

**County of San Diego**  
**Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group**  
**FINAL Minutes of Special Meeting 7:00 pm on June 17, 2021**  
**Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934**

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The June 17, 2021 Special Meeting of the Jacumba Community Sponsor Group (JCSG) was called to order at 7:02 pm after the conclusion of a community forum with Supervisor Joel Anderson's staff.

**JCSG Members Present:** Seat 2. Greg Curran; Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach; Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne; Seat 5. Katrina Westley. **Members absent:** Seat 1. Jacari Cousins. **Public present:** 6.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** (waived)

**A. Motion to approve the draft minutes of the JCSG meeting held on May 18, 2021. M/S: Curran/Westley. Passed 4-0-0-1.**

**B. Public Communication:** There were no public speakers.

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

1. Discuss/vote on whether a new pedestrian crosswalk across Old Highway 80 at Carriso St. near the Highland Center and the Jacumba Library is needed for pedestrian safety. Community members have expressed their concerns about the excessive speeding of vehicles traveling on Old Hwy 80 through town. Residents of the Wagon Wheel Trailer Park have complained about their pets being killed by speeding trucks. Several years ago, a lady in a wheel chair was killed while attempting to cross Old Highway 80, near the trailer park. One option for slowing down traffic and making it safer for pedestrians to cross the road at the eastern end of town is the placement of a crosswalk with raised bumps (turtles) at Carriso St. Also posted radar signs showing vehicular speeds would be another option. **Motion for the Chair to submit a request that County DPW review traffic volume/speeds in Jacumba to determine if a new pedestrian crosswalk and/or radar signs at Carriso St. are warranted. M/S: Osborne/Curran. Passed 4-0-0-1.**
2. Discuss/vote on possible solutions for eliminating trash/appliance/mattress dumping at the former recycling business located at 42748 Old Hwy 80 west of Jacumba. The Chair provided an update from Supervisor Anderson's staff. This property is covered by a Major Use Permit (MUP) that expires in March 2023. There is currently an open code compliance investigation on the property with a number of documented violations. These include grading, storage of inoperable vehicles and solid waste (asphalt grindings), unpermitted cargo containers, and trash/appliance dumping. County officials have requested a meeting with the new owner to discuss the violations. (The owner purchased the property at auction in March 2020.) The sponsor group believes code enforcement should post a large metal "\$1000 fine for dumping" sign at a location visible from the highway. This might deter future would-be trash dumpers. JCSG member Curran stated that he has seen children/teens playing amidst the appliances which is a potentially dangerous situation. **Motion for the Sponsor Group to send written correspondence to Code Enforcement requesting that a no dumping sign be placed at the site. M/S: Osborne/Westley. Passed 4-0-0-1.** The Chair requested that Curran draft correspondence to code enforcement with a copy to Supervisor Anderson.
3. Nominate/Vote on a Jacumba Sponsor Group Vice-chair and Secretary. **Motion to nominate Greg Curran as Vice-Chair and Katrina Westley as Secretary. M/S: Diefenbach/Osborne. Passed 4-0-0-1.**
4. Discuss/vote on authorizing the Chair to submit written comments regarding the negative impacts of the County's proposed cannabis and needle exchange programs. **Further discussion has been postponed to a subsequent meeting.**
5. Discuss the project review timeline for the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Energy Park (PDS2018-MUP-18-022).

--Based on recent communications with the PDS project manager, Nicholas Koutoufidis

([nicholas.koutoufidis@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:nicholas.koutoufidis@sdcounty.ca.gov) or 619-323-7905), the Chair expects the Final EIR to be released during the week of June 21, 2021. Jacumba is expected to receive two printed copies of the expansive document. An electronic file of the Final EIR will also be posted on-line.

--A Planning Commission Hearing Report will be released ten days in advance of the Planning Commission (PC) Hearing (estimated for July 9, 2021). This report will contain the PDS project recommendations to the PC. Once this report becomes available for public review (estimated to be June 29 or 30<sup>th</sup>) the Chair expects to hold a special Sponsor Group meeting to discuss a response to the report. The Chair also discussed the procedures for making in-person comments or submitting e-comments to the PC. At this time, we do not know if the July 9 PC hearing format will be remote or in-person.

--The Board of Supervisors (BOS) is expected to hold their hearing on August 18, 2021. At this time, we do not know if the BOS hearing format will be remote or in-person. It is critical that Jacumba residents and the public at large make comments at both the PC and BOS hearings.

--JCSG member Osborne has developed an "Equity for Jacumba Alternative" to the JVR solar project that is a reasonable and balanced compromise. This alternative was shared at the community forum on June 17, 2021 where it received positive feedback from the nearly 100 participants. This "Equity" alternative would allow for future expansion of the town, by eliminating solar modules south of Old Hwy 80 near the airport and immediately north of Old Hwy 80 next to residences. Some other key elements of the Equity for Jacumba Alternative are: limiting the project footprint to up to approximately 300 acres or an ~80MW production/storage, a restored north/south wildlife corridor that stretches from the border wall (Mexico) to adjacent ABDSP lands.) The Sponsor Group believes this alternative is one that County leadership could approve if it generates enough public support at the upcoming hearings. (See page 3 for the Equity for Jacumba Alternative map.)

--After a discussion of the proposed community benefits agreement language between the Jacumba Community Services District (JCSD) and JVR Energy Park LLC, the Chair volunteered to attend the next JCSD meeting scheduled for June 29, at 5pm. **Motion to authorize the Chair to request the developer add the following statement to any benefits agreement between JCSD and the JVR Energy park LLC: "The JVR Energy Park LLC and the JCSD acknowledge that it is the Jacumba Sponsor Group and not the JCSD who represents the community of Jacumba on land use matters to the County of San Diego."**  
*M/S: Curran/Westley. Passed 4-0-0-1.*

#### **D. Group business and Project Updates-discussion only:**

1. Announcements and correspondence. None.
2. Community interface and other reports.  
--Mark Ostrander provided Fire Safe Council and Jacumba/Boulevard Revitalization group reports.

#### **E. Adjournment:**

**The Sponsor Group meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.** The next special Jacumba Sponsor Group meeting is TBD.

#### **Purpose of Planning and Sponsor Groups:**

Advise the County on discretionary projects as well as on planning and land use matters that are proposed within their respective community planning or sponsor group area.

*Amended and Approved: July 6, 2021*

