

County of San Diego
Jacumba Community Sponsor Group (JCSG)
Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 6, 2024
Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. Call to order/Roll call: The JCSG meeting was called to order at 6pm. Present: Seat 1. Steve Perelman; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne; Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public present: 3. The Chair welcomed Steve Perelman, the new member of the JCSG.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on March 11, 2024.

M/S to approve the minutes of March 11, 2024: Curran/Diefenbach. Vote:4-0-1(Perelman). Motion passes.

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.)

Greg: Jacumba needs to get a new flag to display at the Veteran’s memorial at the Jacumba Community Park before Memorial Day. I will be contacting the JCSD to ask them to do so.

Chair: The County’s rain measuring station is operational at the Jacumba Glider Port.

Chair: It is anticipated that Jacumba’s new fire station will be located on the north side of Old Hwy 80 on BayWa property near the Wagon Wheel Trailer Park. The County should have to pay the JCSD for all associated infrastructure costs of delivery of water to the fire station if the plan is to use the JCSD as their water provider.

Katrina: The new fire station is outside the water district so they will not be getting their potable water from JCSD.

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

1. Discuss actions needed to request a county park for Jacumba (Osborne). This agenda item was moved to June’s JCSG meeting.

2. Discuss concerns about the continued placement of sexually violent predators (SVPs) in Jacumba (Maureen Phillips).

Chair: I do not think that the chairs of planning/sponsor groups should have to screen the newspapers looking for potential SVP placement. Fortunately, CA Senator Brian Jones and a few other legislators have been pushing for the approval of SB1074—The SAFE Act which aims to make public safety the highest priority when deciding on the placement of an SVP. If this bill gets passed that may help to solve the problem. Another way may be to put social pressure on the owners of the properties who have been very lucratively leasing them to Liberty Healthcare, the contractor that is recommending SVP placement. (This is not something that the sponsor group is authorized to do.) When I sent Senator Jones my comments against the proposed SVP placement in Jacumba, at least I got an immediate response from him.

Maureen: You cannot post the photos of the SVPs on social media but you could post a link to the Megan’s Law website which is www.meganslaw.ca.gov on social media so at least residents are informed about their neighbors.

Jeff: I am on that website now and it appears that Jacumba does not currently have that many SVPs. For example, it does not show an SVP at the home on Rose Ranch Road.

Maureen: There are many parole restrictions placed on the SVP that they must agree to before they can be placed in a community. If they do not comply or violate those restrictions, then the SVP is returned to the prison system.

Maureen: When I called the SAFE Task Force hotline today, I got a recording that stated this phone line is not monitored frequently.

Greg: Do SVPs have to wear an electronic ankle monitor?

Chair: Yes, they do, but that does not necessarily keep them at the residence.

Maureen: Most SVPs have an escort when they go out unless they have gotten their trip preapproved.

Chair: We currently have a lot of unfamiliar men who are immigrants passing through the community so the movement of an SVP might not be noticed.

Maureen: An SVP could even pose a potential threat to the migrants, who are much more vulnerable.

Chair: I encourage everyone to send your comments in support of SB1074.

3. Discuss the adequacy of communications between CPSGs and their respective County Supervisors.

Chair: During the State's recent proposals to place two SVPs (Munoz and Carder) in Jacumba, I discovered that as the Chair of one of Supervisor Anderson's sponsor groups, I was not an automatic recipient of his electronic communications. If Steve Perelman had not forwarded the Supervisor's last-minute communications about the SVP placement to me, I would never have known that Supervisor Anderson was seeking public comments on that placement. Of course, by then, there was not enough time to "rally the troops" against the proposals. More effective two-way communications between communities and their district supervisors appears to be warranted. I strongly encourage everyone here tonight to go to the supervisor's website and sign up for his newsletters. We should encourage people on social media to sign up for his newsletters. FYI, I also recently reached out to Assemblywoman Marie Waldron and State Representative Juan Vargas regarding continued SVP placements in Jacumba.

Jeff: There is a new guy running to replace Marie Waldron, his name is Andrew Hayes.

Katrina: I have also had trouble contacting Supervisor Anderson by email.

Greg: I recommend that you reach out to Supervisor Anderson's staff when he is at an event and they will give you their business cards.

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

1. On Thursday, May 9, 2024, the five-member California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will vote on CA Assembly Bill 205 "Requirements for Electric Utilities" which would allow California utilities to charge a flat \$24 per month fee on all electrical customers before charging them for any actual electrical usage. (A simple majority vote is needed for approval.)

Chair: The two legislative bills that would have repealed the portion of the fixed monthly charge, one submitted by the Democrats (AB1999) and one by the Republicans (SB1326) were not moved forward. Without further legislation, the CPUC can decide to raise the monthly charge in a year or so. If the CPUC approves AB205, the new fees could be applied to all SD&E customers in Q4 of 2025.

Jeff: Haven't the utilities offered a reduction in their per kilowatt hour rate to offset the baseline fee?

Chair: Yes, a 5 to 7 cent reduction per kilowatt hour is included in this bill. However, once the baseline fee has been approved, utility companies will likely ask for subsequent fee increases. San Diego already pays one of the most expensive costs for our electricity. Utilities are trying to sell this bill under the guise of saying that it will promote the electrification of homes.

Jeff: Did you know that the CPUC is trying to get the CEQA requirements for all renewable energy projects waived for the next five years until 2030?

Chair: I sure hope that does not happen because the affected communities will lose what little "push back" that they currently have.

2. The Association of Planning Groups-San Diego County (APG) will hold a meeting from 10am-noon on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at the Lakeside Library, 12428 Woodside Ave, Lakeside, CA 92040. The meeting agenda has not been released. JCSG Chair will not be able to attend. Member Perelman volunteered to represent the JCSG at the June 1st meeting.

3. Jacumba Hotel Grand Opening wrap-up. (Jeff Osborne).

Jeff: We had about 250 participants at our grand opening and got some good news coverage from it as well. We picked a Wednesday to hold the event based on the supervisor's schedule.

Chair: Supervisor Anderson gave Carole Haller, the granddaughter of Bert Vaughn, a Bert Vaughn Day proclamation

certificate at the Bert Vaughn Memorial Bridge.

Katrina: Supervisor Anderson's staff reached out to the JCSD board shortly before the event and wanted to do some photos at the Community Park playground with a big fake \$100K check, but we were unable accommodate the photo request.

4. Community interface reports.

a. Highland Senior Center.

Jeff: We are having a good turnout at our Wednesday lunches. The senior center board is currently looking for a volunteer center manager, which we hope to transition to a paid part-time position.

Chair: I recently went to a Wednesday lunch and I was impressed with the good food and service as well as the very reasonable price.

b. Real East County Fire Safe Council.

A free community chipping day will be held at the Back Country Resource Center (BCRC) in Boulevard on Sat., May 11th from 8 am to noon. The next fire safe council meeting is July 15 at 6:30pm. More volunteers are needed.

c. Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance (JBRA).

Food pantry is open from 9-11 on Monday mornings except holidays. Next JBRA meeting is July 15 at 7:30pm. More volunteers are needed.

G. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6pm.

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

Approved: June 10, 2024