

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (BCPG)
*****MINUTES FOR AUGUST 1, 2024, MEETING**
AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905***

7:10 PM: BCPG Meeting was called to order.

- A. ROLL CALL (Determination of quorum):** **1)** Manuel Casanova, Jr.; **2)** Earl Goodnight; **3)** Kevin Keane; **4)** Anthony Ralphs; **5)** Melanie Zardeneta-Hayden (Excused); **6)** Michael Coyne; **7)** Nancy Good
A quorum was present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):

C. APPROVE MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR JULY 11th MEETING:

M/S: Keane/Good

Approve July minutes with corrections; 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent

D. ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC IN-PERSON PRESENTATION:** SDG&E's presenters Kevin Borja – SDGE Contractor – AECOM, Derek Keeley – SDGE Contractor – AECOM, David Hitzeman – SDGE Contractor – AECOM – Field Contract Administrator (FCA), Rob Knudsen – SDGE, Joe Cargel – SDGE, Sylvia Mc Nally – SDGE held an in-person presentation covering the following topics:
- Strategic Undergrounding Program Updates
 - Mountain Top Market Undergrounding Updates
 - Boulevard Microgrid Site Concerns and other SDG&E area concerns

Derek Keeley's PowerPoint presentation covered SDG&E's Strategic Undergrounding Program (SUG) including current projects and future projects through 2032. The entire project's purpose centers around reducing wildfire risks and mitigating power shut offs in the region.

Questions fielded: Why are wood poles still standing? Why is undergrounding being done when steel poles have already been installed? What are the plans for the Live Oaks Springs area for electrical hardening, with no projected plans for the next three years?

Power undergrounding for Mountain Top Market is estimated to start in Quarter 4 of this year. The scope of work should only take approximately 3 weeks, but the Caltrans easement permit, inspections, etc. elongate and complicate what would ordinarily be a quick process.

A local resident (outside of meeting) expressed concerns about the excessive vegetation around SDGE's battery storage area. These fears stem from the recent battery storage fires in Otay Mesa and Valley Center. SDGE's representative indicated that they have inspected, cleaned the area, and cleared vegetation within their property's boundary.

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Chair Goodnight introduced a letter from Supervisor Anderson advising residents of the SD Sheriff's implementation of the Hi-Lo Siren system now being used for emergency notifications in the rural area. Chair encouraged residents to register their contact information on AlertSD.org for alerts to their phone/email.

F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **CPG TERMS ENDING FOR ODD-NUMBERED SEATS:** Reminder was given that 2024 is a Boulevard Community Planning Groups election year, and the Registrar of Voters (ROV) has advised that the candidate filing period for the November ballot is open now through August 9th until 5:00 p.m.
Member Nancy Good filed with the ROV to be placed on the November ballot.
Member Kevin Keane reported that he will not be running for re-election to his Board seat.
- **BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS):** On the heels of two fires in recent months at separate battery energy storage facilities, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on July 17th, directed staffers to establish standards for future projects in unincorporated areas of the county.
Discussions on battery technology followed Chair's report.

Lithium Ion V.S. Lithium Iron Phosphate

Lithium Iron Phosphate: only uses lithium, Iron and Phosphate

- Cools down faster
- Negative temperature coefficient

Lithium Ion: Lithium KEEPS reigniting once lit (like a trick birthday candle),

- (But) it doesn't spark easily at its onset.
- Positive temperature coefficient.
- Otay Mesa site did not have individual battery containment within the building, which was a major cause for the spread.

Sept. 11th is the scheduled Board Supervisors Meeting to discuss the moratorium on Battery Storage facility regulations.

Chair supplied a copy of the SD Union article "Battery Storage Standards Sought" in the agenda packet.

