

County of San Diego
Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group
Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6:00pm on July 10, 2023
Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. Call to order/Roll call: The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm. Those present were: Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); and Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne. Those absent were: Seat 1. Hafdell and Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public Present: 8.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on June 12, 2023 was postponed to the August 14 JCSG meeting.

D. Public Communication: The public may comment on any subject within the JCSG’s jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. (Speakers are limited to 2 minutes and no action can be taken on non-agenda items.)

Maureen: Encouraged everyone to support the online survey from Supervisor Anderson that asked the State to house SVPs at a group facility managed by the prisons.

Chair: Residents of Jacumba seem to have slipped into a state of “I don’t care enough to be involved.” The result is that a handful of people do most of the work and make decisions for the majority of residents. Jacumba needs more community input and involvement. Please bring a neighbor to the next water board meeting, or FSC, or JCSG, or revitalization meeting, etc.

Chair: The JCSD recently received notification that the Supervisor Anderson has approved their request for 100K in neighborhood reinvestment grant money for playground equipment and shade structures at the Community Park.

E. Action items: (Agenda items may be taken out of order upon request.)

1. Meghan Kelly and Sam Solis, (Land Use/Environmental Planner/Sustainability Planning Division) provided an update on the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) policies and programs to reduce GHGs, solid waste reduction and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy use, generation and storage. 2024 is the tentative CAP adoption date. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/climateactionplan/>.

Greg: The County should support the development of more local electric microgrids.

Chair: Expressed a concern about the County’s lack of up to-date GHG data information. (The CAP is using 2019 GHG data which is outdated.) 2. Suggested that the CAP should initially focus on roof top and parking lot solar systems in urban centers instead permitting industrial-scale renewable energy projects in rural landscapes that naturally sequester GHGs. The loss of our rural spaces and the increased fire risk represented by electrical transmission lines, battery storage and other electrical infrastructure associated with these “green energy” projects should be at best, a second option to explore. 3. Expressed a concern of the CAP’s regulatory nature which will significantly increase the cost of homeownership in the County without achieving measurable GHG reduction outcomes.

Ben: We need to decarbonize.

Maureen: There is a lack of local public transportation options for residents who live in East County. Also, more public EV charging stations are needed in the rural communities.

Chair: The County should require that all large-scale renewable energy projects and battery storage facilities use non-flammable batteries even if they cost the developer more money.

2. The State Fire Marshall has released a June 15, 2023 Fire Hazard Safety Zone (FHSZ) for public comment through August 9, 2023.

The JCSG previously submitted comments in March 2023 on an earlier map, requesting that Jacumba be reevaluated as “moderate” FHSZ area instead of a high FHSZ area. On the June 15, 2023 map, a portion of Jacumba is classified as moderate while the other 2/3 of Jacumba is still classified as high.

Chair: Suggested that we submit comments requesting that FHSZ rating for the entire village of Jacumba be changed to “moderate.”

M/S to have the Chair submit a written request to the State Fire Marshal that the entire village of Jacumba be changed to a moderate FHSZ rating: Curran/Osborne. Passed: 3-0-0.

3. San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD.org) is seeking participants to provide input on the development of their strategic plan. A virtual community forum will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 5pm. <https://ow.ly/Ni2250OYNHW>.

Greg: Volunteered to represent the JCSG at the upcoming SDAPCD's community forum.

F. Group business/project updates, to include correspondence-discussion only:

1. Weather recording equipment requested. On June 22, 2023 email sent to Jim Bennett, San Diego County Hydrologist, thanking him for his groundwater presentation at the JCSG meeting on June 12, 2023. The email also requested that the County provide Jacumba with the necessary weather station equipment so that annual rainfall amounts can be measured and recorded. (Jacumba's annual rainfall amounts have not been recorded since 2010.) Still waiting on an answer to our request for equipment.

2. Update on the new Jacumba Fire Station.

On June 27, 2023, the Chair attended a JCSD meeting where possible locations for the new fire station were discussed. Jon Heggie, a representative from the San Diego Fire Authority (SDFA), Steven Johnson, a County department of General Services (real estate services) and John Kremensky (a Jacumba CALFIRE captain) were present. The SDFA has asked the JCSD to consider selling or leasing 2-3 acres within the park for a new fire station. If the SDFA leases land at the Jacumba airport, which is County owned land, they would have to pay \$4K per month in rent. The SDFA is also concerned about FAA restrictions, and whether there is sufficient water if they drill a well. They also have approached Jeff Osborne about using some of his land and stated their intentions to contact BayWa R.E. about buying some land possibly next to the Senior Center along Old Hwy 80. The JCSD did not provide a response to the SDFA's request as two of their board members were absent and a decision to use park land should be require input and approval by Jacumba residents.

3. Update on Jacumba's honorary bridge naming requests.

At last some good news...After more than a year, our requests to name the two bridges on Old Hwy 80, the Bert Vaughn Memorial Bridge and the Patricia Fauble Memorial Bridge are finally going to be placed on the July 19th BOS agenda. The board agenda for that meeting is expected to be released for public comment NLT Friday, July 14. Once the BOS agenda has been posted, residents are encouraged to submit an electronic comment in support of the honorary bridge naming agenda item.

4. Update on the 90MW Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park (JVR Solar).

The County has approved the vesting of the JVR Energy Park MUP through the project decommissioning date of August 18, 2058. This means that the JVR permit will not expire before that date.

Jeff: We are still awaiting a court date on our legal appeal.

5. Digital Equity Survey. The Chair encouraged residents to take the 10-minute Digital Equity Survey available at <https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/california-state-digital-equity-plan-public-survey-10-15-minutes/sections/1>. The purpose of the survey is to ensure that all California residents have access to high quality and affordable internet service, etc.

6. Virtual public meetings for the County's Socially Equitable Cannabis Program are scheduled for Thursday, July 13 at 7 pm, Friday, July 14 at noon, Tuesday, July 18 at 7 pm. To participate, please visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89302600128>

5. Community interface reports.

a. Highland Senior Center.

Greg: We are still waiting to get our non-profit status restored. The Highland Center is now offering residents a cool zone option for Sundays and Mondays from noon to 6pm. The Center is applying for recognition as an official County "cool zone."

b. Real East County Fire Safe Council. The next community chipping date is Sat., August 5 in the Jacumba Community Park from

8 am to noon. You bring your stuff and you unload the material.

The next FSC meeting is Monday, Jul 17 at 6:30pm

c. JBRA (Revitalization). The next JBRA meeting is Monday, July 17 at 7:30pm.

G. Adjournment:

M/S to adjourn the JCSG meeting at 7:50pm: Curran/Osborne. Passed: 3-0-0

The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6 pm.

For more information, contact the JCSG Chair at csdiefenbach@sbcglobal.net or 619-743-5224.

Approved: October 9, 2023