

CREP hearing at Board of Supervisors 2-15-17

Public comments made by Donna Tisdale for the Boulevard Planning Group and Backcountry Against Dumps (speakers are only allowed one speaker slip)

- Good morning, I am Donna Tisdale, Chair of the Boulevard Planning Group and President of Backcountry Against Dumps.
- The Boulevard Planning Area is predominantly low-income, 100% reliant on limited groundwater resources, located in the highest fire hazard severity zone, and already disproportionately impacted by industrial scale wind, solar, and transmission infrastructure that has already been built, approved, or proposed, as evidenced by the list I distributed documenting 31 energy /transmission projects.
- Our community probably uses less than 5MW of energy but we already host 50MW Kumeyaay Wind, the 186 MW Tule Wind, with SCE not SDG&E Power Purchase Agreement, is now under construction in the McCain Valley Conservation and Recreation Area, and 170MW of solar has been approved for sensitive and scenic areas in Boulevard and Jacumba.
- We do support Community Choice, removing the cap and other Direct Access limits and urgently ask the County to pursue legislation that would mandate counting the over 600 MW of self generation Net Energy Metered capacity, already installed in SDG&E's service area, toward the 50% renewable energy mandate.
- Failure to include that capacity towards the RPS is nonsensical.
- We do appreciate the Planning Commission's addition to Staff recommendation #4, that "An approach to the energy overlay zone should include an analysis of the environmental impacts, quality of life impacts and cost/benefit impacts. "
- ***HOWEVER, no rural overlay zones should even be remotely considered by the County until every public and commercial building, parking lot, parking structure, and brown field are covered with solar panels with battery backup, fuels cells, and /or electric vehicle charging stations.***
- ***The \$500,000 cost of a feasibility study for overlay zones is too expensive and not necessary.***
- In addition, the Board Letter also fails to address the Planning Commission's (PC) previous direction to staff on July 20, 2012, to ***conduct literature reviews on adverse health impacts related to wind turbine generated low frequency noise and other forms of pollution, every two years.*** That direction has not yet been complied with. The first report to the PC was due in July 2014—almost three years ago! *This is not the first time we have raised this lack of compliance on this PC direction.*
- I was glad to see staff's presentation listed Backcountry's current and our previous comments submitted for the October 14th Planning Commission hearing. Our comments were omitted from the October 14th hearing staff report and from the Board letter for today's hearing.
- I also want to note that over one million vehicle miles and related GHG emissions were generated during the construction of SDG&E's ECO Substation near Jacumba, showing that remote rural renewable projects and infrastructure are not always the most efficient or green.
- *Thank you...*

**Distributed copies to Supervisors of page 4 of CAP comments from 11-20-16 that included list of 31 energy/transmission projects approved, under construction, or proposed in Boulevard/Jacumba area between 2005-Nov 2016, to document disproportionate impacts.*