

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP  
\*\*\*MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2017\*\*\***

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM** at the Boulevard Fire Training Room, 39919 Ribbonwood Rd, Boulevard CA 91905.

**Members present:** 1) Robert Maupin; 2) Earl Goodnight 3) Kevin Keane; 4) Donna Tisdale; 5) Michele Strand; 6) vacant; 7) Ronald Hynum

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** (please silence cell phones)

**C. MINUTES/SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 3RD MEETING:**

- *M/S: Hynum/Maupin: Approve August 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes as corrected: Passed: 6-0-0*

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:** No public comment

**E. ACTION ITEMS (Agenda items may be taken out of order upon request):**

1. **COUNTY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (PDS2015-POD-15-002), GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT (PDS2016-GPA-16-007), DRAFT SEIR (LOG NO. PDS2016-ER-16-00-003), PUBLIC COMMENT INITIATED:**

- The Chair reported that she was still working her way through the CAP documents and planned to attend the CAP Chairs meeting on the CAP on Saturday Sept 9.
- The County has determined that the Enhanced Direct Investment Program Alternative would be environmentally superior to the proposed CAP project because it would reduce significant and unavoidable impacts related to the induced demand for large-scale renewable energy systems while still achieving both the primary objective of GHG emissions reductions consistent with SB 32 and all other supporting project objectives.
- Under the Direct Investment Alternative, the County would pursue direct investments in local projects to offset carbon emissions to a greater degree than currently proposed in the CAP. There will be tradeoffs.
- A comparison chart of the project alternatives, showing the impacts for each, was included in agenda package.
- There is reportedly no feasible mitigation available for impacts to water, noise, or land use planning, other than avoidance of large-scale renewable energy projects. However, the type of wind turbines, transformers, inverters, etc, could allegedly help reduce impacts on a per project basis.
- Some aesthetic mitigation measures are included such as protecting dark skies, lighting, turbine shadow flicker studies, etc. Not sure they would benefit Boulevard.
- Utilities section should, but does not, include impacts from increased electrical transmission / substation equipment that Boulevard and Jacumba have been disproportionately subjected to.
- Jim Whalen found it intriguing that if you can't mitigate your own project you can retrofit other existing projects to meet your project's GHG emissions requirements.
- Kevin Keene commented on Germany's rapid installation of lots of roof top solar.

- ***M/S: Strand/Goodnight: Authorize the Chair to submit appropriate comments based on the Boulevard Planning Group's ongoing opposition to large-scale renewable energy projects; and supporting the Enhanced Direct Investment Program Alternative that would reduce induced demand for large-scale energy projects: Passed: 6-0-0***

**2. 60 MW 420 ACRE BOULEVARD SOLAR MUP12-010TE PDS2012-3300-12-00 @ 796 Tierra Del Sol Road-Scoping Letter pending:**

- Bob Maupin recused himself, explaining his conflict-of-interest due to his property abutting the Boulevard Solar project site. He read his letter that had been sent to the County, opposing the project, explaining that his wife's cancer and the loss of 3 dogs to leukemia since the Southwest Powerlink had been constructed across his ranch and started operations back in the 1980's. He also providing graphs from Dudek, showing the significant drops in his well water levels up to 100 feet during pump tests. Bob estimated that the Boulevard Project site has a 3-4% grade that slants towards his abutting property that raises concerns over flooding during significant rain events and due to potential clear-grading of the project's 420 acre site.
- The Chair stated that due to her unfortunate oversight, and failure to remind Bob Maupin to recuse himself due to his property's proximity to the project, a new vote was needed to authorize her to submit comments reiterating the Group's continued opposition to Boulevard Solar and related new transmission line.
- Invenergy needs to provide updated grading and plot plans so they can be compared with Soitec's previous plans in order to determine any increase in impacts. PV generally requires more clear-grading while Soitec claimed it needed less grading for their CPV units.
- The Chair pointed to the August 31 comment letter in the agenda package, from attorney Stephan Volker on behalf of Donna Tisdale, as an individual and the nonprofit group Backcountry Against Dumps.
- That letter lists 5 reasons to support the request for the County to deny Invenergy's request for Modification and MUP time extension.
  - First, The MUP Modification Application Fails to Provide Enough Information About the Project Changes to Support Modification Approval
  - Second, Modification Approval Would Be Premature Prior to Adoption of the County's Climate Action Plan.
  - Third, Changed Circumstances Require Supplemental Environmental Review Prior to Modification Approval.
  - Fourth the County's previous approval of this Project in its prior incarnation as the TDS Project was based in part on the former owner Soitec's proposed CPV manufacturing facility and the creation of jobs associated with use of that facility. Soitec's CPV manufacturing facility has closed and the local manufacturing jobs that Soitec had promised will never materialize.
  - Fifth, Invenergy cannot claim "priority development project" status based on the previous state designation of Soitec's former proposal to develop purportedly unique CPV technology.
- At a minimum, Invenergy should be required to honor Soitec's promised community benefits and other needed contributions such as those needed for the new Boulevard Community Resource Center.



