

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#1

Wednesday,
August 18, 2021

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 08/13/2021

From: Jason Anderson <jasona@cleantechsandiego.org>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Fletcher, Nathan (BOS); Anderson, Joel; Vargas, Nora; Lawson-Remer, Terra; Desmond, Jim
Cc: FGG, Public Comment
Subject: [External] Cleantech San Diego Letter in Support of Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park
Attachments: 08 12 21 Cleantech San Diego JVR Support Letter.pdf

San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Cleantech San Diego and in advance of Wednesday's Board of Supervisors' meeting, please see the attached letter in support of the Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park.

Thank you for your support of this project,
Jason

Jason Anderson
President and CEO
[Cleantech San Diego](#)
M 619-920-8902
jasona@cleantechsandiego.org



August 12, 2021

2159 INDIA STREET
SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
858-568-7777

cleantechsandiego.org

MISSION:

To accelerate
clean technology
innovation and
promote the
equitable
deployment
of sustainable
solutions across
the San Diego
region for the
benefit of the
economy, the
environment, and
all members of
the community.

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Support for Agenda Item 1, Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park, County Board of Supervisors Meeting, August 18, 2021

Dear Chair Fletcher, Vice Chair Vargas, and Supervisors:

On behalf of Cleantech San Diego, please accept this letter of support for BayWa r.e.'s Jacumba Valley Ranch Energy Park project (JVR). As a local renewable energy source, JVR is a critical piece of San Diego Community Power's renewable energy portfolio and an essential part of helping the region meet its economic and environmental goals.

Cleantech San Diego is a business organization that positions the greater San Diego region as a global leader in the cleantech economy. Our members include more than 120 local businesses, universities, governments, and nonprofits committed to advancing sustainable solutions for the benefit of the economy, the environment, and all members of the community.

Once completed, JVR will generate enough clean energy to power tens of thousands of homes. In addition, the project will create 350 quality jobs for San Diego County residents during its construction.

As a responsible renewable energy developer, BayWa r.e. has done its utmost to ensure the site is designed to protect the area's wildlife habitat and to reduce visual impacts for residents and tourists.

I urge you to support this important project and continue to support the development of local renewable energy projects in the San Diego region for the benefit of our economy and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Anderson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jason Anderson
President and CEO
Cleantech San Diego

From: Celia Sigmon <csigmon@sdsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 9:31 AM
To: Anderson, Joel; Kazmer, Gregory; Desmond, Jim; Mills, Benjamin; Lawson-Remer, Terra; Andrade, Evelyn; Petterson, Cody; Vargas, Nora; Flores, David; Fletcher, Nathan (BOS); Wier, Emily; Slovick, Mark; FGG, Public Comment; jeff@jacumbahotsprings.com
Subject: [External] JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18, 2021

To: joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov
CC: nora.vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov Gregory.Kazmer@sdcounty.ca.gov terra.lawson-rem@sdcounty.ca.gov
Evelyn.Andrade@sdcounty.ca.gov cody.petterson@sdcounty.ca.gov nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov Emily.Wier@sdcounty.ca.gov
jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov Benjamin.Mills@sdcounty.ca.gov PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov
BCC: jeff@jacumbahotsprings.com

Re: JVR Energy Park Project Agenda Item 1, (PDS2018-MUP-18-022), and the coming public hearing on August 18th
August 12, 2021

Celia Sigmon
44525 Old Hwy 80
Jacumba, CA 91934

Supervisors Nora Vargas - District 1, Joel Anderson - District 2, Terra Lawson-Remer - District 3, Nathan Fletcher - District 4, Jim Desmond - District 5, and all their land-use advisors.

Dear Supervisors Anderson, Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond, and their land-use advisors:

This letter is to request that the supervisors delay their vote on Agenda Item 1 (JVR solar project) on Aug. 18, 2021, to give residents more time to evaluate the feasibility of setting up an EIFD (Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District) in Jacumba Hot Springs - District 2.

An EIFD will allow for the collection of TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds for the redevelopment of Jacumba in order to build a thriving economy and an enhanced tax base.

