

County of San Diego
Jacumba Community Sponsor Group (JCSG)
Final Minutes for the JCSG Meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 12th , 2026 Highland
Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. Call to order/Roll call: Meeting called to order 6:02pm. Seat 1. Steve Perelman (Secretary) Present; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair) Present; Seat 3. Corbin Winters Present; Seat 4. Jeffrey Osborne (Chair) Present; Seat 5. Katrina Westley Absent ~20 members of the public were in attendance.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on December 15th , 2025

Motion to approve: Osborne/Winters. **Vote 3-0-1** Motion Passes(Seat 1,3,4-Aye)(Seat 2-Abstain)

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 3 minutes and no action can be taken on non-agenda items.)

Randal says he will file ... to be on the docket for County BOS meeting

Sam is counting >200 food batches each Monday – run out of food. Could use new volunteers to show up at 7:30 Mon. mornings at the baseball field.

E. Action items:

1. JVR Energy Park - Community Benefit Fund Proposal : Community Needs Assessment by Institute for Public Strategies, David Shorey

a. Presentation on a proposal for conducting a community needs assessment to inform spending of the \$3.8M Community Benefit Fund from JVR Energy Park. David explained the proposed data collection process with a \$10 incentive for each survey taker and \$10 going to the person collecting the surveys. The goal would be to achieve 100 completed surveys. Proposal requests \$25K and would produce a report with recommendations for future action. Jeff asked whether IPS could be our 3rd party scoring matrix processor. We put off any vote about the IPS proposal until next meeting.

David introduced Morgan who focused on substance abuse issues and offered to stock Narcan and Fentanyl test strips in our community. The Library was suggested as a distribution point.

2. JVR Energy Park - Community Benefit Fund Response to County

a. Review County Response to Community Benefit Fund comments from Jacumba Community Sponsor Group. Jeff disagreed with the SDF rationale that there would be more work required than usual to process JCC disbursements so they increased our fee from .75% to 1%.

b. Motion to revert fee back to .75% Osborne/Perelman **Vote 4-0-0** Motion Passes(Seats 1-4, Aye)

F. Group Business

1. JVR Energy Park – Construction Conditions and Mitigation Discussion - Community and County Interface

a. San Diego County Planning and Development Services will be present with Senior Planning Staff to inform the community and answering questions about conditions and mitigation measures of the JVR Energy Project. Nick Koutoufedis and Mark Slovic from SD County PDS answered many questions. The hours of operation will be 7:00am -6:00pm M-F and Mark will give us a list of requirements for JVR to be in compliance with the permit. Tanya noted that it is currently nesting season for birds and asked if there is proof that a biologist is on site when dirt is being moved. .. responded that the biologist clears an area and then construction is OKed for 72 hours following. Dudek contracts the work and Tanya stated that that is a conflict of interest. She wants a list of endangered species affected.

Angela, the cultural resource representative for the Manzanita tribe pointed out that the 2020 agreement required a member of the Kumeyaay nation to oversee ...JVR is not complying. The 5 tribes were not even notified that ground was broken. Steve has observed some large flatbed

trailers that dropped off heavy equipment at the site departing through town to the West which is a violation of the agreement with Baywa r.e. Ashley Sullivan said that we can call her at 619-306-8139 to report violations, Emily Jacobson at 619-510-2729, or Annaka Egan at 541-978-9941. Annaka is the Community Engagement Manager for Baywa r.e.

CSI is the General Contractor, Thomas Romero is Site Manager, Cody Ludwig Director of Construction for Baywa re

Veronica Santos, tribal historic preservation officer introduced councilman John Lerrick, Chairman Angela Elliot Santos, and 2 more members of the Manzanita tribe. Jacumba is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in this country and artifacts are found as much as 25' underground. That equates to over 12,000 years ago. Mark indicated that he would try to get a Manzanita monitor emplaced. Red Tail is the contracted cultural monitor and it has no affiliation with any Kumeyaay tribe.

