

**MINUTES OF
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING
JULY 16, 2007**

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:10 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Jamison, Novinger, Scott, Pickard. Others present: Johnstone, Uhazy

ECA Project Status

Land Use Compatibility

The Bureau of Land Management has received over 30 applications for solar energy developments for 360,000 acres in the California Desert District of the West Mojave. Ten of those applications propose over 5000 MW in the Ridgecrest Resource area of eastern Kern County. The proposals cover areas that range from State Highway 14 in Mojave, Jacks Ranch Road in Ridgecrest and Kramer Junction to Highway 395 near Cuddleback Lake. The proposals include two different types of solar - photovoltaic which requires no water for operation and other types such as parabolic mirrors which require 1.5 acre feet of water for each 100 MW. Both operations can include structures that exceed 400 feet in height as well as light and glare.

The size and scale of these projects on public lands may have significant impacts that need to be carefully assessed as it relates to DoD military flight operations in the R-2508 airspace as well as on-the-ground environmental effects on groundwater capacity, and endangered species. Kern County has expressed concerns to the BLM and requested that the County be afforded Cooperating Agency Status and that all records of decision on all solar applications be delayed until a full EIS is completed and the Southern California Joint Land Use Study has been completed and the recommendations considered by all parties.

Education

Johnstone briefed that CSU Chancellor Reed and Vice Chancellor West are scheduled to attend the next EKERN meeting in California City on August 6th. At this time it is difficult to determine what the agenda might be. The need for a formal agenda was suggested to the City Manager but there has been no response to date.

It has been suggested that the Board of Trade should have another Dialogue on Higher Education to explain to the attendees the actions that have taken place to date and where we are going in the future. The Dialogue is being planned for this Fall.

Private investors have been put in contact with the university developer but after meeting to discuss potential involvement in the program the decision was made to defer any activity at this time.

The summer intern program had 15 students complete the four week program. Although there was difficulty in arranging intern sessions, the instructor felt the program was very successful and is looking forward to growing the program for next year. The reaction from the students was very positive, as was the response from the companies/organizations that supported the effort. We will work during the year to get more businesses involved in the program and supportive of the internships.

The Antelope Valley Board of Trade Education Committee is working with the Antelope Valley Community College and the Regional Occupation Program to establish Career Pathways leading to Certificates for students not intending to go to a four year university. This effort is just getting underway but is getting a lot of support.

School Briefings – Mr. Scott is expecting to hear from Superintendent VanNorman in the near future to start briefing appropriate school officials on the activities that are ongoing in Career Technical Education programs.

Financial Report – No report

Open Discussion-

The annual Salute to Youth career day will be September 21st at Air Force Plant 42. Kern county schools are encouraged to attend this event which hosts approximately 2,500 students each year.

Sierra Sands High School District in Ridgecrest has received approval to begin a Project Lead the Way curriculum this September. They are getting lots of community and base support for this program.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in Mojave at the Board Room in the Mojave Airport terminal building on August 20th.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Deaver adjourned the meeting at 8:55 AM

Respectively Submitted

Robert Johnstone
Technical Director

