

County of San Diego
Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group
Final Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6 pm on October 10, 2022
Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. The Oct. 10th, 2022 JCSG meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Present were: Curran (Vice-chair) Seat #2; Diefenbach (Chair) Seat #3; Osborne Seat #4; and Westley (Secretary) Seat #5. (Seat #1 is currently vacant.) Public present: 14.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meetings held on July 11, 2022 and August 8, 2022.

M/S: Motion to approve the draft minutes of July 11, 2022. Westley/Curran. Passed: 3-0-0-1(Osborne).

M/S: Motion to approve the draft minutes of August 8, 2022. Diefenbach/Osborne. Passed: 3-0-0-1(Curran).

D. Public Communication:

Diefenbach: The County will hold a hazardous and electronic waste collection event in Campo at 970 Forrest Gate Rd., on Sat., Oct. 29 from 9am to 2pm. (no large appliances, business waste, tires, A/C units, or medications.)

E. Action items:

1. Review Registrar of Voters (ROV) certified applications for JCSG Seat #1 which is currently vacant. (The term for this seat expires on January 6, 2025.) **Discuss/vote on a candidate to fill Seat #1.**

The JCSG received two applications for JCSG Seat #1, one from Bonnie Hafdell and one from Breck Schoch. Both have been certified by the ROV as eligible to serve on the Sponsor Group.

Breck and Bonnie made brief oral comments regarding their desire to serve on the JCSG.

M/S to approve Bonnie Hafdell to fill vacant JCSG Seat #1: Westley/Curran. Passed: 4-0-0-0.

2. Review Greg Curran's ROV certified application for JCSG Seat #2 and Jeff Osborne's ROV certified application for JCSG Seat # 4. (The terms of even-numbered expire on January 2, 2023.) The Sponsor Group also considered Breck Schoch for those seats. **Discuss/vote on candidates to fill Seat #2 and Seat #4.**

Jeff Osborne and Greg Curran expressed a desire to continue to serve on the JCSG.

M/S to approve Greg Curran for Seat #2 and Jeff Osborne for Seat #4: Osborne/Curran. Passed: 4-0-0-0.

3. Drought-tolerant landscaping near the JCSD water treatment plant fence on Old Highway 80. The County Right-of-Way (ROW) extends 50-feet from the centerline of Old Highway 80. The water treatment plant fence is located three feet beyond the outside edge of the ROW. **Vote on whether to request that the JCSD plants honeysuckle vines or another drought-tolerant plant after the weather cools (Nov/Dec 2022 timeframe).**

Chair: The JCSD water treatment facility located on Historic Highway 80 in Jacumba has a chain-link fence topped by razor wire which gives it an industrial appearance. It is located near private residences. The planting of drought tolerant landscaping such as honeysuckle vines outside of the perimeter fence would soften its industrial appearance.

Brenda: Expressed a concern about who would be funding the landscaping.

Chair: The estimated cost of starter plants would be minimal. Honeysuckle vines could even be started from cuttings. JCSD, as the owner of the facility should be responsible any landscaping.

It was also suggested that landscaping should be added along the eastern and western perimeter fencing.

M/S to send a request to the JCSD to plant drought tolerant landscaping outside the water treatment facility facing Historic Highway 80: Diefenbach/Curran. Passed: 4-0-0-0

4. Discuss/vote on a letter to the BOS in support of BPG's stated conditions for Rugged Solar Project.

On Wednesday, Oct. 12th, the BOS votes on modifications to Clean Focus' 380-acre Rugged Solar Project which is planned for placement on the Rough Acres Ranch and along both sides of McCain Valley Road. (This project that was previously approved by the BOS in 2017.)

The Chair provided a draft Rugged Solar Project comments letter for the Sponsor Group consideration.

Jeff: Suggested that the comments letter address the potential negative impacts of as many as 12 large water trucks filling their tanks at local wells.

M/S to approve the Chair submit the Rugged Solar comments letter as discussed to the BOS before the hearing on Oct. 12, 2022: Curran/Westley. Passed: 4-0-0-0.

