

From: [Koutoufidis, Nicholas](#)
To: [Koutoufidis, Nicholas](#)
Subject: RE: Anza-Borrego Foundation comment letter re: JVR Energy Project
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:04:03 PM

From: Julie Gerson <julie@theabf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Anderson, Joel <Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Kazmer, Gregory <Gregory.Kazmer@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Vargas, Nora <Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Flores, David <David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Lawson-Remer, Terra <Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Andrade, Evlyn <Evlyn.Andrade@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Petterson, Cody <Cody.Petterson@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Fletcher, Nathan (BOS) <Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Wier, Emily <Emily.Wier@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Desmond, Jim <Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Mills, Benjamin <Benjamin.Mills@sdcounty.ca.gov>; FGG, Public Comment <PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Slovick, Mark <Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Anza-Borrego Foundation comment letter re: JVR Energy Project

Dear San Diego County Supervisors and Land Use staff,
Attached is a comment letter from the Anza-Borrego Foundation regarding the proposed JVR Energy project. We appreciate your careful and thoughtful consideration of the important decisions to be made regarding this important project.

Respectfully,
Julie Gerson

Julie Gerson
Land Program Manager
530-263-3485
www.TheABF.org





August 4, 2021

The Honorable Joel Anderson
San Diego County Supervisor, District 2
Room 335
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: JVR Energy Park and Jacumba's Path Forward

Dear Supervisor Anderson,

The Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF), the cooperating partner with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP), appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed JVR Energy Park project which will be considered at the August 18 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The mission of ABF is to *protect and preserve the natural landscapes, wildlife habitat, and cultural heritage of ABDSP for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

As stated in our previous comment letters, The Nature Conservancy, in 2007, purchased 1,080 acres near Jacumba Hot Spring as an interim step in transferring ownership to California Department of Parks and Recreation. In 2012 the title was transferred to ABF to hold until the State of California was ready to accept the transfer. The Nature Conservancy recognized this area as internationally significant in terms of biodiversity and as an important linkage between biologically-rich Mediterranean habitat in Southern California and Northern Baja California plant and animal communities. Development in the San Diego border region fragments habitat and threatens wildlife corridors between these communities.

Three objectives of the 2007 acquisition, identified in a 2007 report from the The Conservation Biology Institute, include (1) conserving habitat for the federally-endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, (2) providing a buffer to the entrance to Carrizo Gorge to protect a water source for the federally-endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, and (3) ensuring regional landscape-scale wildlife movement by connecting the Carrizo Gorge in ABDSP to habitat in Baja California.

The JVR developer *must work transparently* with the community to address its concerns. It is fair and makes good business sense for the Supervisors to be sensitive to the economic future of this small and picturesque community. By a quirk of geography, Jacumba will carry an oversized load for infrastructure that benefits all San Diegans. Hopefully you will carefully

consider every opportunity to reduce the negative impacts of this project and leave the community with a reasonable chance for future economic success.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the JVR Energy Park project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Fordem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "F".

Bri Fordem
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill McDonald". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "B" and a prominent "M".

Bill McDonald
Board President