

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (BCPG)
*** MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024, MEETING
AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905 *****

7:30 PM BCPG meeting called to order (time delay due to room lighting).

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):

C. APPROVE MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 5th MEETING:

M/S: Casanova/Keane Approved minutes as written, 5 Yes, 0 no, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent.

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Resident Rupert Pedrin was first to comment, he indicated he has ongoing problems with SDG&E and is considering suing SDG&E. Encouraged other residents that are having problems with SDG&E to join him in the litigation. Rupert is thinking of re-starting his community group.

Member Kevin Keane advised those in attendance to be aware of the squatters on a vacant parcel in his neighborhood on Tierra Real. They appear to be the type of people that you should use caution when passing by.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. PRIVATE RESIDENCE SWIMMING POOL VIOLATION:** Rett Lawrence introduced Ms. Adria Ross to the Board. Prior to her presentation, Ms. Ross brought to the attention of the Board that a Board member had posted on social media information regarding her property that was unrelated to the issue before the Board. She asked for an investigation of the matter.
Ms. Ross detailed the issue she has with the County regarding the citation for operating a public pool and the ongoing demands from the different County agencies. (A copy of her presentation was supplied to the Board members). Ms. Ross requested the Board's support by submitting her issue with the County to Supervisor Anderson.
Following discussions, a motion was made for the Group to send a support letter to Supervisor Anderson's office. Member Casanova would draft the letter and the Chair would finalize and send.

M/S: Good/Casanova Motion carried, 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain (Hayden), 2 Absent.

- 2. TELECONFERENCING (ZOOM) MEETINGS:** The Haagen Company has donated WIFI service and the necessary communication equipment for teleconferencing, and a Zoom account from the Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance grant the Community Room now has Zoom capabilities. Prior to offering Zoom meetings, the County's Teleconferencing Rules Under the Brown Act and AB 2440 Checklist, Procedures for Teleconferencing (Zoom) meetings must be implemented.
A decision within the Group was made that more information is needed before incorporating the Zoom meeting requirement. This action item was tabled, to be placed on a future agenda.

F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **CPG REVIEW OF POLICY I-1:** The County has requested that all Planning and Sponsor Groups review the Board of Supervisors Policy I-1. A digital copy has been sent to BCPG members for their input.
Chair instructed the Group members to review the Policy I-1 and submit revisions/comments to the Chair only. Discussions on the Policy, if needed, will be conducted in the November Planning meeting.

- **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST CENTER:** The County of San Diego has been maintaining the online Public Records Request Center, <https://pra.sandiegocounty.gov/>, for over six months. To make sure members of the community are aware, the Records Request Center is offering a presentation to our Group. Chair reported their website is somewhat user friendly. Asked for a community response to their offer of a presentation. No one responded.
- **BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS):** On September 11th the Board of Supervisors voted on the options related to battery energy storage system (BESS) projects in unincorporated areas, including options to adopt urgency ordinances establishing a moratorium on new BESS applications. Chair gave a brief on the BOS's following options:
 - Continue fire suppression technical reports:**
 - Include new disclosure requirements:**
 - Temporary pause:**
 - Urgency ordinance:**

A complete text of the BOS agenda item was made available to those in attendance. The measure was passed by the BOS, 4 Yes, 0 No.

- **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.

No further information has been received.

 - **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.

The listing for this project on the CAISO interconnection application list (item 56) has been removed. Since the County has not been approached for permitting, we're led to believe this project has gone away.
- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION:** No report from the Association of Planning Groups. The SANDAG Board of Director's meetings are in summer recess.
- **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS:** A Town Hall Discussion was held in August at the Jacumba Community Center focusing on stopping the dumping of sexually Violent Predators in the rural east county. Senate bill SB1074, Sexually Violent Predators, has been sent back to the Appropriations Committee. Held in committee and under submission.
- **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** In-person meetings are still available to learn about plans for new infrastructure in Unincorporated San Diego County. There is only one meeting left for year 2024. A proposed meeting schedule has been released for year 2025.
 - The meeting is in-person only, meeting time 6:00 – 7:00 PM.**
 - November 22: Borrego Library, 2580 Country Club Rd, Borrego Springs, 92004
- **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:** In July the County's Planning Commission voted to recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the CAP update. In September the Board of Supervisors voted to accept the CAP general plan amendment.
- **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Fire Safe Council

Saturday, October 12th will be a chipping event at the Boulevard Resource Center, 8:00 - 12:00. Volunteers are needed to assist in this event. Additional chipping days are scheduled for November and December. Flyers are available.

Saturday, October 19th will be a cleanup event in Jacumba, 8:00 – 11:00 or until dumpsters are full. No tires, No batteries, No construction materials. Mattresses OK. This is the last clean up event of the year. Flyers are available.

Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance

The Resource Center will be opening as a voting center October 26th through November 5th for in person voting and ballot drop off.

Donations keep the Resource Center operating, any amount accepted. All donations are tax deductible.

G. PROJECT UPDATES:

- 100 MW STARLIGHT SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT:** Jim Whalen’s report was sent via email. Starlight has completed their negotiations with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Wildlife by providing a 150-foot-wide wildlife movement area running east and west through the northern part of the project. Robert Fisher, the lead USGS scientist who we let do studies on the Haagen property, helped us. We are also going to do wildlife movement studies once we get started to see if indeed there is no impedance to movement caused by solar farms. The County told us Wednesday (9/25) that they are almost done with their approval of all the technical studies, and we then will be able to complete drafting the EIR. The idea would be to have it in your hands for public review around Christmas.
- 74 MW RUGGED SOLAR PROJECT:** Change of ownership is ongoing. Jim Whalen’s report was sent via email. Rugged Solar has begun the County’s normal time extension process to extend the Major Use Permit. After that is done, we are going to do a minor modification to switch the open space land with some land that Hamann’s bought at the end of McCain Valley Road. They want to maintain control of their wells, and they are in the currently designated open space. They never liked the idea of putting an open space easement on working land.

***** NO PROGRESS TO REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS 3 THROUGH 8 *****

H. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7th, 2024.

October minutes approved, as corrected, by the Group on 11/7/2024.

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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