Thomas Romero – Site Manager and Cody Ludwig – Director of Construction Baywa re gave us a timeline for the upcoming work. The noisiest activity will likely be the pile-driving for solar panels. It should start in March and go on for ~3 months. They anticipate power being delivered by the end of the year. Dust has been an issue and if it exceeds 20% opacity work should stop until water is spread in the work area. Any violations should be reported to the APCD. As an example during the previous week 6 days in a row had wind gusts over 25 MPH. The airport weather station is NFG but Weather Underground has a station at the hotel. The dust mitigation plan references “sensitive receptors” which includes day-cares and schools. The Senior Center should really be considered one too. The table in that section includes the park and the library which are further away than the SC. Corbin asked when the tree and vegetation planting would begin for the visual barriers. It will take years for them to grow enough to block our sight-line. “Prior to occupancy” was the response. She said we’d appreciate it as soon as possible. Katrina could not be at this meeting but she wrote a letter.

Where is the environmental justice and county liability with the approval of battery storage facilities next to our community? How can it possibly be justified or adequately mitigated when the county issued a moratorium?

and it's completely aware of the danger via the Otay Mesa and Escondido Battery Storage Facility fires.

The county of San Diego as our public servants is not upholding and violating their own sworn oath and motto of the noble good, the noblest motive is the public good.

The county of San Diego has become the ultimate violator of the people's human rights and environmental justice.

They have chosen greed over humanity and do not represent the people for whom they serve.

The county of San Diego's professional conduct regarding these energy projects has been and continues to be unethical, non-transparent, and non-compliant with the EIR regulation.

This includes misrepresenting Board of Supervisor Directives to fit the project's agenda and not honoring agreed upon terms or project compromises.

The people of San Diego hold the county of San Diego liable and culpable for the dismissal of all submitted legal and regulatory by and concerns by the people without proper review, legal action, or resolution.

The county's choice of greed over their own citizen safety, health, and welfare speaks volumes.

These projects should be placed where they use it and will be obsolete in a few years by

the development of new and truly clean technology. May the county reap what they sow for all the destruction of their being in our beloved back country.

Discussion continued about lack of success fighting Li-ion fires and CalFire’s “let it burn” policy. If a 15,000lb battery burns to completion there is not even an evacuation plan in place for the residents without vehicles.

2. Announcements and Correspondence Received

- a. Annual CPSG Training - Saturday, January 17, 2026 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm via Zoom or Saturday, February 7, 2026 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm via Zoom

3. Community interface reports.

- a. Highland Senior Center. New volunteer Georgina has started work which is fortuitous because 2 helpers are in hospital.

G. Updates

1. JVR Energy Park 90MW Solar and Battery Facility in Jacumba Valley Approved by Board of Supervisors 8-18-21

- a. Project Construction: Grading Permit Issued 11/5/25. Construction Started.
 - b. Community Benefit Fund: \$4,000,000 Community Benefit Funds Released 10/22/25. \$125,000 to San Ysidro Health, \$75,000 to Imperial Valley Desert Museum, \$3,800,000 released to San Diego Foundation for Endowment Fund for Jacumba. SYH is providing Meals on Wheels in Jacumba but the funding went into the pot for other communities too. IVDM created a climate change exhibit with their funding.
 - c. In the News: It was announced that BayWa R.E. secured \$416 million in financing for this project.
- 2. Jacumba Fire Station 43** – Project is in Value Engineering phase, awaiting redesign to align with budgets.
- 3. Starlight Solar 100 MW Solar and Battery Facility in Boulevard off Jewel Valley Road EIR Released 7/31/25 PDS2022-MUP-22-010** Draft EIR Comment Period Closed. Awaiting Release of Final EIR.

G. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 8:33pm

The next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9th, 2026 at 6 pm.

For more information, contact the JCSG Chair at jacumbacsg@outlook.com

Minutes approved at the 2-9-26 Meeting