Since your vote on this land-use issue will determine if JVR Energy Park is given control of the only land available for growth, it is of great concern to the citizens of Jacumba. It seems only fair that we be given some time to explore another viable option. As it is, the solar park will provide no collective benefits to our residents. However, an EIFD will provide an alternative use of the proposed land with a variety of benefits to the community. These include the development of:

- affordable housing, bypassing the VMT (Vehicular Miles Traveled) restriction;
- community space, like a town hall/auditorium, museum for this historic and storied region, and art gallery as a venue for the many resident artists;
- business space for services like a laundromat, hardware store, and office rental;
- infrastructure for our airport to encourage more frequent use by gliders and private pilots;
- low-impact landscaping (and maintenance) for existing community organizations, such as the community park and seniors center, as well as our downtown area.

These kinds of projects will not only boost our economy by providing short- and long-term jobs but also increase our ability to attract tourists. With the new ownership and development of the Jacumba Hot Springs Spa and Jacumba Lake, these kinds of improvements are critical to the success of rebuilding a once

flourishing tourist destination. One has only to look at other communities like Temecula to see the possibilities an EIFD can offer.

We're asking for a chance to expand and prosper, to recreate a community that we (and you) can be proud of, that will sustain us and provide our next generations with a positive future. If the JVR Park project is allowed to build on the only land available for such growth, it not only ties up this land for thirty-five years, but also sets a precedent for blocking it off in perpetuity.

The possibility of a very different future for Jacumba is in your hands.

We're asking you, at the very least, to **delay your vote**.

Sincerely,

Celia Sigmon, Jacumba resident 20+yrs
Beatrice Bachmeier, Jacumba Arts Council
Cherry Diefenbach, Jacumba Sponsor Group
Lona Marshall, Highland Community Center

CC: Mark Slovick, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Services Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov
Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov

Celia Sigmon, Lecturer

Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies

San Diego State University

csigmon@sdsu.edu

Anthology Editor, Poet-teacher

Border Voices Poetry Project

bordervoices.org



From: Rebecca Berggren <itsmebeccalee@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Fletcher, Nathan (BOS)
Cc: Wier, Emily; FGG, Public Comment; Slovic, Mark
Subject: [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK - AUGUST 18

Dear Chair Fletcher,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from the community about the perils of the JVR Energy Park plan.

A resident of San Diego county for 45+ years in District 4 and a new landowner in District 2 (Boulevard), I am in strong opposition to the current 600+ acre mega solar project that will surely **devastate a historic, low-income San Diego community** and permanently damage wildlife and ecosystems in the area.

This project will completely engulf this at-risk community and destroy its only economic engine - *tourism*. The proposed project is 6 times the size of the quaint town of Jacumba and is planned to sit within a stone's throw from homes and businesses. The very slightly modified "Community Buffer Alternative", proposed by JVR Energy Park LLC, does not at all solve these problems.

San Diego Planning Commissioner Douglas Barnhard recognized these glaring issues when he said "The problem I have with the project is that it literally has its hands around the communities neck".

We do not need to destroy a community to reach our renewable energy goals. This small community already has 2 major renewable energy developments, 3 high voltage lines running through the village and is surrounded by wind farms. The JVR Energy Park is simply not a right-fit.

I am in full support of ETHICAL and sustainable energy production that mindfully balances our green energy needs with protecting the wildlife and the community. The JVR Energy Park is NOT that.

It's disappointing to see our forward-thinking county repeating glaring mistakes from the past by **targeting and taking advantage of low-income communities.**

Please vote NO on this project as it is currently designed.

With much gratitude -

Becca Berggren
619-838-4860

From: Leigh ann Smith <electricvelvet81@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Anderson, Joel
Cc: Kazmer, Gregory; FGG, Public Comment; Slovick, Mark
Subject: [External] No JVR energy park August 18

Mr. Anderson-

I am writing you to oppose the JVR energy park in Jacumba Hot Springs. While green energy is important, doing so at the destruction of a historic town is unacceptable. I urge you to do your part for the community and wildlife by opposing this project.

Thank you

Leigh Ann Beare

From: leigh ann conate <leighann.conate@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Desmond, Jim
Cc: Mills, Benjamin; FGG, Public Comment; Slovick, Mark
Subject: [External] No JVR energy park August 18

Mr. Desmond-

I am writing you to oppose the JVR energy park in Jacumba Hot Springs. While green energy is important, doing so at the destruction of a historic town is unacceptable. I urge you to do your part for the community and wildlife by opposing this project.

