

MAY 16 2016

For the record of the Planning Commission May 18, 2016

Comm. Dev. Dept. Brisbane

Anja Miller's response to Mr. Scharfman's statement at your April 28 meeting regarding the meeting they both attended at PG&E in 2008:

1) In my view, looking back at history is always a good idea. In this instance, it clearly shows how arguments that may have been relevant back in 2008, 8 years ago, are vastly different today. This is especially true with reference to climate change and the economics of solar installations. You all know how much lower the prices of PV panels are today than eight years ago – 80% lower in fact – and that there is business profit to be made with them.

2) It is my recollection from the meeting that the PG&E procurement official said they had no experience or plans to develop any solar plants themselves; they would just buy the required renewables from distant solar and wind generators in the Central Valley and beyond. The implication was that they would get more profit from the transmission required.

Later I remember the City Manager being told that PG&E “was not interested in any demonstration solar facilities” such as proposed for the Baylands.

3) As to the SunEdison bankruptcy that Mr. Scharfman mentioned: According to the financial press the cause was not the solar market but gross financial overreach by the management. Bloomberg News just last month (April 21) wrote, “The bankruptcy says more about SunEdison’s relentless pursuit of growth than the solar industry as a whole.”

Moreover, with the Community Choice public power district starting in our whole county this fall and the new emphasis on “distributed generation” or locally generated renewable electricity, there is a new immediate market (including all of Brisbane!) and new major funding prospects. There have been great advances in federal and state policies supporting renewable development as well as brownfield cleanup.

Solar and wind renewable energy generation is globally a major growth industry. Power from solar farms is expected to grow from 100 gigawatts in 2015 to **450** gigawatts in 2025. Our Baylands can be a great contributor to that goal.

4) Finally, Mr. Scharfman implied that the solar farm in the Baylands would have to pay for the Geneva Extension. Actually, after the landfill is closed the constructed solar farm will not be dependent on either the Geneva Extension or the Candlestick interchange. The solar farm can be easily accessed with a minor northerly extension of Sierra Point Parkway.