

**County of San Diego**  
**Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group**  
**FINAL Minutes of Regular Meeting held at 6pm on Nov. 8, 2021**  
**Highland Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934**

---

**A. Roll Call:** Seat 1. Jacari Cousins; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair) **absent**; Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne; Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public: 14.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**C. Approval of the draft minutes of the October 11, 2021 JCSG meeting was moved to the Dec. 13, 2021 meeting.**

**D. Public Communication:** Community member, Morgan Stevens, expressed frustration that EDCO has increased the cost of renting a trash dumpster. EDCO now requires customers with a dumpster to place recyclables into a separate trash container. Therefore, they are charging more because two different trucks are picking up the refuse. Stevens thinks that EDCO may later require customers use a separate trash container for green waste pickup and that may cost even more money. The JCSG will also consider placing this item on a subsequent meeting agenda.

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

**1. Discuss/vote on an initial JCSG community benefits survey.** The Chair recommended that our survey also ask questions about energy usage since the County may consider future limitations/restrictions on the use of propane stoves, heaters, generators, and also wood-burning stoves/fireplaces, in the name of fighting climate change. There was a consensus that we should do this. One member of the public commented that the list of possible benefits included on the survey too limited. The draft survey is already a full two pages in length. Adding additional questions would make it three pages long and people may be reluctant to complete a lengthier survey. Besides, survey question #8 specifically requests ideas for other possible community benefits. Another person suggested the survey be printed in Spanish as well as English since many of our community are Spanish speakers. A third person asked for information about the distribution of the survey and whether it would go to property owners who may not reside or have a PO Box in Jacumba. After further discussion, the Chair stated that we could request Planning and Development (PDS) staff to translate, print, and mail the bilingual surveys to all Jacumba property owners/PO box holders, but that would likely delay distribution. Depending on how quickly PDS responds to our request for help, the sponsor group hopes to provide the survey results at our next meeting. **Motion to request that PDS translate, print, and mail our survey.** *M/S Westley/Cousins. Passed: 4-0-0-1 (Curran).*

**2. Discuss/vote on the establishment of a JCSG Community Benefits Ad hoc subcommittee.** This interim group would develop potential fiduciary options for community benefit funds investment and a checklist that local community groups could follow when submitting grant funding requests. **Motion to nominate Katrina Westley to serve as the sponsor group chair/liaison for the Community Benefits Ad hoc subcommittee.** *M/S Diefenbach/Osborne. Passed: 4-0-0-1 (Curran).*

The following members of the public have volunteered to serve on the JCSG Community Benefits Ad hoc subcommittee: Bonnie Hafdell, Walker Frankenberg, Sam Schultz, Gina Southard, Maureen Phillips, and Margit Whitlock. The subcommittee will provide a status report at the next sponsor group meeting including a summary of the community benefits survey responses that have been received.

**3. Discuss the County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Department's request for Jacumba's recreation programming priority list, due by Dec. 30, 2021.** Every year, the DPR solicits input from each community about recreation improvements that they would like the DPR to fund. The last time that Jacumba submitted a priority list was in 2017. The chair has invited a representative from DPR to attend our next sponsor group meeting to explain what type of projects are eligible for funding under the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO). The Chair will also request a JCSD representative attend the meeting and provide us with information on how JCSD expects to spend their \$250K in JVR community benefits money.

**4. Discuss/update the San Diego Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) process.** The State of California has identified 2045 as the goal for achieving a statewide net-zero carbon footprint. At the request of the BOS, the RDF has been working on ways that the County can reduce its carbon footprint. The BOS will get an update

from the RDF project team at their upcoming hearing on Dec. 1, 2021. The final San Diego RDF report will be published in February 2022. The public comment period on draft RDF document ends on Dec. 3, 2021. At our Oct. 11, 2021 meeting, the JCSG authorized the Chair to submit comments on behalf of the community. Individuals are also encouraged to submit their comments on the RDF to [zerocarbon.leug@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:zerocarbon.leug@sdcounty.ca.gov) prior to Dec. 3, 2021.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/regional-decarbonization.html>.

**5. Discuss/update SD County's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) process.** The commissioners have been holding a series of public meetings as they direct the drawing of new supervisory district maps. Some of the proposed maps would have a significant impact on the Mountain Empire (ME) area because they would split the area into two districts and put some or all of the ME area into a predominantly urban district with the communities of Imperial Beach, National City, and Chula Vista. This would likely diminish Jacumba's already limited political voice. At the Oct. 11, 2021 meeting, the JCSG group authorized the Chair to submit comments on the draft redistricting maps, requesting the Mountain Empire Area be kept intact and that Jacumba does not become a part of an urban city district. The Chair encouraged individual community members to submit their own comments to the next public IRC mapping meeting on Sat., Nov. 13, at 1pm by Zoom. She will provide more information about subsequent IRC meetings to Jacumba community members-at-large via email as future IRC agenda/draft maps are posted for public review/comment.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/redistricting.html>.

**6. Discuss/update proposed SD County Community Benefits program for future energy, residential, and industrial projects.** The BOS will consider the language for a community benefits ordinance as recommended by PDS staff at the BOS hearing on Dec. 8, 2021. The proposed ordinance might include a designated monetary benefit for the communities that are affected by the placement of a renewable energy facility similar to the program that Imperial County is developing. The group discussed some elements that must be considered in any future benefits ordinance. Member Osborne suggested that PDS should have a dedicated staff member who would assist communities in negotiating benefits with project developers, etc. **Motion for the Chair to submit JCSG comments on the proposed Community Benefits program to the BOS. M/S Osborne/Jacari. Passed: 4-0-0-1 (Curran).**

**F. Group business: Project updates, Community reports, and correspondence-discussion only:**

1. JCSG comments on proposed streamlining of battery storage projects were emailed to BOS on Oct. 31, 2021.

2. SANDAG will be voting on December 10, 2021 on whether to go forward with their 2021 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which **includes two general sales tax increases and 4-6 cents VMT fees.** (VMT fees will primarily be used to enhance/subsidize mass transit in urban areas with rural residents being disproportionately impacted by those fees.) JCSG previously authorized the Chair to submit group comments on the 2021 RTP to SANDAG. The Chair will provide updated JCSG comments to the BOS and SANDAG asking them to reject the VMT mandate, etc., before SANDAG's December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. All rural residents are encouraged to submit individual comments on the plan as well.

3. Code enforcement is pending on the illegal dumping site at 42748 Old Highway 80.

4. Pinscher Energy Storage is a 150MW battery storage project that would connect to the Carrizo Gorge Substation via the Blvd transmission line by 6/1/24. Eolica La Rumarosa is a 900MW Wind project in Mexico that would connect to the ECO Substation via the 500kV transmission line by 3/31/28. (Both have applications on file with CAISO.)

5. Community interface/subcommittee reports.

a. Highland Center. (No report)

b. Fire Safe Council. (No report)

c. JBRA (Revitalization). (No report)

**G. Adjournment:**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.** The next regular JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6pm in the Highland Center.

*Approved: Dec. 13, 2021*