

Response to Comment Letter I132

Rebecca Person

- I132-1** The commenter states she has resided in Jacumba for four years. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- I132-2** The commenter asks that the following suggestions be added to the ideas and opinions the County is receiving regarding the Project. The commenter suggests the Project only utilize the south side of Old Highway 80 starting one-quarter mile off the highway and leave the north side of the highway (next to the trailer park) entirely alone so it can be used for agricultural purposes. In response, the suggested modifications to the Proposed Project would eliminate the entirety of the proposed solar facility development because the U.S. Mexico/Border is approximately one-quarter mile from Old Highway 80. Therefore, the suggested modifications would not permit any development on the Project site. Chapter 4, Project Alternatives, of the Draft EIR analyzed the No Project Alternative under two scenarios—no development of the Project site and buildout according to the applicable land use designations. Please refer to that analysis for a discussion of the no development scenario and an analysis of the environmental impacts that would be caused by the no development scenario as compared to the Proposed Project. Please also refer to Global Response GR-6 Alternatives.
- I132-3** The commenter states that leaving the north side of highway entirely alone would spare the trees and scenic views to the north, and that the old dairy can be used for a community agricultural and historic education center. The commenter also states that leaving the north side of Old Highway 80 alone would protect the residents of Wagon Wheel Trailer Park from “exposure to noise, electrical radiation and heat emanating from the solar panels.” In response, please refer to Response to Comment I132-2 regarding the suggestion to limit development of the solar facility to south of Old Highway 80. In regard to potential noise impacts, Section 2.9 Noise of the Draft EIR analyzes potential noise impacts of the Proposed Project. Mitigation measure **M-NOI-1** would ensure stationary equipment operation noise levels would comply with the County’s Noise Ordinance. **M-NOI-2** would ensure impacts from noise caused by occasional on-site PV panel washing procedures would comply with the Noise Ordinance. Implementation of **M-NOI-1** and **M-NOI-2** would reduce potential noise impacts to less than significant during operation of the Project and **M-NOI-3** would reduce construction noise to less than significant. Please also refer to Global

Volume II – Individual Responses to Comments

- Responses GR-4 Electromagnetic Field Impacts and GR-2 Photovoltaic Heat Island Effects in the Final EIR.
- I132-4** The commenter states that the Project should leave a “generous park strip at highway with trees and grass” to mitigate the unsightly industrial panel views. The commenter also states that the modification would add a “recreational feature to the town’s atmosphere.” In response, a setback of ¼ mile on the south side of Old Highway 80 and no solar panels north of Old Highway 80 would eliminate the Proposed Project. Please refer to Response to Comment I132-2.
- I132-5** The commenter states that the solar panels should be constructed along the border wall, starting one-quarter mile off Old Highway 80 and on the opposite side of the wall. The commenter states that this modification could mitigate temperature increases which have been predicted along the solar project. In response, please refer to Response to Comment I132-2. Also, the federal government owns a Public Reserve (a 60-foot strip) along the international border within the Project site, which must be kept free from obstruction. Therefore, the solar panels cannot be placed within 60 feet of the border. County Board Policy I-111 also requires coordination with the federal Department of Homeland Security for any projects within 150 feet of the border. The County does not have jurisdiction over land within Mexico. Accordingly, the suggested modifications to the Project are infeasible. Further, please refer to Global Response GR-2 Photovoltaic Heat Island Effects in the Final EIR.
- I132-6** This commenter states that the Project should employ local residents to monitor panels and groom the landscaping. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- I132-7** The commenter states that the Project should include a solar educational station. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- I132-8** The commenter thanks the County for the opportunity to submit comments. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.