

San Diego County  
11/27/20  
Attn: Susan Harris

The community of Jacumba Hot Springs is requesting the rejection of the JVR Solar Energy Park Project that is being proposed in our town. We need the support of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission to stop this dangerous project.

This catastrophic project will absolutely destroy and devastate our community and the environment surrounding Jacumba Hot Springs. JVR "Solar Park" should not be a consideration in a residential area and in an area already overwhelmed with energy projects.

Another concern is this project is being pushed through the process at an alarming rate to beat the federal solar credit expiration deadline. To add insult to injury, the company presenting the project is from Germany. They do not have any regard for the safety and welfare of our U.S. town. This is unacceptable to us as a community. This project is purely financially motivated and at the expense of an entire community.

The DEIR speaks for itself and clearly states huge, detrimental and unmitigatable impacts. Find below some of the many concerns of our and surrounding communities

Per the DEIR "Significant and irreparable environmental impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, geology, soil, seismicity, hazards and hazardous materials, pesticides, herbicide, permeability, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, noise, paleontology resources, tribal cultural resources and wildlife." These impacts cannot be mitigated sufficiently enough to ensure the safety of these resources and the community.

1. Negative health impact/implications for our community due to electromagnetic radiation, silicon dust (silicon tetrachloride aka kerf), exposure to electrical and chemical components (selenium dioxide) of the solar panels and its installation. I believe this information is not even discussed in the DEIR and is cause for serious health risks such as silicosis and can prove fatal.
2. Project vicinity is too large and close to our town. The proposed buffer zone of 75 ft is NOT sufficient to protect from significant health risks. No buffer zone would prove sufficient for a project of this size. We have a senior park on the east border of our town and other residents actually residing in the project zone area.
3. Mitigation measures in the report are NOT sufficient and will not ensure community and environmental safety. It's an absolute impossibility and this is a huge consideration when reviewing the final EIR.
4. The use of herbicides and pesticides that WILL pollute our ground water and blow into our town. Jacumba consistently experiences easterly winds and even experiences sand blowing in from the desert region. This is another example of an unmitigable impact. Also, Jacumba is comprised of decomposed granite which is extremely permeable. Destroy our water, destroy our town and surrounding wilderness area.
5. Seismically dangerous. Thousands of crust perforations will cause weakness in an already fault ridden zone.

6. Three years of disruptive construction noise and road degradation. Residents have moved to Jacumba for the serenity, peace, beautiful scenery and hot springs. It is insane to subject a community to a six day a week, twelve-hour day catastrophic construction project.
7. The new owners of the Jacumba Hot Springs Resort have a complimentary plan for the revitalization of Jacumba. Historically Jacumba was known and is still known for its healing waters. They plan to restore Jacumba to its popular world renown tourist destination. This historic district will be destroyed by this project.
8. This project is not in line with current historical/ ideology/back country development of the area. It is industrial project being placed on an agriculturally zoned property.
9. This project is being rushed through the process without full community access and knowledge. Many of our community have no internet, computers and our library is closed per Covid. This project information is not obtainable to our senior or other members of the community.
10. This project will have an enormous negative financial impact to our businesses and property values. Who will make our community financially whole per this project? This project will financially devastate our town.
11. No clear plans are in place regarding decommissioning the solar field and disposing toxic/hazardous materials.
12. Negatively affects glider port operations and flight safety.
13. Endangered species such as the Kangaroo Rat are not included in the biological/wildlife impact studies. The Kangaroo Rat is a Federally Registered Endangered species and has known habitat on this property and the surrounding area. This species needs to be added to the DEIR.
14. Significant archaeological and cultural impact.

This project is a short sighted thirty-five-year project that cannot justify the environmental, community devastation it will cause to the town of Jacumba Hot Springs.

We contend there are more appropriately industrial zoned areas available for a project of this magnitude. This dangerous project does not warrant the amount of energy this farm will produce.

A more complimentary project that is in alignment with the County's vision of preserving our beautiful natural and cultural resources needs to be considered. This property runs adjacent with the Jacumba Wilderness. We need to protect the wilderness character of this property and surrounding area for future generations.

We would like the San Diego County to consider other uses for this property. We would like to suggest the County purchase the property as an open space preserve and small community park. This would be in alignment with the County's vision and land acquisition policies of preserving our beautiful back country spaces.

Kind regards,  
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