

**County of San Diego**  
**Jacumba Community Sponsor Group (JCSG)**  
**FINAL Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 10, 2024**  
**Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934**

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**A. Call to order/Roll call:** The JCSG meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. Present: Seat 1. Steve Perelman; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne; Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public: 6.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on May 6, 2024.**

*M/S to approve the minutes of May 6, 2024: Westley/Perelman. Vote: 5-0-0.* Motion passes.

**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.)

Gabby and Katrina: Expressed their concerns about the junky appearance of “Coyote’s” collection of boats, flying saucers, etc. that he currently has parked along the road into town. They have also been heard similar concerns from other Jacumba residents

Jeff: Stated that as the owner of the property, he had given Coyote permission to park there. He also stated that he will not allow Coyote fill the place with his junk.

Ben: Announced Al-anon meetings are being held on Thursdays at 6pm in the former Jacumba youth center building on Old Hwy 80.

Chair: Effective July 1, 2024, the state will collect an additional 2 cents per gallon in taxes. That brings the state’s money grab up to a whopping \$.60 per gallon. Please call your elected representatives: Assemblywoman Marie Waldron (858) 566-7538, Representative Juan Vargas (619) 422-5963, and Senator Steve Padilla (619) 409-7690 and ask them to stop the gas tax increase.

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

**1. Legislative update by Andrew Fuller, Supervisor Anderson’s field representative.**

Andrew Fuller discussed some of Supervisor Anderson’s 2023 legislative actions and accomplishments (increased support of public safety officers, increased Opioid enforcement, rental subsidy program for seniors, etc.) He responded to questions and concerns from the public and the sponsor group.

Ben: We have seen very little leadership from Supervisor Anderson regarding the continuing problem of undocumented people crossing the border from Mexico into our area. The fact that he wrote a letter to Congress does not have any meaningful impact on the problem that we are seeing firsthand in Jacumba.

Katrina: We are seeing the illegal immigration problem at Jacumba on the national news on a regular basis.

Ben: The Supervisor’s lack of leadership on the illegal immigration issue will likely be reflected in November when voters cast their ballots.

Chair: There are communications issues between the Supervisor and our sponsor group. We need to be kept in the loop about the Supervisor’s actions and the BOS actions that directly impact our community. For example, about a month ago, Joel circulated a petition to try to stop the placement of two SVPs in Jacumba. While we appreciate him doing so, the petition was limited in its distribution and its timeliness. For example, I as the JCSG chair was not included on the petition distribution. The petition also was circulated too close to the actual SVP court hearing which was just two days later. The Chair of the sponsor group should not have to read the newspaper to find out that another SVP may be placed in our community.

More recently, at last week’s BOS meeting, the supervisors voted to advertise and award a construction manager at risk contract for our new Jacumba fire station. If I had not been signed up to get BOS agendas, I would never have known about it. I did listen to the meeting video, so please thank Joel for his statement about our urgent need for a new fire station. We very much would like to support Joel’s legislative agenda if we are given the opportunity to do so. My recommendation is that a staffer be assigned to review upcoming BOS agenda items to ensure that the

communities impacted are asked for their input.

Greg: Regarding the issue of SVPs, I have personally expressed my strong concerns about SVP placement to Supervisor Anderson. SVP placement in a rural community like Jacumba is very, very, expensive for taxpayers and it puts the safety of the community at risk. SVPs should be housed in a separate state-managed facility, not in communities.

Maureen: Judge Gill is not the problem when it comes to SVP placement. He has been getting housing placement information from Liberty Healthcare. I would also like Supervisor Anderson to support the investigation of Liberty Healthcare placement practices.

Maureen: Jacumba (and Boulevard) could really benefit from access to the County's mobile health clinic program.

Andrew Fuller: I will be forwarding that request from the Sponsor group.

## **2. Discuss actions needed to request a county park for Jacumba (Osborne).**

Jeff: Although I requested more information about how we could get a County Park in Jacumba added to the current Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) from Supervisor Anderson's staff, I have not yet received an answer. The first step is for the sponsor group to formally request one.

Chair: I have prepared a draft email to send to Supervisor Anderson with a copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation that would request a County park for Jacumba if our group votes to request a county park.

*M/S To request Supervisor Anderson assist Jacumba in getting a new County park on the CINA list: Perelman/Osborne. Vote: 4-0-1 (Westley). Motion passes.*

**3. Jacumba will be getting a battery storage facility in addition to the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Solar Facility.** Pinscher Energy Storage, a 150MW facility, is in the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) queue with a projected online date of 2029. It will tie into the electrical grid via the Carriso Gorge Switchyard. To view this project and other renewable energy projects, visit <https://rimspub.caiso.com/rimsui/logon.do> then click on "reporting." (Pinscher Energy Storage is listed on page 10 in the PDF format.) Given the difficulty in extinguishing the May 2024 fire at the battery storage facility in Otay Mesa, adequate safety procedures and appropriate fire suppression systems need to be in place before any battery storage facility is placed in our wildfire-prone backcountry.

