

**From:** [Slovick, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Smith, Ashley](#); [Brown, Bronwyn](#); [Koutoufidis, Nicholas](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:30:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Thanks,

Mark Slovick, Deputy Director  
County of San Diego | Planning & Development Services  
T. [619.517.8067](tel:619.517.8067)

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**From:** Flores, David <David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Melissa Strukel <melissa@jacumbahotsprings.com>; Vargas, Nora  
<Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** FGG, Public Comment <PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Slovick, Mark  
<Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Kazmer, Gregory <Gregory.Kazmer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Castro,  
Mabi <Mabi.Castro@sdcounty.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18

Good morning,

We have received your communication. Thank you for reaching out to our office.



**David Flores**

*Senior Policy Advisor – Land Use and Environmental Justice (he/him/his)*  
Office of Vice-Chair Nora Vargas | County Supervisor, First District  
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*"Building Healthier and Stronger Communities"*

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**From:** Melissa Strukel <[melissa@jacumbahotsprings.com](mailto:melissa@jacumbahotsprings.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:48 PM

**To:** Vargas, Nora <[Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Flores, David <[David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov)>; FGG, Public Comment <[PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov)>; Slovick, Mark <[Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] NO JVR ENERGY PARK AUGUST 18

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the community of Jacumba Hot Springs located in the Sonoran Desert of East San Diego.

I am pleading with you to hear our small voice in a very large world of money, power and political gains.

There is a proposed solar project planned to engulf our small village of just 500 people. I've attached images of just how large this project is and how it will impact the land.

We are a community who loves our environment and can support green energy but not at the cost of our well being and the well being of the plants, sacred water and animals who thrive in this region.

We are a low and fixed income community who have been greatly ignored and discarded by most of San Diego, suffering the decisions made by politicians and courts to place sexually violent predators in our town as well as use it as a dumping ground for unwanted trash.

For hundreds of years this land has been a sacred place for the Kumeyaay natives because of the sacred healing waters of the mineral hot springs.

Birds and butterflies migrate here every year and rely on our open landscape, trees and water to help them along their journey.

Our pond is once again flowing with the waters and our little hotel is about to reopen with 3 mineral healing pools which will boost our economy and be a large tourist attraction for not only San Diegans but people from all over.

Our main street is being rehabilitated with vendors on a list to come sell their goods and offer travelers a place to come.

We also have a monthly flea market with bands.

The proposed solar project will not create jobs for our community, only for the men and women who will come from out of town to work during construction and then leave.

The sad and frustrating thing is that we have many rolling black outs throughout the year because of high fire threats, leaving us with no power for sometimes days.

If the solar project goes through we will still be left with no power during these blackouts because while we will sit directly next to a solar farm, we will not benefit from

the power it provides which will go to much more affluent communities on the coast. This seems incredibly unethical and unfair, I'm sure you can agree. We already have high temperatures here as we are a desert, however this project will raise our temperatures to almost unbearable. When the blackouts happen and our elderly have no air I can't imagine what might happen.

There are so many areas of our county that can support a project of this size. Putting it next to a town that is part of San Diego's history, is sacred Kumeyaay land, and is about to be a huge asset to the tourist industry of this city is a bad decision and one that I'm sure you will regret if you took a moment to come visit.

I invite you to bring your family and a camera. Come visit our mineral hot spring, hike along the railway, experience the earth covered in quartz crystal and lichen in every color of the rainbow.

See the huge jack rabbits hopping through the juniper trees and bob cats at dusk. The sunset is not only seen in the western sky, it is a panoramic explosion every single night.

And then there are the stars... people come from all over the county just to see the stars here. The milky way can be seen on any given night.

I personally invite you to see for yourself before you decide to vote in favor of placing a project of this magnitude in our backyard, because this is not only our backyard, it is also yours.

Kindly,  
Melissa Strukel  
619-994-9278