Response to Comment Letter 188

Nancy Cordova

- 188-1 The commenter provides an introductory statement explaining that she purchased a home in Jacumba because of the hiking trails, natural hot spring, and the community. The commenter also states that most people who visit come out to enjoy the hot springs, peace and quiet. The commenter further states the Proposed Project would change all of this and possibly put community members health at risk. In response, please refer to Response to Comment 07-128. Also, please refer to Global Responses GR-4 regarding Electromagnetic Field impacts and health.
- The commenter states the Project is too close to existing homes. The commenter also states that 75 feet is not enough space between enormous solar panels with its battery storage units. The commenter also states the Proposed Project would affect local wildlife and will create a heat island effect increasing local temperature. The commenter also states the quiet town will be affected by months of construction and long-term noise from running the solar panels. The commenter also asks if anyone knows how it will impact water resources. In response, Chapter 4 of the EIR includes an analysis of alternatives to the Proposed Project. The Community Buffer Alternative includes a 300-foot buffer adjacent to residential properties to the north of Old Highway 80. Subsequent to public review of the Draft EIR, the Proposed Project was revised to include increased setbacks from the Jacumba Community Park and along both sides of Old Highway 80, as described in Chapter 1 of the Final EIR. The Community Buffer Alternative has also been revised to include these increased setbacks.

Regarding heat island effects, please refer to Global Response GR-2 in the Final EIR. Further, please refer to Section 2.3 Biological Resources of the Draft EIR for an analysis of the Proposed Project's potential impacts to wildlife. Section 2.9 Noise analyzes the Proposed Project's potential noise impacts during construction and operation. Noise impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures **M-NOI-1 through M-NOI-3**. Regarding water resources, the analysis in Section 2.7 Hydrology and Water Quality determined that the Proposed Project's potential impacts to groundwater would be less than significant.

The commenter states "Jacumba has already become a dumping ground for sex offenders." This comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis in the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.

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The commenter requests that the County and the Proposed Project consider the residents of Jacumba and the serious impact this project will have on their town. The commenter also states she knows everyone involved in only concerned about profits, but she hopes they remember they are also dealing with people's homes and livelihood. In response, please refer to Global Response GR-1 in the Finale EIR for a discussion of CEQA and socioeconomic impacts. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.

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