Thank you

Leigh Ann Beare

From: Eva Hatch <ehatch5657@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 8:00 AM
To: Desmond, Jim
Cc: Mills, Benjamin; FGG, Public Comment; Slovick, Mark
Subject: [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18

Dear Supervisor Desmond,

I am a lifetime resident of the unincorporated portion of San Diego, a small business owner, and an active community.

I am opposed to the JVR Energy Park project that is proposed to be built in the rural community of Jacumba. The purpose of green energy is to save our environment not destroy it. This project does no benefit the San Diego Backcountry in any way. In fact, the incorporated area of San Diego benefits at the detriment to the San Digo backcountry. That is not acceptable. The community of Jacumba has already graciously allowed for green energy projects in their community. The proposed project is way overreaching and the community receives no benefits in exchange for housing this huge industrial development. There are more efficient alternative plans that will not be so destructive to San Diego's important microclimates.

On August 18th, please stand with the Backcountry community by voting no in the JVR Energy Park Project.

Thank you,

Evelina Hatch
Lifetime Julian resident

From: Kristi Mansolf <kmansolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Fletcher, Nathan (BOS); BOS, District1Community; Anderson, Joel; Lawson-Remer, Terra; Desmond, Jim; FGG, Public Comment
Cc: Harrison, Michael; Robin Maxson
Subject: [External] RCPG Letter in Support of Jacumba Hot Springs
Attachments: rcpg ltr in support of jacumba re solar project.pdf

Please find attached a letter from the Ramona Community Planning Group in support of Jacumba Hot Springs regarding the large solar project that is being considered for installation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kristi
RCPG Secretary



RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

15873 HWY 67, RAMONA, CALIFORNIA 92065

Phone: (760)445-8545

Robin Joy Maxson
Chair

August 11, 2021

Torry Brean
Vice-Chair

Kristi Mansolf
Secretary

Scotty Ensign

Debra Foster

Lynn Hopewell

Casey Lynch

Elio Noyas

Dawn Perfect

Matt Rains

Michelle Rains

Andrew Simmons

Paul Stykel

Dan Summers

Kevin Wallace

Clerk, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Supervisors Nathan Fletcher, Nora Vargas, Joel Anderson, Terra
Lawson-Remer and Jim Desmond
1600 Pacific Highway Rooms 355 & 402
San Diego, California 92101-2470

**RE: EQUITY FOR JACUMBA, A BALANCED
ALTERNATIVE TO SOLAR POWER
GENERATION NEAR JACUMBA HOT SPRINGS**

We urge you vote to deny the proposed 600-acre Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Solar project (Major Use Permit; PDS2018-MUP-18-022) because it will devastate the small community of Jacumba. This JVR project will be on your August 18, 2021 meeting agenda.

Instead, we request that you require the JVR project developer to compromise with the community on a fair and balanced project alternative called the Equity for Jacumba alternative. This alternative is Jacumba's proposal to retain some of its valued community character, create lasting economic opportunities for their residents, and restore important wildlife habitat, while accommodating the future development of an up to 300-acre JVR solar facility. Specifically, the "Equity alternative" as envisioned by the Jacumba Community Sponsor Group would:

- Reserve land for the eco-friendly future expansion of the village of Jacumba, and its local airport within the rural village boundary next to residences and along scenic Highway 80.
- Eliminate the dangerous placement of solar facility components around three sides of the Jacumba airport runway, which is used by single engine and glider aircraft.
- Preserve important selected historic resources that remain from the former Mountain Meadow Dairy which has been part of Jacumba's visual landscape since the late 1920s. (This dairy was one

of the largest early dairies in San Diego County and it was also the largest employer in Jacumba's history.)

