

**County of San Diego**  
**Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group**  
**Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6 pm on March 13, 2023**  
**Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934**

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**A. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.** Present were: Seat 1. Hafdell; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne. Absent: Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public: 9.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on February 13, 2023.**

*M/S to approve the draft minutes of the JCSG meeting on February 13, 2023: Curran/Hafdell. Passed: 3-0-0-1 (Osborne).*

**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.)

Jeff: The Jacumba Community Service District (JCSD) is expected to provide water for the construction of additional border wall. He suggested that the town provide JCSD with a recommendation for minimizing water tanker trucks impact to residents and asked that a discussion of this be put on the next meeting agenda,

Greg: The Jacumba County Library is currently offering free tax help.

Chair: Due to the impact of winter storms on California's residents, the deadline for filing 2022 state and federal taxes was moved back to Oct. 16, 2023. However, if you owe taxes, you must pay your taxes by April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Bonnie: Called San Diego Community Power (SDCP) regarding opting out of SDCP electrical power generation and was told that she would have to wait until her "true up date."

Chair: It is expected that DPW will provide recommendations about the decorative community signage program to the BOS in May.

Chair: The County is hosting a virtual Climate Action Plan (CAP) update on March 21, 2023 from 6:730pm. The link to attend the meeting is <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/climateactionplan.html>. On the website is a CAP survey directed at residents in the unincorporated areas of the county.

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

**1. The State Fire Marshall and CAL FIRE have released a draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) map for public review.** The comment period will expire on April 4, 2023. Individuals can submit their comments via email to [fhszcomments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:fhszcomments@fire.ca.gov).

On the draft FHSZ map which evaluates hazard and not risk, Jacumba is identified as being a "high" fire hazard severity zone. The map and ratings are based on the physical conditions that create the likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period. Physical conditions include fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and prevailing winds. These maps do not consider mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfires, or fuel reduction efforts.

Chair: The BOS has been using the fire hazard severity zones to limit residential development in rural areas while approving the placement of industrial-scale renewable energy projects such as the 500+ acre JVR Solar facility in high FHSZ areas.

--The 2007 FHSZ map has classified much of the area immediately east and northeast of Jacumba as "high." This area became a moderate hazard area on the 2022 draft map. It is not clear why the designation of that area was changed to a lower FHSZ designation and Jacumba remained the same. The JCSG could submit comments that include a request that Jacumba be categorized in the moderate fire hazard severity zone.

*M/S for the Chair to submit comments on the draft FHSZ map: Curran/Hafdell. Passed: 4-0-0.*

**2. The Real East County Fire Safe Council (Mark Ostrander) has requested that the community provide a letter of support for the acquisition an air curtain burner (incinerator).** This trailer-mounted incinerator would replace the use of wood chippers during FSC sponsored chipping events. Supervisor Anderson has discretionary funds

available. The JSCG could send a letter requesting Supervisor Anderson's support for an air curtain burner.

*M/S to approve draft letter of support: Curran/Hafdell. Passed: 4-0-0.*

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

1. San Diego Community Power (SDCP) becomes the default energy generation provider for all residents and businesses located in the unincorporated areas of the County beginning on April 1, 2023 unless individuals request to opt out to remain SDG&E customers. Unlike SDG&E, the SDCP does not have to request rate increases from the CPUC. In 2021, the SDCP entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with BayWa r.e. to obtain solar generated power from the yet-to-be-built Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park.

2. On February 21, 2023, the Chair attended a roundtable discussion on parks and library facilities improvements/expanded programming at the Pine Valley Library. The discussion was hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Libraries. Chelsea Jander from the Dept of Parks and Rec. led the meeting where only Descanso, PV, and Jacumba were represented.

--The need for more youth and more senior programs, both at the libraries and parks, was identified. More bi-lingual programs at Jacumba and WIFI for the community park were requested. A video link to that meeting is available on YouTube under Mountain Empire Community Meeting 2 22 2023.

3. On February 25, 2023, unincorporated planning/sponsor group representatives met again to further discuss a plan for getting a new Unincorporated Communities Advisory Board Member and Alternate onto SANDAG's Board of Directors. This is a continuing effort.

4. The FY2023-2024 CDBG application for sidewalks along Old Hwy 80, and a lighted crosswalk at Carriso St., was not accepted by the County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). However, our previous request to DPW for those road improvements may have been accepted. The Chair has requested an updated status from HHSA/DPW.

5. The public comment period on the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) Playbook ends on March 31, 2023. Comments can be made at [Engage.sandiegocounty.gov/rdf](https://engage.sandiegocounty.gov/rdf). Given that Protect Our Communities Foundation recently filed a lawsuit against the County challenging some of the RDF findings, the implementation of the RDF Playbook will likely be delayed.

6. Community interface reports.

a. Highland Senior Center.

Greg: The senior center board continues to work on getting their CA non-profit status reinstated. They are hopeful that this can get done within the next six months

b. Real East County Fire Safe Council and JBRA (Revitalization): *No report.*

**G. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6 pm.

***Approved: April 10, 2023***