

From: campoplanninggroup@nym.hush.com
To: [BOS, District1Community](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [Fletcher, Nathan \(BOS\)](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [campoplanninggroup](#)
Cc: [Koutoufidis, Nicholas](#); [Harris, Susan](#); [Cherry Diefenbach](#)
Subject: [External] JVR solar PDS2018-MUP-18-022
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:54:19 PM
Attachments: [JVR solar PDS2018-MUP-18-022.pdf](#)

The Campo Lake Morena CPG approved the attached comments last night, 4,0,0.
Thank you,
Billie Jo Jannen

From: Billie Jo Jannen, Chairman, Campo Lake Morena Community Planning Group

To: Nora Vargas, Joel Anderson, Terra Lawson-Remer, Nathan Fletcher, Jim Desmond, Supervisors, San Diego County Supervisors

August 10, 2021

Re: The Equity for Jacumba Alternative; Jacumba Valley Ranch industrial solar array PDS2018-MUP-18-022

Dear Supervisors and Planners:

The Campo Lake Morena CPG, on Aug. 9, voted 4,0,0 to strongly support the Equity for Jacumba Alternative, as presented by the Jacumba Hot Springs CSG. In addition, we urge you to delay this vote and ask for a report from the SDC Office of Environmental and Climate Justice to address the following:

■ *Whether this project, as envisioned, violates the county's own policy stance on environmental justice by forcing an oppressed rural minority to accept the lion's share of negative impacts from an unreasonably large project.*

■ *Whether, and to what extent, this project depends on forced labor in its offshore supply chain of raw materials, components, and completed panels.*

■ *Whether, and to what extent, this project depends on mining or processing that grossly pollutes the environments and water supplies of ANY nation, including people in China and other countries where China maintains such facilities.*

It would be unconscionable and hypocritical to approve this project if it violates the human rights and environmental protections we say we hold dear.

Justice for a politically impotent minority

Both the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission have an extra duty of care to promote the fairness and environmental justice of projects that are proposed *only for the interests of the state*. Because the potential for social and financial harm from renewables is very high, this project raises the issue of justice for a small rural population vs the dense urban population that would receive all the benefits.

We in the backcountry are a politically defenseless minority, which has made us the target of a number of perfectly awful proposals by state and county politicians who know we haven't the power to vote them out of office. What's more, according to the county's own calculations in the environmental justice update to the general plan, Jacumba Hot Springs and most of the backcountry is teetering on the brink of incomes and pollution levels that make them a social justice concern, even before they are buried in vast fields of other people's industrial energy.

Since our small rural towns cannot defend themselves at the polls, it is the responsibility of our representatives to stand up for us. **You can do this for Jacumba Hot Springs by adopting the**

Equity for Jacumba Alternative, which envisions a smaller footprint, and greater distance between the village of JHS and the project impacts.

Environmental justice for Chinese citizens; slave labor in solar panel manufacturing

So far, the State of California and the County of San Diego have completely ignored the horrors perpetrated on innocent human beings and environments in other countries. We even hypocritically pat ourselves on the back for being so clean and green ourselves, as we use the products of gross pollution and human misery to build our fields of renewables.

According to researchers at Sheffield-Hallam University (*In Broad Daylight: Uyghur Forced Labour and Global Solar Supply Chains*), the four largest solar panel suppliers in the world all source from at least one of the polysilicon manufacturers associated with coerced labor “programs” forced on imprisoned Uyghurs and other minorities in China.

Has anyone even asked BayWa r.e. if it intends to use ethically-sourced materials for their project? At the VERY least, the county should make that a permit condition.

According to *Earth.org* (*How Rare-Earth Mining Has Devastated China’s Environment*), the pollution resulting from rare earths mining has created soil that can’t grow crops and water supplies that have been permanently contaminated. Thousands have been sickened, and even killed by this pollution and a city of 8 million people (Ganzhou) is currently threatened with pollution of its entire water supply by an upstream mining operation. In order to maintain its dominance over rare earths production, China has also obtained mining rights in Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Madagascar, Cameroon, Angola, Tanzania and Zambia, so it can be expected to spread this destruction even further.

BBC.com (*The Dystopian Lake Filled by the World’s Tech Lust*) details the utter desolation of an area so big you can see it on Google Maps.

Everyone, from our political leaders down to the *electricity consumers who are buying a tainted product* are playing a part in the human and material destruction that goes into it. **Is this cruelty a worthwhile price to pay for an industrial project that also inflicts such harm on our OWN people and lands?**

We have watched with concern as first Boulevard, and now Jacumba, have been targeted for industrial renewables that almost no one who lives in those communities ever wanted. We’ve seen their hard-fought battles to defend their communities from the blight that comes when industrial development dominates all else. And we have seen our own decision makers dismiss the valid concerns that have been brought to them.

Every harmful project that gets a pass from county government encourages another, and yet another, as the community becomes so impacted that the land is useless for anything but more renewables. We foresee the day when Campo, and then Potrero, will be pleading for their

survival before the cold faces of decision makers who continue to vote against their interests every single time. Please don't let this precedent continue by approving this project as-is.

There are far better ways for the state to promote the use of renewables than to spend billions in tax benefits and easy permitting for giant foreign corporations like BayWa r.e. This company has no stake in the community beyond the profit it can extract, and is far from being the good corporate citizen we would all prefer. If this project is approved as-is, you will be rewarding the gross exploitation of an entire town.

Sincerely,



Billie Jo Jannen

Reference Links

<https://earth.org/rare-earth-mining-has-devastated-chinas-environment/>

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20150402-the-worst-place-on-earth>

<https://www.americanmanufacturing.org/blog/the-true-cost-of-chinese-solar-panels-part-3/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2021/04/22/democrats-must-stop-sacrificing-good-american-nuclear-jobs-for-cheap-chinese-solar-panels/?sh=672405723f61>

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d360ffab-40cc-4d83-8b8b-a8bd503286a3#pageNum=12>