- Promote eco-tourism by creating trail head access to the southern part of Anza Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) next to Jacumba.
- Develop a restored wildlife corridor that would protect the upper Carrizo Gorge watershed, which provides a water source for the federally endangered and state-threatened Peninsular Bighorn Sheep.
- Build a viable connection between the Carrizo Gorge in ABDSP and the international border to maintain landscape connectivity functions within this region of San Diego County and cross-border habitat in Baja California.
- Provide a network of community trails and pathways that promote physical well-being of Jacumba residents and visitors.
- The Ramona Community Planning Group asks that your board provide for strong mitigation to provide a method of conflict resolution and method of enforcement for the future.

Jacumba Hot springs is one of the County's most economically disadvantaged communities with an annual median income of just \$32,000—this is 150 percent below the State's annual median income. The Equity for Jacumba solar project alternative would, over time, allow for a measured expansion of residential, agricultural, and recreational land uses. This expansion would provide a reliable and critical revenue stream to the local economy, while preserving Jacumba's community character and critical wildlife habitat. It would accommodate the development of an appropriately-sized solar energy facility that will not destroy the future of the town.

Thank you for your support of Jacumba's future sustainability.

Sincerely,



ROBIN JOY MAXSON, Chair

Ramona Community Planning Group

Clerk of the BOS, please include this correspondence in each of the Supervisors' packages for the August 18, 2021 BOS hearing.

Ruffier, Maria

From: Sarah Pizzuto <srhpzzt8@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Lawson-Remer, Terra
Cc: Andrade, Evlyn; Petterson, Cody; FGG, Public Comment; Slovick, Mark
Subject: [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18

Dear Supervisor Lawsom-Remer,

I have been following your work since you were sworn in at the beginning of this year, and have been so impressed by the actions you and your office have taken towards SMART justice, immigration reform, and protecting San Diego's native land and wildlife, not to mention the efforts you have put in to keep San Diego residents safe throughout the pandemic. I believe many of your constituents and colleagues look up to for all those reasons and more.

I am urging you to use your positive influence to prevent the great inequity that is the proposed JVR Energy Park project. If approved, the construction and operation of this solar farm would be devastating to the surrounding rural, low-income community which San Diego has an obligation to protect. In addition to human rights this project violates are the vast environmental impacts that would be detrimental to native wildlife and the viability of the land. This project would exacerbate the exact issues that San Diego residents support renewable energy for, and is an unacceptable excuse for a solution to the climate crisis.

Please do not allow corporate developers to capitalize off the destruction of San Diego's communities, cultures, and environment. Do not accept performative and opportunistic actions that fall far short of the actual solutions needed to curb climate change and protect those most at-risk.

Thank you and keep up the important work,

Sarah Pizzuto
760-330-0392



September 13, 2021

Clerk of San Diego County Board of Supervisors

ATTN: Supervisor's Joel Anderson, Jim Desmond, Nathan Fletcher, Terra Lawson-Remer, and Nora Vargas

1600 Pacific Hwy., Room 402

San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Equity for Jacumba, a Balanced Alternative to Solar Power Generation Near Jacumba Hot Springs

Supervisors,

At the August 3, 2021 meeting of the Sweetwater Community Planning Group, we voted unanimously to write this letter in support of our fellow Sponsor Group.

We urge you vote to deny the proposed 600-acre Jacumba Valley Ranch Solar project (Major Use Permit; PDS2018-MUP-18-022) because it will devastate the small community of Jacumba. This JVR project will be on your August 18, 2021 meeting agenda.

Instead, we request that you require the JVR project developer to compromise with the community on a fair and balanced project alternative called the "Equity for Jacumba" alternative. This alternative is Jacumba's proposal to retain its valued community character, create lasting economic opportunities for their residents, and restore important wildlife habitat. It should accommodate future development of an up to 300-acre JVR solar facility. Specifically, the "Equity alternative" as envisioned by the Jacumba Community Sponsor Group would:

- Reserve land for the eco-friendly future expansion of the village of Jacumba, its local airport within the rural village boundary next to residences along scenic Highway 80.
- Eliminate the dangerous placement of solar facility components around the three sides of the Jacumba airport runway, which is used by single engine and glider aircraft.
- Preserve important selected historic resources that remain from the former Mountain Meadow Dairy. The dairy has been part of Jacumba's visual landscape since the late 1920s. (This dairy was one of the largest early dairies in San Diego County: it was also the largest employer in Jacumba's history.)
- Promote eco-tourism by creating trail head access to the southern part of Anza Borrego Desert State Park next to Jacumba.
- Restore a wildlife corridor to protect the upper Carrizo Gorge watershed, which provides a water source for the federally endangered and state-threatened Peninsular Bighorn Sheep.
- Build a connection between the Carrizo Gorge in ABDSP and the international border to maintain landscape connectivity within this region of San Diego County. It will also aid in establishing a cross-border habitat in Baja California.
- Provide a network of community trails and pathways that promote physical well-being of Jacumba residents and visitors.

