

**County of San Diego**  
**Jacumba Community Sponsor Group (JCSG)**  
**Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 8, 2024**  
**Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934**

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**A. Call to order/Roll call:** The JCSG meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. Present: Seat 1. Steve Perelman; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Open Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne (Chair); Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public: 6.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on June 6, 2024.**

*M/S to approve the minutes of July 8, 2024, Curran/Perelman. Vote: 4-0-0.* 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.)

Cherry Diefenbach: Ask Chairman Osborne if he received an acknowledgment back from Joel Anderson's office regarding the request on a County Park. She stated the County has 48 hours to respond to emails and it appears that principle is not being applied by BOS Anderson's office.

Mark, Farm field fire hazard concerns with the overgrown weeds and asked the developer for weed abatement.

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

**1. JVR Energy Park – BayWa.r.e – Community Funds Discussion:**

Annika Egan and Shannon Bay Wa.r.e Community Project Liasons, a new team created by the JVR developer (developed after the project was approved) joined the JCSG meeting. Jacumba and other east county community members expressed comments and serious concerns regarding the JVR Energy Farm and the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR, Pinscher Energy Storage) lithium battery storage facility. The Jacumba community expressed and posed the following questions and concerns:

- Size and footprint of the JVR project in comparison to the town of Jacumba Hot Springs. Project is too large and close to the town especially the southern side. The project plans were not properly updated with the agreed upon buffer for both sides of Old Highway 80. The community wants the project plans to be updated with the correct setback south of Old Highway 80 and move it away from our community park and senior center.
- With the advancement of solar panel science, why isn't the developer utilizing the most current solar technology to produce the required the 90 MW hence allowing for a smaller project imprint.
- Project contains an unnecessary switchyard. Why is the switchyard included in the project. Jacumba already has a 108-acre industrial solar field with a switchyard that can be utilized for the JVR Solar project connection.
- Dangerous lithium battery storage project. The Jacumba community was not notified of the JVR, Pinscher Energy Storage project. Why wasn't the community notified.
- Why isn't the developer utilizing newer, safer battery technologies and why is San Diego County allowing such type of storage facility next to a residential community. Residents are gravely concerned after what happened down in Otay Mesa, CA (San Diego County) lithium battery storage facility. Jacumba has easterly winds and if a fire would occur, it would blow the fire and toxic fumes over the town decimating Jacumba Hot Springs and their residents.
- Project presents an extreme, dangerous fire hazard to the community. What is the plan to mitigate this issue.
- JVR Energy Farm and battery storage is being built in an historical floodplain and how is the developer going to mitigate this issue.
- How is the developer going to mitigate the heat island effect especially since Jacumba Hot Springs average summer temperatures is in the triple digits being semi high desert.
- Solar glare for landing aircraft and what is the mitigation for this issue.
- The Project's destructive impact(s) regarding archaeological, historical, environmental, agricultural farming loss.

- How was San Diego County able to circumvent the zoning for this industrial project since it is zoned agriculture and approve the project for the developer.
- How is the project accessing enough water to mitigate and protect the town from the negative impact of the construction dust.
- When and how the community funds will be distributed. The Bay Wa.r.e. liaisons stated the funds will be dispensed to the San Diego Foundation or foundation of the community's choice. The County of San Diego will not have anything to do with our community funds or dispersal of our funds. They will go straight to the community.
- Jacumba residents would like walking and hiking trails around the project as to continue enjoying the rural atmosphere of our town.
- The community expressed the need of plants and trees to obstruct the view of the project and to replenish the ecosystem the project will be destroying. Bay Wa.r.e liaisons stated they will be terraseeding under the solar panels with native flora and be planting trees to help obscure the project.

The Community stated to the Bay Wa.r.e liaisons' that the community submitted in numerous JCSG and community member letters, emails and comments to the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, San Diego County Planning Department, Bay Wa.r.e of all the unmitigable dangerous concerns regarding the project. These noted and other numerous comments and concerns were treated with utter disregard by the above said parties.

Jacumba Hot Springs residents stated they are gravely concerned about their health, welfare, quality of life, devaluation of property values, scenic views and detrimental effect this project will have on their lives.

**2. Open Board Seat Discussion:** JCSG board seat 3 is open and will be posted and filled per policy. Odd board seats terms will be up in January 2025.

### **3. Community interface reports.**

- a. Highland Senior Center- No updates.
- b. Real East County Fire Safe Council – Updates regarding tire disposal and chipping events.  
The first community cleanup will be on Sat, August 17, from 8 to 11am, or when the trucks are full.
- c. Jacumba Boulevard revitalization Alliance (JBRA). New AV set-up at the center and room can be rented.

### **F. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm. The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 pm.

*For more information, contact the JCSG Chair Jeff Osborne at [Jeff@JacumbaHotSprings.com](mailto:Jeff@JacumbaHotSprings.com).*

*Minutes approved by JCSG board 8-12-24*