

11/18/2020

## JVR Solar Project

Hello Susan...

My concerns with this industrial complex idea is NOT against the need or want for clean renewable energy.... it IS however with the fact this location/site will turn a rural community with history and God's natural resources into an epic mega-watt WASTELAND. Susan, have you ever visited Jacumba? Have you spoken to the residents? Do you know the culture and history of this heavenly enclave? If not, please try to make time, so your feelings and judgement will be based on personal facts and knowledge (firsthand)... rather than hearing from "industry experts" and "consultants" and ~~bureaucrats~~ bureaucrats.

As for my specific comments and concerns after having reviewed the DEIR at the Jacumba Library:

- The Old Highway 80 is soon ~~to~~ to be given a consideration as a "County Scenic Highway". This project should NOT be started until this designation has been awarded.
- The Jacumba ground water is essential to the city. Also, the hotel and hot springs depend on this resource. I am not satisfied with the EPA review of the potential impact on this key element. Construction will deplete 140 af of local water, and an additional 11 af for washing panels FOUR times per year! This is a MAJOR concern.

(OVER)



Please specifically respond to this concern Susan:

- the EIR does NOT address the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan's Community Character Goal: To encourage the development of land in a manner that reinforces the unique identity of the mountain empire subregion and its communities → WHY IS THIS GOAL NOT MENTIONED IN THE EIR?!?!?

ALSO:

This project goes directly against the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan—Agricultural Goal: Encouraging the expansion and continuance of agricultural uses in the subregion. By building this "solar panel prison" complex (due to the chain-link fence with razor wire on top!!) Please be certain to address these two specific issues.

- I saw nothing to address the impact and displacement of the local wildlife and plants/flora. This is one of the most bedrock issues covered in most EIS documents, and litigation should be considered if this important aspect is not addressed.

- Also devoid from the report is the "heat island effect." With 643 acres (300,000 solar cells) surrounding the area, winds can carry the heat, destroy vegetation, impact health, cause discomfort to citizens, as panels are usually 36° warmer than the ambient temperatures

- Noise: What will be generated: SPECIFICALLY!!  
Transformers humming 24x7 + Panel noise.



• Jacumba Airport: This project would prevent any future expansion of this facility. The complex would terminate the land-use of a potentially expanded transit resource.

I104-10

• the JVR Project would negatively impact the future international border crossing between Jacumba and Jacume Mexico. This is a serious breach of future development in the need for additional crossing points.

I104-11

• The DEIR and MUP were very weak to non-existent on the specific pesticides and weed-killers that would be used. This is a double-edge sword: Air-born fumes would be potentially harmful or lethal to residents, as well as wild and domestic animals. Also, with a complex so large, the fear of ground and water contamination is beyond serious. Especially if this project were to last the 38 years that are planned.

I104-12

I104-13

Susan, it is as simple as this: IF this project is allowed to proceed, the village of Jacumba will die.

I104-14

→ With new owners of the Jacumba Hot Springs Hotel and Restaurant, there is more than just a spark of new life here: There is a huge resurgence, and plans to make Jacumba the preferred "destination spot" that it was back in its heyday. This industrial project would simply put a stake in the heart of this wonderful new energy. Please don't allow this to happen!!!

I104-15



Susan, as I began... I am 100% in favor of clean, renewable energy. I say that from the bottom of my heart!

1104-16

~~HOWEVER~~: The placement of an industrial complex this large is just ill-suited for the tiny village of Jacumba. Certainly there are other alternate sites that are more remote that can be considered for such a project.

I will be most appreciative to your response to my concerns at your convenience, as there is literally an entire community's future in your hands.

1104-17

Thankyou Susan!

Respectfully yours,

Bill Pelke

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