

From: [Slovick, Mark](#)
To: [Smith, Ashley](#); [Brown, Bronwyn](#); [Koutoufidis, Nicholas](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Please stand up for Jacumba Hot Springs
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:59:29 AM
Attachments: [For County Supervisors and their land use staffs.pdf](#)

Thanks,

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

From: Cherry Diefenbach <csdiefenbach@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Anderson, Joel <Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Kazmer, Gregory <Gregory.Kazmer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Desmond, Jim <Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Mills, Benjamin <Benjamin.Mills@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Lawson-Remer, Terra <Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Andrade, Evlyn <Evlyn.Andrade@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Vargas, Nora <Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Flores, David <David.Flores@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Fletcher, Nathan (BOS) <Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Wier, Emily <Emily.Wier@sdcounty.ca.gov>; FGG, Public Comment <PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Slovick, Mark <Mark.Slovick@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Flannery, Kathleen <Kathleen.Flannery@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Please stand up for Jacumba Hot Springs

Dear Supervisors,

In two short days, you will be voting on an enormous industrial solar complex ironically called the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Energy Park. At 600-acres, it dwarfs the village of Jacumba Hot Springs, shreds our valued community character, negatively impacts the lives of every person, and drives a nail through the heart of Jacumba's ability to grove and thrive. (Please see attached detailed comments on project impacts.)

I am imploring you to deny the approval of a monster-sized JVR solar project put forth by a developer who didn't in good faith, try to build community consensus on the project scale/location and who has not been transparent with about project requirements.

Jacumba already supports a large solar facility and we will continue to support ethically sourced green energy that doesn't sacrifice the future of our small town. **Please to right by a poor rural community that has existed for more than one hundred years--San Diegans will be watching.**

Cherry Diefenbach
a concerned San Diego County resident
619-743-5224

To the Board of Supervisors and their land use staffs:

I am reaching out to you today, to ask you to vote to deny the proposed 600-acre Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) solar project. At six times the size of our small village, its placement within our rural village boundary will devastate the quality of life for the poor and underserved residents of Jacumba Hot Springs. If approved as is at the August 18th Board of Supervisors' hearing, this facility will:

—Consume all the best former farmland which would be better used to support a viable future for the town.

