

Jacumba Sponsor Group Corrected & Approved General Meeting Minutes Of 03-27-2012

MEETING PRELIMINARIES

- Mark Ostrander called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
- Mark requested that all Cell Phones and Pagers be silenced and then led the pledge of allegiance.
- Mark called the Roll: Shirley Fisher (present), Howard Cook (present), Steve Squillaci (present) Mark Ostrander (present), and Pat Fauble (present). Mark established that there was a quorum.
- Minutes of Last Meeting – Mark Ostrander ruled that the draft minutes of the last meeting were distributed in advance and were available at this current meeting, Therefore, they would not be read. He asked if there were any additions or corrections. Pat Fauble moved to accept the minutes as written. Shirley Fisher seconded the motion. Vote taken to approve the minutes, 5 in favor, none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Eco/Tule/ESJ, Green Energy** - presentations from key utility spokespeople on project status plus group discussion on community impacts as follows:
 - **Eco** substation and related projects by Cameron Durkel. Cameron stated that the lines and other were necessary to improve the reliability of local electrical services. He also said that it helps meet the State mandate for 30% renewable energy. He also stated that:
 - Additional petitioners are requesting use of and connections to the 2 planned local substations; 6 projects for Boulevard and 5 projects for the Eco substation)
 - PUC is advising SDG&E to place underground lines from the Eco Substation to Carrizo Gorge Road. Several audience members expressed dismay, as Old Highway 80 is a designated historic highway. There was also a worry that the workers and construction would hurt tourism. An audience member asked if the lines would go down the middle of the road and Cameron said no, the shoulder. He assured the group that one lane would remain open at all times
 - Underground line requests are welcomed by SDG&E
 - SDG&E certifies that the final EIR meets CEQA requirements.
 - SDG&E is still working on fire plans.
 - Splitting up mitigation hearings are planned. Cameron promised that he would get back to us on meeting dates. Some were concerned that the meetings might not be held and that important decisions might be made under the radar.
 - Construction work is planned for 5 days a week 7AM to 7PM. County will be the ones to decide any changes
 - There have been consultations with the tribes.
 - A question was asked about Anthony Pico's (Viejas) recent comments on avoidance of consultations with the tribes but Cameron said that while the Ocotillo Express feeds into Sunrise, it is a separate project.
 - Audience member asked about the possibility of view mitigation and also were concerned about asphalt road "cave-in" as had occurred in the fiber optic project. Cameron assured the group SDGE would leave the road better than they found it.
 - Someone asked if SDGE would be opening an office in Jacumba. Cameron stated that there would be access to someone 24/7 but he wasn't sure about an office.

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- Mark asked if the fire plan had been worked out between San Diego County and Cal Fire. Cameron said they are close to agreement and that there would be a comment period.
 - Mark mentioned that there was serious concern about chaparral destruction because of repeated fires and electrical project construction.
 - Cameron was asked how many jobs had been created for Jacumba and Boulevard residents. Cameron said he knew 2,000 jobs total were created by the Sunrise project but he didn't have breakdown between local and outsiders. He did say that electrical jobs were unionized, therefore limiting local opportunities. SDGE, however had set up a "meet and Greet" with the sub contractors and individual job seekers but they were not able to direct subcontractors to hire a certain % of locals. Some expressed dismay at the failure of SDG&E to contractually insure local employment.
 - Someone asked about aviation hazards, Cameron stated that this would not be an issue.
 - Footprint of the 138 KV line poles will include metal poles.
 - Someone commented that the SDGE Alpine road construction took 18 months from start to finish, to the detriment of Alpine business
- **Tule Wind**, presented by Harley McDonald of Iberdrola:
- 200 mw Wind Turbines for McCain Valley and ridgeline
 - Cooperation from BLM/County/Tribal and State
 - Completion planned for 2013-2014
 - Will utilize Boulevard Substation to deliver energy for 60,000 homes in San Diego area
 - BLM decision was in in December. Environmental impact approval in the next month or two plus the right of way grant
 - Planning commission meeting consideration is May 18, Supervisors meeting is June 20
 - Construction could start later this year
 - Audience concerns included: Air quality. Harley said they have studied emissions and there should be no worries; Impact of project on water supplies-Harley said we have quite a lot of water and all studies they conducted suggested minimal impact; increased spread of fire through destruction of native plants, Again Harley stated that they had studied this and the effects would be minimal
 - Some stipulations set by county: roads need to be a certain width; there needs to be 24/7 access required for supervisors, no gating planned. If necessary, the Border Patrol and Sheriffs will have keys.
 - There will be fire suppressors on all turbines, steel monopoles will be used; someone will be on site. Turbine operation will be remotely monitored in Portland. There will be multiple ways to contact people cell/phone/and walkie-talkies and as an extra safety precaution, turbines will shut off automatically.
 - When asked what size the turbines will be and if they are made in America, Harley stated that they were not sure yet of the size they will be using and that the majority of the parts will be made in America.