Jacumba Hot springs is one of the County's most economically disadvantaged communities with an annual median income of just \$32,000—this is 150 percent below the State's annual median income. The "Equity for Jacumba" solar project alternative would, over time allow for a measured expansion of residential, agricultural, and recreational land uses. This expansion would provide a reliable and critical revenue stream to the local economy, while preserving Jacumba's community character and critical wildlife habitat. It would accommodate the development of an appropriately-sized solar energy facility that will not destroy the future of the town.

Thank you for your support of Jacumba's future sustainability.

Sincerely,

Stephen Stonehouse,

Co-chair Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Liz Stonehouse,

Secretary, Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Clerk of the BOS, please include this correspondence in each of the Supervisors' packages for the August 18, 2021 BOS hearing.

**CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON
SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP
(619) 442-4612**

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2021 AUG 13 PM 3:06

CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

Clerk of San Diego County Board of Supervisors
ATTN: Supervisors Joel Anderson, Jim Desmond, Nathan Fletcher, Terra Lawson-Remer, and
Nora Vargas
1600 Pacific Hwy., Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: E Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Solar project (Major Use Permit; PDS2018-MUP-18-022)

Dear Supervisors,

After reviewing the main elements of the proposed 600-acre Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Solar project (Major Use Permit; PDS2018-MUP-18-022) at our planning group meeting held on August 9, 2021, we urge Supervisors vote to deny the JVR project which is on your August 18, 2021 meeting agenda. The placement of this enormous facility within the Jacumba rural village boundary will devastate the quality of life for the poor residents who reside in Jacumba Hot Springs and the future sustainability of this small town.

Instead, Supervisors should request that BayWa, the JVR project developer, works earnestly on a compromise with the community which would include a smaller project footprint and other elements addressed in the community's Equity for Jacumba alternative. This alternative is Jacumba's proposal to retain some of its valued community character, create lasting economic opportunities for their residents, and restore important wildlife habitat, while accommodating the future development of an up to 300-acre JVR solar facility, the largest permitted facility in the County. Specifically, the "Equity alternative" as envisioned by the Jacumba Community Sponsor Group would:

- Eliminate the dangerous placement of solar facility components around three sides of the Jacumba airport runway, which is used by single engine and glider aircraft.
- Reserve land for the eco-friendly future expansion of the village of Jacumba, and its local airport within the rural village boundary next to residences and along scenic Highway 80.
- Preserve selected historic resources from the former Mountain Meadow Dairy which has been part of Jacumba's visual landscape since the late 1920s as an educational experience for visitors. (This dairy was one of the largest early dairies in San Diego County.)
- Promote eco-tourism by creating trail head access to the southern part of Anza Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) next to Jacumba and a network of community trails and pathways that promote physical well-being of Jacumba residents and visitors.

- Build a viable connection between the Carrizo Gorge in ABDSP and the international border to maintain landscape connectivity functions within this region of San Diego County and cross-border habitat in Baja California.

Jacumba Hot springs is one of the County's poorest communities. A smaller and more reasonably placed solar facility as envisioned in the Equity for Jacumba solar project alternative would over time, allow for a measured expansion of residential, agricultural, and recreational land uses. This expansion would provide a reliable revenue stream to the local economy, while preserving Jacumba's community character and critical wildlife habitat. It would also accommodate the development of an appropriately-sized solar energy facility that will not destroy the future of the town.

Thank you for recognizing the social and environmental injustice impacts that a 600-acre industrial solar facility would have on Jacumba's residents and voting to deny the current JVR project.

Sincerely,


Wally Riggs
Planning Group Chair

Clerk of the BOS, please include this correspondence in each of the Supervisors' packages for the August 18, 2021 BOS hearing.