

April 7, 2019
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Ste. 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Attn: Ms. Bronwyn Brown

RE: JVR Energy Park

Dear Ms. Brown:

My name is Scott Simpson, and I have been a resident and home owner in Jacumba Hot Springs for twelve years. Jacumba Hot Springs is a mountain village with just a few hundred of us folks living here. It is a wonderful place. It is quiet. You can hear the owls at night and the morning doves at sun rise. There isn't a single traffic light telling you to stop. The air is clean. We have mountain views. We have the spa with its sulphur and magnesium mineral water that can soothe the body after a long day of work. We have a post office, a busy library, a community center and hiking trails. The area is historically significant to the Kumaiyah indigenous people and compared to most of Southern California, it is very unspoiled. We have the bluest skies you've ever seen and incredible star views on moonless nights.

Over the years, the townspeople have been presented with challenges. The most recent one was several years ago. A farmer grew many acres of greens using a type of fertilizer which led to an infestation of eye gnats. Those gnats, identified as a vector of disease, dove into your eyes the moment you set foot out of your house. They would quickly cloud around your head, so you couldn't paint your house or stand and talk with a neighbor without them continuously and torturously diving into and scraping our eyes. Mercifully, they are gone now. The townspeople had to unite to remove that scourge. We were successful, but we suffered for years from those gnats. When the farmer left, the eye gnats went pretty quickly, too. It's unfortunate that the farmer chose not to alter his agriculture practices. Because the land there is very fertile, people here hope another farmer might one day grow food there again, but more responsibly.

Now a corporation has purchased those same acres where the eye gnat infestation originated. And once again the townspeople are aligning to fight outside forces which are attempting to disrupt our lives.

Solar energy is wonderful, and we already have such a project out of sight, over a nearby ridge. But I disagree with having a massive solar energy presence in the town of Jacumba Hot Springs for the following reasons:

- 1) The land can be better purposed for responsible agriculture;
- 2) Alternatively, that land can be better purposed for future sustainable growth of the town (housing; commerce);
- 3) It would be right on the very edge of human dwellings and therefore would disrupt life here, especially during the construction phase;
- 4) Our most valuable natural resource-- water, would be wasted in great quantities as it would be used to wash the solar panels;
- 5) The project would be built along Old Hwy 80, which is our Main Street; such a massive energy production plant does not belong on a town's "Main Street";
- 6) The panels would be there for generations (I heard "35 years"!). That's a long time that the land cannot be used to grow food, and cannot be utilized for housing or commerce. And that also means 35 years of

water wasted on washing solar panels. Finally, it would be a 35-year eye sore on our “Main Street”.

Allowing this energy project in our town would sentence us to (a) no farming and (b) no responsible growth and (c) reduction of water in our aquifers for decades!

Furthermore, the company that is behind this project can surely find a better place to operate. In Southern California there are many thousands of acres of land with extensive sun exposure that is far enough from people so as not to disrupt their lives. There is no need to come here, disrupt our lives and rob us of our future. Please Ms. Brown and others, join us-- please help us to preserve our natural resources and keep the door open in Jacumba Hot Springs to responsible growth and projects that are in alignment with the inherent nature of our town.

Thank you,

Scott Simpson
Citizen of Jacumba Hot Springs