Chair: The Sponsor group should probably formally state any concerns to PDS with its placement so close to our town and request that the facility use the safest type of battery (not Lithium ion batteries) regardless of the cost to the project developer.

**4. Discuss the vacancy of JCSG Seat #3 effective June 11, 2024 and post a vacancy notice.** (The term for this seat expires January 6, 2025.) **Nominate/vote on a new JCSG Chair/Vice-Chair as appropriate.**

Chair: I am announcing my resignation from the sponsor group as of June 11, 2024. After serving as the Chair for five plus years, I am proud of how we worked harmoniously together for the good of the community on a variety of projects/issues which included:

--A fierce though unsuccessful fight to stop the placement of the JVR Solar farm on the former Ketchum ranch.

--The cleanup of the trash dumped along the Old Hwy 80 near the former Miller recycling property and the installation of "no dumping" signs.

--Improvements to road safety along Old Hwy 80 in the vicinity of the two bridges at the west end of town through the installation of some new guard rails. We also got those bridges named in memory of two Jacumba residents who made outstanding contributions to our town.

--The installation of a rainfall measuring station at the gilder port.

Tonight, the group will select a new chair. I will of course, do whatever I can to make that transition seamless.

Greg: I am not able to accept the duties as Chair.

*M/S to nominate Jeff Osborne as the Interim Chair: Diefenbach/Perelman. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passes.*

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

1. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently voted to approve a \$24 per month fee on all CA utility customers before charging for any electrical usage beginning in 2025. Please contact your CA legislator:

Assemblywoman Marie Waldron at (858) 566-7538, to request her support of AB 1999 which would limit this fee to \$10.

2. Update on a new Jacumba Fire Station #43.

Chair: On June 4, 2024, the BOS voted to authorize the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise a Construction Manage at Risk (CMAR) contract for the fire station and award Phase I Pre-construction Services. A CMAR provides oversight over the progress of the design team to ensure the design can be constructed within the approved budget (\$17,400,000).

BayWa r.e. has gifted a five-acre portion of their property (APN:660-150-18-00) to the County to use as the site for the new single-story fire station which will include (3) apparatus bays, a lobby, an office, (6) dorm rooms, restrooms, a kitchen, a dining room, and a gym. Sitework will include: parking spaces, a septic system, water wells, (4) 10K above ground water storage tanks, a storm water collection system, a hose rack, and generator. This project will meet Zero Net Energy requirements and it will be designed with 30% embodied carbon reduction. It will also include an option for public art.

Jeff: The station will be located in the setback area of the solar project near the Wagon Wheel Trailer Park.

3. The Association of Planning Groups-San Diego County (APG) meeting was held on June 1, 2024. This is a semi-annual meeting of representatives from the planning and sponsor groups. (The Sponsor groups are associate, non-voting members.) I participated remotely and Steve Perelman attended in person.

Steve: Some of the items discussed were: Hwy 67 and Wildcat Canyon evacuation routes, SR125 toll road, and whether Jacumba and Boulevard are even considered to be part of SANDAG since those communities are not shown on SANDAG's transportation maps.

Chair: Our group requested that Jacumba and Boulevard be shown on SANDAG's maps when we reviewed their draft transportation plan a couple of years ago.

4. San Diego Superior Court Judge Gill recently approved the placement of two sexually violent predators (SVPs) across from the Jacumba Glider Port. On a more positive note, the CA Senate recently unanimously passed the SAFE Act (SB 1074) which seeks to prevent CA from dumping SVPs into family friendly neighborhoods.

5. The county has developed a roads service request website where residents can directly submit any issues with road maintenance, drainage, pot holes, or traffic issues. See link below.

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/roads/Roads\\_Service\\_Request.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/roads/Roads_Service_Request.html)

6. Community interface reports.

a. Highland Senior Center.

Maureen: We are currently trying to form a local veteran's group which would include the veteran and their spouse.

Kat: The JCSG is still working on the settlement with the Highland Senior Center.

Jeff: We are offering lunch on Wednesdays and breakfast on Sundays.

b. Real East County Fire Safe Council.

A free chipping event will be held on Sat., June 15 from 8 to noon at the back country resource center (BCRC). A free tire collection event is scheduled for Sat. June 22, from 8 to noon. The first community cleanup will be on Sat, August 17, from 8 to 11am, or when the trucks are full. The next FSC mtg is July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in BCRC.

c. Jacumba Boulevard revitalization Alliance (JBRA).

Painting of the BCRC continues. The Food Pantry is open on Mondays except when it is a holiday. Next JBRA meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. More volunteers are needed.

**G. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm. The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 6 pm.

*For more information, contact the JCSG Chair Jeff Osborne at [jeff@wearehumankind.com](mailto:jeff@wearehumankind.com)*