

Comment Letter I11

PAUL RUELAS
 P. O. BOX 53
 Jacumba, CA 91934

June 1, 2015

[via email to ashley.gungle@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:ashley.gungle@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Ms. Ashley Gungle, Project Manager
 Department of Planning and Development Services
 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
 5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
 San Diego, CA 92122

RE: Comments on Draft EIR – Jacumba Solar Major Use Permit, PDS 2014-MUP-14-041;
 PDSS2014-ER-22-001

Dear Ms. Gungle:

The following are my comments on the above-referenced Draft EIR. I am a resident of Jacumba and own approximately 90 acres on the west side of this small mountain town, which is a few hundred feet west of Well No. 8 of the Jacumba Service District. In the last two years, that well and Well No. 6 have supplied a good percentage of the millions of gallons of water for the Powerlink project several miles east of town.

I11-1

In the last two years, the water level at the well on my 90 acres has dropped approximately 25 feet. Over this period of time, I have asked representatives of the Service District to monitor my well so they can be aware of how private wells in the area are being affected by their sale of water for industrial use. Moreover, I recently recommended to Mr. Bennett, the County's groundwater expert, that the County monitor my well. To date, no one has taken any action to do so.

I11-2

Unless and until someone takes the initiative to include local private well owners in their monitoring studies, not only is the information submitted to you incomplete, but you are not receiving sufficient facts from which to make a well-informed decision regarding the proposed project. I am asking that you and your department listen to the residents, become cognizant of the true state of our water source(s), and the effect that both the drought and sale of non-potable water for industrial use has had on our communities throughout the mountain area. Until such time, this project should not even be considered.

I11-3

Yours truly,

Paul Ruelas

Response to Comment Letter I11

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 June 1, 2015

I11-1 The County acknowledges receipt of Paul Ruelas's input and appreciates the comments regarding the potential impacts associated with implementation of the project. The County acknowledges this comment; however it does not address the adequacy of the DEIR, therefore no further response is required. JCSD Well 8 is offline.

I11-2 The County acknowledges this comment; however it does not address the adequacy of the DEIR, therefore no further response is required. Water level monitoring of JCSD Wells 6 and 8 do not indicate that static, non-pumping water levels have dropped 25 feet over the last two years. Static water levels for Wells 6 and 8 have declined about 1.5 feet and 0.42 feet, respectively over the last two years. Well interference analysis indicates that impacts to private wells are not projected to exceed the significance thresholds. Additionally, a Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan includes established water level thresholds to protect groundwater users.

I11-3 The County acknowledges this comment; however it does not address the adequacy of the DEIR, therefore no further response is required. Domestic wells within 0.5-mile of the JCSD Wells that will supply the project are eligible to be included in the groundwater monitoring program for the Proposed Project.

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