

Response to Comment Letter I120

Felix Bachmeier

- I120-1** The commenter states that he is a resident of Jacumba since 1993 and he objects to the solar project for the following reasons. The first reason the commenter states is all about aesthetics. The commenter states that he moved to Jacumba from Chicago to appreciate nature's open Jacumba Wilderness. The commenter states that the ridge line have been blighted with high voltage power lines that are of no benefit to Jacumba. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required. However, please refer to Section 2.1 Aesthetics of the EIR which analyzes the Proposed Project's impacts to visual resources.
- I120-2** The commenter asks that the valley not be taken away and states that wild horses, deer and bobcats would forever be replaced with chain-link fences and barbed wire, as the commenter does not believe that 35 years from now the valley will be returned to nature as they are proposing to build large sub stations, switchyards and battery towers. In response, as discussed in Chapter 1 of the EIR, the lifespan of the Proposed Project is 35 years. Thus, the Proposed Project would be an interim use, and absent further County approval, would be decommissioned after 35 years. Please also refer to Section 2.3 Biological Resources of the EIR which analyzes the Project's impacts to wildlife and habitat.
- I120-3** The commenter states that he objects to the size of the solar panels behind the fences. At 15 feet tall and oscillating east and west, the commenter is concerned that the reflection will intensify the sunlight for hikers. In response, a Glare Study for the Proposed Project was prepared by POWER Engineers and is included as Appendix A to Appendix B, Visual Resources Report, in the Final EIR). The Glare Study determined that the Proposed Project would not have significant impacts related to glare
- I120-4** The commenter states the heat island effect will increase temperatures. In response, please refer to Global Response GR-2 Photovoltaic Heat Island Effects in the Final EIR.
- I120-5** The commenter states that the Jacumba Valley is so quiet it gets your attention and states that he is out and about enjoying his life here. The commenter states that humming noise is not what he wants in the area. In response, the Acoustical Assessment for the JVR Energy Park Project Appendix M) and Section 2.9 Noise of the Draft EIR analyzed the Proposed Project's potential noise impacts during construction and

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- operation. Implementation of Project Design Feature **PDF-NOI-1** and mitigation measures **M-NOI-1 through M-NOI-3** would mitigate reduce noise impacts to less than significant. Further, the Proposed Project’s increased setbacks from Highway 80 and Jacumba Community Park would further reduce noise impacts
- I120-6** The commenter states that he believes property values will be affected by the project and states that the only reason to live so far from the city is to breath, walk, hike and enjoy the land and views. In response, please refer to Global Response GR-1 in the Final EIR regarding the relationship between socio-economic considerations and CEQA.
- I120-7** The commenter states that the solar project will not directly benefit Jacumba and states that this project should be built in the low desert away from the community that is currently reinventing itself as a destination get away. In response, Section 2.4.2 of Chapter 4, Project Alternatives, of the Draft EIR discusses alternative locations for the Project that were considered but rejected. The Draft EIR rejected the Alternative Locations Alternative because there “are no other known readily available parcels of undeveloped land of similar size in the eastern portion of the County that could accommodate development of the Proposed Project that have not already been considered and rejected for development of a similar solar project, provide adequate site accessibility, and/or could be acquired by the Applicant within a reasonable period of time.” Please also refer to Global Response GR-6 Alternatives in the Final EIR.
- I120-8** The commenter states that there are health consequences to the residents of Jacumba would and there will be humming noise, magnetic field, high heat, blinding reflection, increased traffic and decreased home values. In response, Section 3.1.7, Transportation, of the Draft EIR, analyzed potential transportation impacts which would be less than significant. In addition, the Proposed Project would be unstaffed, and maintenance and operation of the Project would generate a nominal number of daily trips. Please also refer to Global Responses GR-1 Socioeconomic Impacts and Environmental Justice, GR-2 Photovoltaic Heat Island Effects, and Response to Comment I120-3 regarding glare.