

# ***MINUTES OF THE SOLANO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION***

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## **Meeting of April 7, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Solano County Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, Fairfield, California.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Barnes, Boschee, Rhoads-Poston, Karah and Chairman Mahoney

**EXCUSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Emlen, Director; Mike Yankovich, Planning Program Manager; Ken Solomon, Contract Planner; Jim Laughlin, Deputy County Counsel; and Kristine Letterman, Planning Commission Clerk

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Chairman Mahoney introduced and welcomed Kay Cayler as the newest member of the planning commission.

The Commission presented Fred Barnes with a plaque honoring his 8 years of dedication and service as a Solano County Planning Commissioner. Mr. Barnes expressed his appreciation and said that he would miss his fellow commissioners.

Items from the floor – none

**The Minutes** of the regular meeting of February 17, 2011 were approved as prepared.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING** to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and receive public comments for the proposed development by **NextEra Energy Montezuma II Wind, LLC (NextEra)** of the Montezuma II wind energy generation project, comprising 34 wind turbine generators with the capacity to generate 78.2 Megawatts (MW) of electricity in the Montezuma Hills wind resource area in Solano County, approximately 4 miles south of Highway 12, south and southeast of Birds Landing Road, bisected by Montezuma Hills Road, and bounded on the south side by Talbert Lane and southwest by Collinsville Road. The project area is characterized by rolling hills used for grazing, farming and wind power, and is designated Agriculture by the General Plan and is zoned Exclusive Agricultural (A-160). (Project Planner: Ken Solomon)

Ken Solomon stated that the purpose of this public meeting is to provide an overview of the project and to accept testimony from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). He indicated that the DEIR was circulated for the mandatory 45-day public review period that began on March 9, 2011 and will close on April 22, 2011. He said that no action by the Planning Commission is required at this meeting.

Stu Russell, project consultant, Point Impact Analysis, provided a brief description of the project, the CEQA process, and an overall history of the project.

Since there were no questions or comments, Chairman Mahoney opened the public hearing.

Dan Broadwater, 320 Saybrook Avenue, Vacaville, stated that he is the business manager of IBW Local 180, Napa/Solano Electrical Workers and he urged the commission to move the approval process along as fast as possible. He stated that this project has the possibility of creating many jobs.

Jim Jacobs, 2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, stated that he hoped that the commission approves this project. He stated that he is a member of the operating engineers and it would put a lot of people to work.

Since there were no further speakers, Chairman Mahoney closed the public hearing.

Chairman Mahoney reminded everyone that the end of the comment period is April 22, 2011.

2. **APPOINTMENT** to the Solano County Public Art Committee.

It was announced that Commissioner Karah will sit on this committee as a representative of the planning commission. Ms. Karah noted that she has already attended a committee meeting and found it to be very interesting.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS**

Mike Yankovich stated that the California County Planning Commissioner's Association will be sponsoring a conference on May 21, 2011 in Clarksburg California. He stated that the conference will cover topics such as climate action plans, historic land use and climate change methodology. He asked that the commissioners contact staff if they are interested in attending.

4. Since there was no further business, the meeting was **adjourned**.