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

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Maureen Phillips provided an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program including program objectives. The CDBG program funded by HUD, provides funding for projects like sidewalks, parks, libraries, senior centers, etc. in lower income communities. The County will accept CDBG grant requests from individuals and groups through November 4, 2022. Applications for grant requests can be found on the County's website: www.SDHCD.org.

The Chair will consider submitting an individual grant request for sidewalks along Old 80 near the library and senior center at the east end of town. (In September 2021, the JCSG submitted a similar request for sidewalks to DPW. To date, we have gotten no feedback on that request.) She also encouraged individuals and non-profit groups like the Highland Seniors Center to submit their own CDBG applications.

2. a. JVR Solar project update. A legal appeal to the BOS previous approval of the JVR Solar project is expected to be filed soon and it will likely further delay the construction of the project.

b. 2nd JVR Community Benefits Survey update. The survey was printed, but it was not circulated. Given the anticipated delay in the JVR project construction, continued action to circulate a benefits survey is deemed premature.

c. Community Benefits Agreements update. At the Sep. 28, 2022 BOS meeting, county supervisors voted to approve a Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) program that includes mandatory and voluntary CBAs related to major renewable energy projects. (Mandatory benefits will be required if the green energy benefits are exported out of the impacted area and if a Statement of Overriding Considerations was required due to CEQA.) Voluntary CBAs are encouraged if no unmitigated impacts. PDS staff has been directed to develop program administration procedures and regulatory documents. More public/stakeholder engagements on CBAs is anticipated.

3. Decorative Community Identification Signage Program overview.

The BOS has agreed to support a decorative signage program for individual communities. The County will waive permit fees, and fund the construction/maintenance costs for the signs. A decorative sign program representative has been invited to next month's meeting to further explain the program.

4. Brush abatement was completed along Hwy 80 within the County Right-of-Way (ROW) at the west end of Jacumba. DPW crews did a great job removing the brush.

5. Update on the proposed placement of another SVP, William Stafford, at 42457 Old Highway 80 in Jacumba. A public hearing was held on Sep. 30, 2022. Joel Anderson, our District 2 Supervisor attended the hearing and spoke out against Stafford's placement. Community members voiced their appreciation of his efforts.

Supervisor Desmond recently submitted a CA Public Records Act request to the State asking for all correspondence regarding SVPs and Liberty Healthcare, the company managing SVPs outside the prison system. He hopes to get answers to questions like: Can SVPs go to a grocery store? Who can visit SVPs? What happens to SVPs during an emergency evacuation? What happens if SVPs decides to run away from their court approved homes?

Deputy Marcusen: The County Probation Dept. manages the SVP placement program. He believes that SVPS are allowed to leave their homes unsupervised while wearing an ankle monitoring bracelet. Visit intervals by County Probation vary. They may be every month or every six months.

Judge Gill will render a decision on Stafford's placement on Oct. 11, 2022.

6. Department of Parks and Recreation (Chelsea Jander) has requested Jacumba's updated FY2022-2023 Parks Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) priority list by 11/30/2022.

In September, the JCSD Board was provided a copy of Jacumba's last PLDO submission (Jan. 2022). They will provide input before the November JCSG meeting.

7. A resident has requested a stop sign be installed at the intersection of Snob Hill Road and Old Highway 80. Snob Hill is not a county-maintained road. DPW does not make road improvements to non-county roads.

8. Community interface reports.

a. Highland Senior Center. Litigation between the JCSD board and the Senior Center board continues.

b. Real East Fire Safe Council. The final chipping event of 2022 is Sat., Oct. 15, from 8-11 am at the Jacumba Community Park. The FSC is down to just three volunteers—More volunteers are desperately needed. Contact Mark Ostrander if you can help out.

c. JBRA (Revitalization). A Health and Safety Fair will be held at the Backcountry Resource Center (BRC) on Sat., Oct. 23, from 9 am-2 pm. Because the BRC is a voting center from Oct 29 to Nov. 8, their annual Halloween event has been moved to the Clover Flat School.

The BRC has been chosen by SDG&E to serve as a community resource during Public Safety Power Shutdowns.

In advance of JBRA's annual Christmas event at the BRC in December, they are looking for toy donations and volunteers. Contact Mark or Lorrie Ostrander if you can help.

G. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm. The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6 pm.

Approved: November 14, 2022