

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP (BPG)  
\*\*\*MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2024, MEETING  
AT 39919 RIBBONWOOD ROAD, BOULEVARD, CA, 91905\*\*\***

7:05 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; **6)** Michael Coyne; **7)** Nancy Good  
A quorum was present.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional):**

**C. APPROVE MINUTES/ SUMMARY FOR JUNE 6th MEETING:**

**M/S: Keane/Casanova**

**Approve June minutes as written; 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain**

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:** Local Resident Rupert Pedrin is looking for pictures of the SDG&E Battery Storage parcel before 2016 to determine the size of this land and its topography.

He also mentioned that Joel Anderson's new budget report may not include fundraising for Boulevard (again).

**Optimist Club meeting:** The Optimist Club is having a block party at the elementary school grounds Saturday, August 3rd from 10 - 6 P.M. They are trying to fundraise for school supplies and for the Optimist Club.

The current Optimist Club serves Campo, Boulevard and Jacumba, this club will place more emphasis on Boulevard.

Non-profit headed by Deborah Peck

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

- 1. CPG TERMS ENDING FOR ODD-NUMBERED SEATS:** 2024 is a Community Planning Groups election year. The terms of all odd-numbered seats will be expiring on January 6, 2025. Those who are interested in continuing to serve will need to be re-elected.

Chair Goodnight gave the requirements for those seeking election and the filing deadline.

There will be four seats on the Boulevard Planning Board on the upcoming November elections. Current residents residing in Boulevard, 18 years or older and a current registered voter can apply to have their name place on the November ballot, by filing with the Registrar of Voters (ROV).

**The Registrar of Voters (ROV) has advised that the candidate filing period for the November ballot will be July 15<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup> until 5:00 p.m.**

Chair reported the candidate information had not been received from the County as of this date. Will forward as soon as received.

**F. GROUP BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **AT&T REQUEST TO THE CPUC TO DISBAND LANDLINE SERVICE:** A report was given on California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) rejection of AT&T's request to withdraw as a Carrier of Last Resort (COLR).  
Chair read the following comment from CPUC's President:  
In their report, Alice Reynolds, CPUC President said: "For nearly 30 years, the Carrier of Last Resort rules have been essential for ensuring universal telephone service in California, This new Rulemaking process provides an opportunity to update the COLR rules and High-Cost Fund programs to better meet the needs of Californians and to achieve the state's [Broadband For All](#) objectives."

- **NEW SOLAR PROJECTS IN BOULEVARD:** Chair reported that no further information had been received on the two projects **Bear Peak Power**, Solar and Battery Storage and **Boulevardier**, Hydrogen Generated and Battery Storage.
- **SANDAG UNINCORPORATED REPRESENTATION:** Chair gave highlights from the SANDAG May meeting:
  - Final fiscal Year 2026 Program Budget:
  - 125 Toll Road Action Plan:
  - SR 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project Update:

A full text on the Associated Planning Groups minutes was made available to those in attendance.

- **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS:** SVP David Munoz has been placed at 45612 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs following his placement approval by Judge Gill. Senate Bill SB1074, Sexually Violent Predators, an update hearing was scheduled for July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

After the 7/11 agenda posting, information was received of an August 6<sup>th</sup> hearing for SVP Merle Wade Wakefield placement in Poway. This information was shared in the meeting.

- **SOCIALLY EQUITABLE CANNABIS PROGRAM (SECP):** The County of San Diego Planning & Development Services (PDS) invitation was passed along to attend public meetings. The Socially Equitable Cannabis Program (SECP) is seeking input on specific topics.

An overview of the County's cannabis licensing and enforcement processes will also be provided. PDS is hosting virtual public meetings to receive your input.

A link was supplied for the remaining July virtual (Zoom) public meeting.

- **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:** The County of San Diego has developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update and associated environmental documents.

The CAP Update project was considered by the Planning Commission on June 14, 2024, for their recommendation for adoption by the Board of Supervisors by the Fall of 2024.

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

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

- **OFF ROAD VEHICLE (OHV) PARK:** The OHV Park Study and Site Update is available on the San Diego webpage. Questions and Answers from the OHV Public Meeting #2 that was held earlier this year can be accessed in the OHV (Off-Highway Vehicles) County of San Diego webpage. Links to the webpages were provided.

Chair made available a copy of the Q&A s, (six pages) for anyone unable to access the website. The Tier 2 analysis map (draft) was included in the agenda packet. The locations on the map with a yellow star are the current selections. No changes from the information that was reported in a previous BPG meeting.

- **REVITALIZATION & FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORTS:**

JBRA:

Solar install finally passed final inspection and hope to have it on soon, waiting for OK from SDG&E on NEM application.

Painting continues (interior and exterior). Will be moving forward with HVAC installs now that solar install is complete. Still need donations and volunteers so we can continue bringing programs.

Food pantry is now closed Grant ran out and a volunteer moved to Utah. Looking into a grant to continue food pantry and for volunteers to continue. I will hold off on filing for grant until we get more volunteers.

Recycle will continue for now.

Voting Center will be at Resource Center again in November for 11 days.

REFSC:

Tire collection will be held July 13 8am to 12 noon (last bin filled quickly). At the last collection we collected 313 tires. July event will have 2 bins for tires. No trash No drop off before event or after event. We will investigate doing annual events only if we get volunteers.

Chipping event will be July 20, 8am to 12noon. Check banners and signs for other upcoming events. We need volunteers for cleanup events if we can't get volunteers this year the cleanup events will be discontinued. Contact Mark Ostrander (201-890-3344) for donation and/or volunteering information.

#### **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.** The County is still processing the tech studies. Draft EIR still planned for release for public review in late 2024.
2. **74 MW RUGGED SOLAR PDS2017-Muin P-12-007W1 MAJOR USE PERMIT MODIFICATION APPROVED BY BOS ON 10-12-22:** Change of ownership is ongoing. Nothing new to report.  
A question was asked about the \$900,000 donation pledge from Rugged Solar. Jim Whalen stated that the Haagen company will cover the donation if the Rugged project falters.

Jim Whalen also shared the following and discussions followed.

On Wednesday, 7/17, the Board of Supervisors will take up topic of battery regulation, Staff was directed to do the following:

- a) Current Bess applications are exempt, assuming they aren't problematic, safety wise.
- b) Staff is instructed to come back to the next BOS meeting (8/27-8/28) with options intended to motivate safety improvements while development standards are being developed (a two-year process).
- c) Those options are to include at a minimum, a 45-day moratorium on new BESS applications, as well as mandatory BOS review of all BESS projects, and interim development standards within six months. The moratorium would start on the day of Board adoption, not sooner.

County Supervisor Desmond wants to put a Moratorium on batteries because of the recent fires.

Terrible project named "Seguro Project" in Eden Valley, (Escondido area) - 400 Megawatt - located in a residential area, that Desmond wants to regulate with new County regulations.

Concerns began with Valley Center fire, and Otay Mesa fire that sparked because of these battery storage projects. These battery storage facilities contained flammable Lithium-Ion batteries.

It was mentioned that "Iron Phosphate" Batteries, as well as Flow Batteries - are not flammable. They're just as efficient, but they cost more.

No discussions on battery alternatives - Yet 400 Megawatt Seguro Project has been talked down to a 320-Megawatt project but is still problematic because it's surrounded by residential homes.

**No progress to report on agenda items 3 through 8**

**H. ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 PM NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 1st, 2024.**

**Corrected minutes were approved by the Group on 8/1/2024.**

**Signed: Anthony Ralphs, Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_



For more information contact Earl Goodnight, email [blvdgoodnight@gmail.com](mailto: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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