

Mojave Community Meeting

June 22, 2023, 12 Noon

Mojave Veterans Building

President Ted Hodgkinson opened the meeting with live video from the Mojave train camera, which is mounted on the roof of the Gardner Realty building. A link to the video feed is available on the visitmojave.com website. He said that with Debbie Crocoll acting as co-editor, the website is more up-to-date; news of community events will be posted as received. He noted that the rains brought a bumper crop of weed and asked that businesses clean their properties to improve the look of the town. The Caboose lot was cleaned with the help of a community service worker. Ted also reminded those attending in person or by zoom, that the Chamber is an all-volunteer organization and its activities, such as National Night Out, Trunk-or-Treat, the Thanksgiving Community Dinner, and annual Christmas Tree Lighting depend on local support, both financially and, especially, hands-on work at the events. He announced that Senator Shannon Grove will begin meetings with the community on alternate months. The first meeting will be Thursday, July 27, at 11 am in the Veterans Building. The Chamber Community meeting will follow.

Ted Hodgkinson introduced the guest speaker, Simon Day, the Vice President for Solar Development, Terra-Gen Operating Co., Llc. Terra-Gen is a large scale wind, solar, and energy storage company and has operated in the Mojave area for more than 10 years. They are expanding solar operations; the Enterprise solar field is in the permitting process and will add solar fields to area east and north of Mojave. He said that the solar panels and hardware are U.S. manufacture; the labor is union and local, to the extent possible. Approximately 800 workers will be needed for the construction of the new project. Mr. Day discussed new installation procedures, called mow and roll, which mitigate dust. Grading and scraping is not required the vegetation roots are left in place to stabilize the soil. The area is also re-seeded with native flora.

Questioned about the destruction of Joshua Trees, Mr. Day said that the company surveys the trees and routes traffic to maintain as many of the trees as possible. Terra-Gen has purchased Joshua tree woodlands acreage, which will be maintained in its natural state. He received thanks for investing in the community, for creating jobs and for supporting local community organizations. Mr. Day reiterated the company's commitment to the community involvement.

Joab Martinez Salinas, Kern County Job Developer, announced that a JobFest will be held in Mojave on September 20. He is also assisting with the Golden Queen Mine recruitment event.

Cal Rossi, So. Calif. Edison, reported that the progress on the Calif. City substation is slow, while capacity concerns raised by the Kern Board of Supervisors are addressed. He asked that the community contact Senator Grove and voice support for AB914, as proposed.

Pamela Balch, representative from Assemblyman Lackey, honored Karl's Hardware, Mojave as their Small Business of the Month.

Laura Lynne Wyatt, district manager for Supervisor Zach Scrivner, reported on several issues: the transit center is on hold, pending resolution of energy capacity for electric vehicle charging stations; the East Park renovation is in the planning and drawing phase; the Inland Port is currently working on obtaining California State funding for the required grade separations across Sierra Highway in Mojave and on Rosamond Blvd. in Rosamond. She is continuing to work with code compliance issues.

Travis Behrens: If anyone has items for recycling, Booker T. Brown Foundation will pick it up and take it to the recycling center; Fat Boy Tacos is in talks to take over the location where Anthony's used to operate; a brewery is planned. All Kern transit routes are free of charge July 1 through August 31, 2023.

Michele Slade: trucks enter and exit Oak Creek Road without exercising sufficient caution for on-coming traffic.

Willa Yaw: I'm partnering with Tammi Kelly in the Wreaths across America program; I think a community luncheon following the Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebration would be a good way to bring the community together.

Mojave Court Update: the presiding judge has recommended that the Ridgecrest and Mojave courts remain in operation and that the funds be spent to improve and upgrade the facilities.

The next community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 27 July 2023.