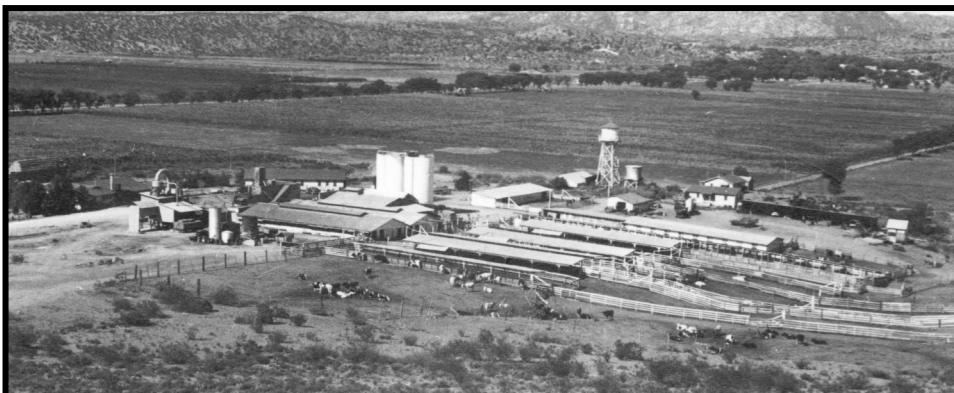
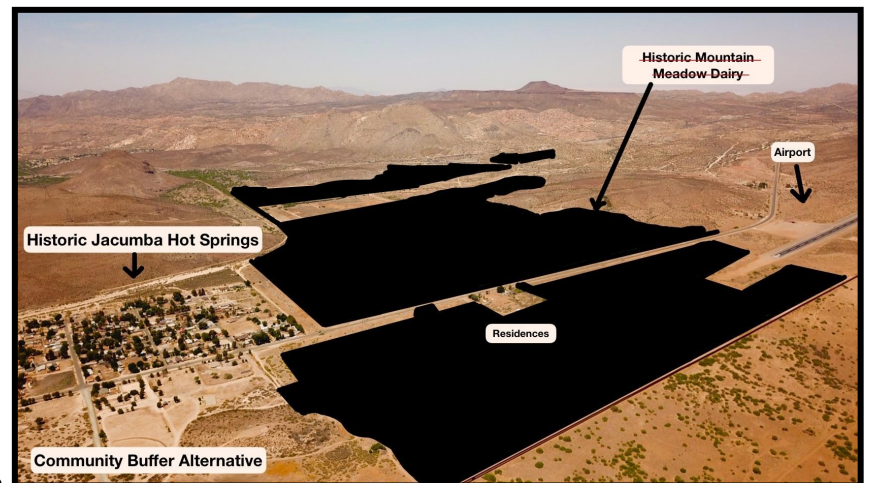
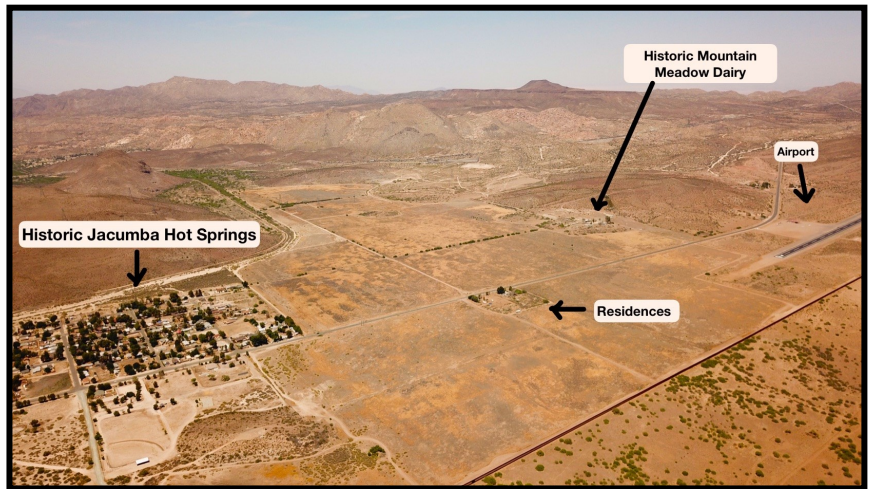
—Place high voltage electrical components including 280,000 PV modules, 75 large (potentially flammable) lithium batteries, inverters, transformers, a large collector substation and a huge switchyard adjacent to private residences, along two sides of scenic Hwy 80, and around three sides of the Jacumba Airport runway. See before and after visuals of the JVR project area right. (Note, the blackened areas would be covered by the solar facility.)



—Permanently displace local wildlife, following a 13 month-long construction

period, when up to 500 workers per day will be using heavy equipment to move 280,000 cubic-yards of earth, driving in solar panel pilings, etc.

—Demolish significant historical resources—The former Mountain Meadow Dairy, which operated from the late 1920s to mid-1950s, was Jacumba's biggest employer and the largest dairy in the county. (See 1940 dairy photo.) A variety of raptors, including golden eagles routinely use the trees and grain silos at the dairy farm as roosts.



—Impact the safety of glider and single engine aircraft operations at our local Jacumba airport runway because it will be surrounded on three sides with electrical solar components, raised well above grade due to their location in a floodplain. This means the component tops will be at 15 feet. (See 2014 photo which shows summer flooding south of Highway 80 near the airport.)

—Industrialize our exceptionally quiet rural landscape with mechanical noise and unmitigable visual blight.

—Destroy future tourism and local job creation that would result if the town had room to expand.

—Elevate ambient temperatures in our town as much as 15 degrees F due to the heat island effect associated with utility-scale solar farms. (We have already had temperatures in the 110 degree range this month.)



Jacumba is not against green energy, we already have 108 acres of operational solar panels and a 58-acre ECO Electrical Substation just east of our town. We have been asking the JVR solar developer to compromise on the size and location of the project to no avail. In fact, our community developed a reasonable alternative called the “Equity for Jacumba Alternative,” that would move the project away from residences, the scenic highway, and airport. This alternative would still allow the permitting of the largest solar project in San Diego County while allowing a “way forward” for our community.

There is no need to destroy the quality of life for the residents of Jacumba, many of whom are disabled veterans and seniors living on small fixed incomes. **Where is the social equity and environmental justice for Jacumba, or are those terms only applied to urban communities?**

You don’t have to approve a poorly planned project that takes advantage of an extremely poor and diverse community. Please stand up for Jacumba and vote to deny the 600-acre JVR project!!!

Cherry Diefenbach, a concerned homeowner in Jacumba

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