TRAINING ROOM.

Minutes approved by Group on 7-7-16

Michele Strand, Secretary: 

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