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- Other participant concerns addressed were: About the golden eagle, Harley state that they were taking care to protect the one eagle that they have observed who is only a sometime resident and are continuing to study the issue. She did state that the Avian and Bat Protection plan was cleared through Fish& Game and Wildlife Departments. Residents were skeptical of the EIR bird and eagle counts, because residents have observed a lot of birds and eagles in McCain Valley recently and in the past. They were also skeptical of Fish and Game and US Wildlife endorsement because of both governments' promotion of "green energy".
- . When asked if there was any financial remuneration for businesses and landowners who have lost property value, she said no.
- **Sempra/International ESJ Project** presented by Alberto Rey:
 - 52 turbines currently planned for ridge 5 miles from Jacume Mexico (sister community of Jacumba, CA).
 - Sale of power was approved last week
 - They have all required Mexican permits
 - Awaiting permit from the US Department of Interior
 - Once the PUC approved the power purchase Agreement, They will start construction on Mexico side in January 2013. Once ECO is complete, their lines will join
 - Work will take 3-4 months to complete
 - Royalties to Mexico will be % of growth (fixed lease now)
 - Because they are affiliate to SDGE, there is more oversight on project and more scrutiny from PUC
 - Mexico and USA have different requirements for lighting but should have every third light lit and red light on top. Audience members had some issues with lights at other sites not working correctly. Alberto said to let him know what they are so he can address them.
 - Scope of project was asked. Alberto said there would be 400 to 1,000 turbines but should have minimal visual impact if living in USA.
 - Other concerns voiced: audience members said they were not opposed to green energy but wanted the energy sources to go close to real need IE place wind farms off of coast in San Diego; there were concerns about parts not being recycled-Alberto assured group they would be and that the towers and blades of malleable steel could be recycled along with the electronics; concerns were voiced about oil leaking in soil-Alberto made a note
- **Bill Pape, local green energy activist, requested and received time to speak on the benefits of the Eco/Tule and Sunrise Projects to Jacumba and Boulevard. He spoke to:**
 - More robust lines and a higher level of electricity dependability of electric so the Backcountry wouldn't be so vulnerable to power blackouts
 - Helping the State and Country to attain Green energy Goals
 - Providing others with clean energy
 - Developing energy sources that didn't pollute our environment
 - Desperately needed Jobs during construction and after

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- Increased business for our local ma and pa stores such as our Mt Sage market.
- **Pat Fauble moved “Jacumba Sponsor Group to vote to approve the project”. There was no second so Mark ruled that the motion failed for lack of a second. Pat and others requested that the motion be tabled for consideration at the next Sponsor Group Meeting.**
- **Standing Rules for Sponsor group** – Mark Ostrander asked Board members if they had selected which version of Standing Rules he previously distributed. Mark asked Board members to tell him of their preference for one of the three sets of rules previously distributed. After which we will review and edit the rules selected.
- **Red Tape Task Force Reduction Planning and Sponsor/Planning Group elimination-** Mark stated that the County Supervisors would be voting on it on Wednesday, March 28th. Danielle Cook would be there to take notes and to comment to the Board.
- **Wind Ordinance-** Mark did not send correspondence as his computer crashed
- **Form 700 -** Mark reminded group that March 31st was last date for submission to the County.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Revitalization update**

Revitalization Committee update by various Revitalization Committee members as follows:

- Community Garden Project by Mark Ostrander Phase 2 has been approved and check cashed. Phase 3 is being put into community plan and should happen by May.
- Lake Project by Howard Cook –(Spa and Lake owner Dave Landman) have met with Fish & Game State Parks and Audubon. Needed to keep within \$25,000 cost including signage. Estimates are at \$19,00. Tamarisk eradication was a separate but not forgotten project. Working out eradication issues and should start September 1st
- Murals (Danielle cook). In process of securing funding. Met with Supervisor Jacob and have name of County employee in charge of neighborhood improvement funds. Danielle will seek Grant money from County, SDGE, Iberdola and private parties.
- Airport-Nothing to report
- Railroad-Nothing to report

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no correspondence items.

UPDATES AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- Border Patrol Update – None
- Sheriff Update –nothing much to report except burglaries are down. Deputy Titus said they were focusing more on speeders in the school zone. A request was made from Lorrie to also look at the speeding busses
- Eye Gnat Report by Bill Pape -
 - **Symposium** (reported by Danielle Cook) Symposium held on 3/22 was a success. Had 30-40 participants and we were able to get one half hour on the program to present impacts on the community. Good contacts were made

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- **Meeting with Dianne Jacob** A meeting was held Monday night. Bill Pape, Moon Barnett and Danielle Cook attended. They discussed the eye gnat situation and Supervisor Jacob asked us to make a special PowerPoint presentation at the Wednesday Supervisor meeting. Danielle passed out an Eye Gnats Kill postcard handout that she also had distributed at the Symposium. More will be passed out at Supervisor's meeting
- Boulevard, Jacumba, La Posta Fire Safe Council and Cert (by Mark Ostrander) – Cert training started March 23 at the La Posta Substance Abuse Center. The Fire Safe Council will have "Family Night" on April 30 at the Boulevard Community Center at 6:30 PM. On 4/10 there will be a Campo Disaster Preparedness meeting. 8 residents of Jacumba will graduate CERT at CERT meeting in La Posta
- Future Agenda Items Mark reminded group to email or call the Thursday before to get items placed
- SD Gas and Electric (Cameron Durckel) - Reported that the Sunrise Powerlink project was 82% complete.

NON-AGENDA PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Bill Pape announced that the Amonix CV solar project was cancelled by the landowner.
- Tammy Daubach announced some free Calendar Events:
 - 4/28 Southern Indian Health Council Spring Gathering on Willows Road inn Alpine.
 - 6/9 10:00AM to 1:00PM Mt Empire Collaborative Fair.
 - 4/28 10-2 RX take back drop off at Albertson in Alpine.
 - 4/30 Fire Safe Council will have "Family Night" at the Boulevard Community Center at 6:30 PM.
 - The Campo Roundup will be held this coming fall.
 - Tammy has free wood chipping request forms

Meeting was Adjourned 07:46 PM. Next Meeting – April 24, 2012 6:00 PM at the Jacumba Library

Respectfully submitted by,
Howard Cook-Sponsor Group Board Member and Secretary