- **STRATEGIC UNDERGROUND (SUG) PROJECT:** Following the presentation by SDG&E, the 30-Day Construction Notification was not read. Chair advised anyone interested to read the locations listed.
Boulevard: Tecate Divide Rd, Red Shank Ln, High View Pt, Quail Run Rd, Hi Pass Rd, Paso Alto Ct, Arroyo Paso Ln, Alta Viva Ln, Camina Del Mesa
- **NEW SOLAR PROJECTS IN BOULEVARD:**
 - **Bear Peak Power,** Denver identifies the site as a 5MW Solar and Battery Storage project on 45.7 acres at 1746 Tierra Del Sol Rd, Boulevard.
 - **Boulevardier:** A hydrogen-generated powered 348 MW system, with Battery Storage, is proposed for Boulevard, with a 138 KV transmission line connecting to the Boulevard substation. Located on 10 acres east of the Boulevard substation on the south side of old Hwy 80, known as the Nava property.

Chair had contacted the County for information on the projects. Information was received, after agenda posting, from Ashley Smith, PDS Chief of Project Planning stating the County does not have permits in process on either of the two sites.
- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION:** Chair read the "Note" portion of the Association of Planning Groups minutes from SANDAG's July meeting regarding the total lack of attendance from the SD BOS at the meeting.
Note: At the July 26, 2024, SANDAG Board of Directors meeting there was no (zero) County representation. This means we had no one representing the Unincorporated Area with the power to vote. Nora Vargas was absent. Joel Anderson was absent. The County Board of Supervisors has two alternates: Terra Lawson-Remer and Monica Montgomery Steppe. Neither were present. When a vote was taken to consider borrowing \$20 million of future Transnet funds for the "Transnet Regional Bike Early Action Program" there was no one from the County to vote. We had an empty seat.
A complete text of the SANDAG's July minutes was included in the agenda packet.

Chair shared the link to the Traffic Safety Dashboard

<https://www.sandag.org/trafficsafety>

Included a screen shot of a Map/Chart for the traffic accidents in the county.

- **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS:** SVP Merle Wade Wakefield's public placement (in Poway) hearing that had been scheduled for August 9, 2024, in San Diego Superior Court has been vacated. Liberty Healthcare/Conditional Release Program (CONREP) will continue to search for a placement location for Wakefield.

Senate Bill SB1074, Sexually Violent Predators advanced to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** Chair provided information for the meetings on the plans for new infrastructure in Unincorporated San Diego County.

All meetings are in-person only, meeting times are 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

August 20: Spring Valley Library, 836 Kempton St, Lakeside, 92040

September 25: Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Rd, Valley Center, 92082

October 3: Lakeside Library, 12424 Woodside Ave, Lakeside, 92040

November 22: Borrego Library, 2580 Country Club Rd, Borrego Springs, 92004

Chair reported he had received an updated email correcting the address for the Spring Valley location and containing listings for event locations in 2025. The email could be forwarded to any requests.

- **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:** The County's Planning commission conducted two hearing dates. July 18, 2024: Special Hearing to hold a workshop, the second on July 26, 2024: Public Hearing to consider the CAP Update and provide a recommendation for adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

The CAP Update Supplemental EIR can be viewed on the following link:

Project Website: [Climate Action Plan Update Project Materials](#)

- **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:**
No report

G. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. **100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT ON 565 ACRES OF THE EMPIRE RANCH ON JEWEL VALLEY RD; PROJECT: PDS2022-MPA-22-006.** Jim Whalen reported no updates. Still waiting for County review, no progress yet on their behalf. The Battery Moratorium deliberation has not stalled plans or moved progress backward.
2. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR PDS2017-MUP-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION APPROVED BY BOS ON 10-12-22:** Change of ownership is ongoing. Jim Whalen – Nothing new to report.

No movement to report on agenda items 3 through 8

H. ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 PM NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5th, 2024.

Minutes were approved, with corrections from the Group, on September 5, 2024.

Signed: Anthony Ralphs, Secretary _____



For more information contact Earl Goodnight, email blvdgoodnight@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>.

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