- It was agreed that an updated community benefits / mitigation package is needed from Boulevard Solar developers:
  - Soitec's previous agreements with the Mountain Empire Schools Foundation, for \$1,000 per MW are now void as are other agreements; a onetime donation of \$1,000 per MW is not enough. We would like to see an annual contribution to the foundation in addition to the initial amount.
  - We would also like to see some form of contribution to help upgrade the Boulevard Community facility after the pending transfer from the County.
- ***M/S: Hynum/Strand: Authorize the Chair to submit comments on the Boulevard Solar project reiterating our previous objections and identifying changed circumstances and other relevant information; to request PDS to recommend that the Planning Commission deny Invenenergy's MUP modification and time extension requests, along with the new double circuit 138kV line that will impact Tierra Del Sol and Jewel Valley area residents; and the need to address mitigation/community benefit package. Passed: 4 YES votes; 1 abstention (Keane); 1 recused (Maupin); Seat 6 vacant.***

### 3. **SB649 WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES:**

- The Chair pointed to opposition info in packet provided by Supervisor Dianne Jacob's office.
- SB649 would take away local land use authority and restrict local involvement.
- Jim Whalen noted that ½ to 1/3 of City of San Diego Planning Commission work deals with cell sites. If SB649 passes, all that public input would go away.
- Kevin Keane stated that cell tower service is collapsing due to lack of sites. He is glad to see this bill. He is not a big fan of cell phone companies but more towers are desperately needed.
- The Chair expressed concerns that SB649 would allow cell towers on existing utility poles and facilities close to homes. There are related health impacts.
- ***M/S: Goodnight/Maupin: Support Supervisor Jacob's and County's opposition to SB649; Passed: 5 Yes; 1 No (Keane)***

## F. **GROUP BUSINESS & PROJECT UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY**

### 1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR SEAT #6:**
  - No applications received to date
- **AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONSE LETTER ON GROUNDWATER USE AT TULE WIND AND SDG&E PROJECTS:** Lisa Gordon, PDS Deputy Director, responded to our Group's letter sent to Dianne Jacob:
  - Staff will investigate if Tule Wind is compliance with MUP conditions.
  - The Byrd well is located in fractured rock, where well level fluctuations are expected.
  - No open codes compliance cases found for Rough Acres.
  - Rough Acres and SDG&E have both independently confirmed that Rough Acres Water Company wells are not being used for SDG&E's pole replacement project.
  - SDG&E's project water can be sourced from the City of San Diego, City of Escondido, and DD Axiom Resources (AKA Wilson Ponds). Wilson Pond is in the Japatul area.

### 2. **REVITALIZATION REPORT:**

- Friends of the Library will meet in Jacumba Library at September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
- The Boulevard Library Kiosk could open between September and December. They are currently dealing with the heat on the stainless steel and the dust coming from the off-road activity dust next door.

- Revitalization has a meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Boulevard Training Room. They are waiting for all the contracts and agreements to be signed with the Sheriffs and the Library.
- Mt. Empire School Foundation has a meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. New Board elections will take place.
- Jacumba Fall Festival will be October 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM. Food, games, and library activities for all.

3. **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORT:**

- Emergency Medical Services: Boulevard's paramedics will remain here, due to a high number of freeway calls and the proximity to the freeway. Campo wants the paramedics back.
- Community Clean-up Days: Boulevard's clean-up day had 83 truckloads of trash and 12 truckloads of chipping. The next clean-up is at CLEEF in Campo at 799 Forrest Gate on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 AM-Noon.
- No Trespassing Signs at Fire Dept: Bob Uribe and Sergeant Nancy Blanco are willing to give a talk, including education, enforcement, and signage in the backcountry, about the rules and regulations of off-road use. Bob Uribe handed out pamphlets at the Boulevard Clean-up.

4. **TULE WIND PHASE 1 - CONSTRUCTION & GROUNDWATER MONITORING UNDERWAY:**

- See Aug 4<sup>th</sup> County letter in packet from County, already addressed.

5. **TULE WIND PHASE II:**

- No news on this project.

6. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH ROAD - MAJOR GRADING WORK UNDERWAY: PDS2011-2700-15622:**

- This project has been completed and is in use. It will be removed from future agendas.

7. **ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPGROUND/CONFERENCE CENTER: PDS2012-3300-12-021 (MUP); DRAFT EIR PENDING:**

- No news on this project

8. **SOITEC'S RUGGED SOLAR:**

- Jim Whalen reported that Clean Focus is still in the picture. Soitec's MUP expires October 14<sup>th</sup>.

9. **UPDATES ON ANY OTHER UNRESOLVED ISSUES/ ITEMS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.**

**G. MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:00 NEXT MEETING SET FOR OCT 5TH, 2017@ THE BOULEVARD FIRE TRAINING ROOM.**

Minutes approved as corrected by Group on 10-5-21

Michele Strand, Secretary: 

*For More information* contact Donna Tisdale, Chair at 619-766-4170 or [tisdale.donna@gmail.com](mailto: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>