

County of San Diego
Jacumba Hot Springs Sponsor Group
FINAL Minutes from Regular Meeting on December 22, 2020
Jacumba Hot Springs, CA. 91934

The December 22, 2020 Jacumba Sponsor Group (JSG) Special Meeting (via Zoom) was called to order at 5:05 pm.

A. Members Present: Seat 1. Lonna Marshall; Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach; Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne. (Absent: Seat 2. Kerry Graze and Seat 5. Helen Landman) Public present: Jacari Cousins, Greg Curran, Paula Whiseant, and Jessica Turner.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. (waived-due to virtual meeting format)

C. Motion/Second to approve minutes of the special JSG meeting held on October 29, 2020: *M/S: Marshal/Osborne*. Passed: 3-0-0.

D. Public Communication: The public may comment on any subject within the JSG'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.) **Jessica Turner (PDS liaison) provided prospective members with an overview of county training requirements and the occasions when a Form 700 must be submitted.**

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

1. Motion to approve Jacari Cousins' application for Seat #1 (currently held by Lonna Marshall). This seat becomes vacant on January 1, 2021. *M/S Diefenbach/Marshall*. Passed 3-0-0. (Attachment 1)

2. Motion to approve Paula Whisenant's application for Seat #2 (currently held by Kerry Graze). This seat becomes vacant on January 1, 2021. *M/S Marshall/Osborne*. Passed 3-0-0. (Attachment 2)

3. Motion to approve Greg Curran's application for Seat #5 (currently held by Helen Landman). This seat becomes vacant on January 1, 2021 *M/S Marshall/Diefenbach*. Passed 3-0-0. (Attachment 3)

4. Motion to elect Cherry Diefenbach as the Jacumba Sponsor Group Chair. *M/S Osborne/Marshall*. Passed 3-0-0. (Nominations/selection for other positions: Vice-Chair and Secretary will be held after three new members have been seated.)

5. Motion to change regular Jacumba sponsor group meeting date and time to the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm with meetings to be held at the Jacumba Library when normal library operations have resumed. *M/S Diefenbach/Marshall*. Passed 3-0-0. Chair will provide the new meeting date and time to the Jacumba librarian. (Historically, the sponsor group meeting has been held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 pm.)

6. Discuss/update the status of the **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed 90 MW Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park (JVR solar) (PDS2018-MUP-18-022); (SCH No. 2019039044)**. The **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed 90 MW Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park (JVR solar) (PDS2018-MUP-18-022); (SCH No. 2019039044)** was released on October 8, 2020 for public review and comment. After a two-week extension of the public comment period, PDS received a total of 3 tribal letters, 4 agency letters, 7 letters from organizations and 136 letters from individuals. The JVR Project involves the construction and operation of up to a 90 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility. The Project footprint is approximately 643 acres on a 1,356 acre property formerly known as Ketchum Ranch which is immediately east, north, and south of the community of Jacumba Hot Springs; north, south, and west of the Jacumba Airport, for

about a mile along both sides of scenic Highway 80; and south of the I-8 corridor near the Jacumba exit. The project will include the following:

- approximately 300,000 photovoltaic modules (12-feet high) mounted on single axis trackers which follow the sun from east to west
- 75 battery storage containers-three containers at each site (55-feet long, 19-feet wide and 10-feet high)
- 25 inverter/transformer metal platforms on skids (8-feet wide and 20-feet long) installed adjacent to the battery storage containers
- 5,000-feet of underground electrical collection system
- an on-site collector substation (152-feet by 180-feet) and a 200-foot-long 65-foot-high overhead Slack span transmission line that connects the collector substation to the switchyard
- a 138kV switchyard (3.2-acres) (adjacent to the collector substation) with 1,860-feet of overhead transmission lines strung on (five) 70-115 feet steel poles to loop the switchyard into the existing SDG&E Boulevard-East County Transmission Line

The DEIR includes alternatives to the original JVR project: 1. No project alternative; 2. Community buffer alternative; and 3. Reduced project Alternative.

The Planning & Development Services (PDS) project manager is Nicholas Koutoufidis nicholas.koutoufidis@sdcounty.ca.gov or 858-495-5329. JVR Project documents are available at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/cequa/MUP-18-022/JVRAdminRecord.html>. A copy of the DEIR is located at the Jacumba Library.

During the previous Jacumba Sponsor Group meeting on Oct. 29, 2020, the group was unable to provide PDS with a recommendation regarding the JVR project due to a lack of a quorum. The Sponsor Group Chair will place a JVR Solar project discussion/vote on the agenda of the next meeting. Additionally, she will provide new sponsor group members with a copy of her comments and Jeff Osborne's comments previously sent to the PDS project manager as background information. **A vast majority of Jacumba's residents have voiced their concerns about the size of the project and its potentially negative impacts on their quality of life and the future of the town.**

F. Group business and Project Updates-discussion only.

- 1. Announcements and correspondence:** The Chair has forwarded a Jacumba Needs Assessment Survey from Circulate San Diego to each sponsor group member for their individual response. (Dec. 22, 2020, acalinog@circulate.org refers.)

Due to the virtual meeting format, there were no announcements or reports from community interface groups.

G. Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm. The next regular JSG meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm. (This meeting will be delayed if the Board of Supervisors has not confirmed the three new sponsor group members.)

Minutes were approved on March 16, 2021.