

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Wednesday, July 1, 2015, 11:00 a.m.  
Worksession**

Chairman Irwin called the July 1, 2015, worksession of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 1:02 p.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Irwin, Supervisor Wilson, Supervisor Clapperton, County Administrator/Clerk of the Board Field, Community Development Administrator Yackley, Parks Director Bennett; and Deputy Clerk of the Board Green. Others present were: Kelly Sarber, of Strategic Management Group; Skylar Miller, Quartzsite Town Manager; William Werner, Biologist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Eddie Arreola, BLM Supervisory Project Manager; Roxie Trost, BLM Colorado River District Manager; and Lane Cowger, BLM RECO Project Manager.

**Discussion with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the status of the Solar Entitlement Zones and its impact on La Paz County**

Chairman Irwin introduced those present with the Bureau of Land Management, and stated that they would be explaining the status of the Solar Entitlement Zones.

Roxie Trost, BLM Colorado River District Manager, introduced Lane Cowger and Eddie Arreola, who would be explaining the preliminary stages and strategy of the Solar Entitlement Zone.

Mr. Cowger distributed printed copies of the presentation, and explained at length the three energy zones and the goal to develop strategy on how to deal with renewable energy going forward.

He identified different “non-development” areas of the State, noting that it was goal to avoid, offset or minimize impacts to any area of development; and discussed briefly formulas used to determine the number of services and jobs that would benefit from these projects.

County Administrator Field stated that the concerns of the County were over development that took resources from an area and then provided no relief to the taxpayers. He added that the County had to provide services such as law enforcement; with concerns over wildlife, and any other issues of public concern, while there was little more than 5% of taxable land available; and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from the State continue to be a constant concern. He added that it was important for them to know that anything that happens in the County impacts everything and everyone in it.

He expressed appreciation that BLM was willing to come and make the County a part of the plans.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

Kelly Sarber, of Strategic Management Group, prompted a brief discussion on the demographics BLM used to gain information. She disagreed that the information they used would “trickle back to a revenue base”, from services or jobs created, in a local community. She wanted to see the data used to put together an analysis; citing Blythe as an example of what resulted from a large solar project developed in an area where the population was largely retired.

Discussion ensued at length emphasizing the need for a close look at how data was obtained and whether the projects said to be a “net economic benefit to the County” was accurate.

Ms. Sarber brought up the discussion of “annuity streams” and what that could mean for the County; as well as impact fees; for local revenues that would come in on a long-term basis.

Supervisor Irwin expressed that data she has seen refers to the year 2003; and the dynamics of the County had changed substantially since that time. She noted the changes to Planet Ranch water; to the Bureau of Land Management trails; both negative impacts; projects presented as a good thing when in actuality they were not. She added that a “positive is not a positive” without the correct study.

Ms. Trost stated that there were no projects at this time; and if a project came forward, a “site-specific, hard look” with the County at the table would begin, and a socio-economic study could be done.

Discussion ensued regarding critical habitat, and the Desert Tortoise and Game & Fish habitat locations; “high density” land; and access to transmission lines.

Ms. Sarber stated that she was appreciative of the information BLM has on their website; however, she asked if there was a source she could obtain rate information in creation of a fact sheet for the Board of Supervisors on the proposed Brenda site.

Mr. Cowger offered to supply Ms. Sarber with information relating to the Las Vegas proposed project from its field office website.

Ms. Sarber expressed that mitigation/impact information on tower projects may not be available until there have been more of them operating long-term.

William Werner, Wildlife Biologist with BLM, stated that the wildlife issues, particularly bird/technology issues were being watched carefully.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

There being no further comments, Chairman Irwin adjourned the worksession at 2:43  
p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly Irwin, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Field, Clerk of the Board