Community Information

Jacumba

California title company

JACUMBA

Jacumba (pronounced "ha-cum-ba") is located along the original Highway 80, that was first a horse and wagon trail and also along the San Diego-Arizona Railroad tracks. It wasn't until 1927 that the California highway department graded and laid a twenty-foot pavement from the top of Mountain Springs Grade to the bottom of the desert floor, a nearly 3000 feet descent. Today, as people cruise up and down the mountains on Interstate 8 they can still see some portions of the 1927 pavement. The original route was part of the Lee Highway and was the only national cross-country route designated as ending in San Diego. It drew traffic from New York into Washington D.C., and along a southern, all weather route.

Today some 400 people live in Jacumba. What now appears a quiet high desert retreat was once a thriving spa. In the 1920s and '30s the community thrived, its therapeutic hot springs a Mecca for Hollywood celebrities and wealthy Imperial Valley growers. Clark Gable is said to have made Jacumba famous by frequenting its spa.

On weekends at the local airport you'll find sail planes being towed aloft to catch the thermals, with pilots who savor the solitude and challenge of powerless flight. During the week the airport is quiet, inhabited by hawks and their prey.

Old U.S. Highway 80 bisects the beautiful town which is located at a elevation of 2800' amongst the mountain peaks.

The landmark Jacumba Hotel was destroyed by a fire and was torn down in 1991. But walking through town on a sunny day you get the sense of history. The old buildings, tumbleweeds and dry air give the imagination room to wander, to sense what was.

Restoring Lake Jacumba - By Howard Cook

February 3, 2012 (Jacumba)--Jacumba is located in San Diego County on Old Highway 80 next to the Mexican border, Imperial County and south of Interstate 8. Native American Kumeyaay called it Ahkum, which translates to bubbling water. Indeed, Jacumba is blessed with a bubbling spring and wells producing both hot (101 degree) and cold waters. The spring was always important for plant, bird and other animal wildlife. The Kumeyaay also utilized the spring for its water and heat. They would dam the spring outflow and create ponds. Later in the 1800s, early settlers were attracted for the same reasons.

Chris Wray, in his latest book "The Historic Back Country", has a 1910 photo showing people fishing in the pond adjacent to the spring. Henry Lazare in 1954 acquired the town, hotel, spring and pond. He sank a new well adjacent to the spring which produced larger quantities of hot water. He enlarged the pond to a 7-acre lake filled from the well overflow. Wildlife, bird and fish habitat were improved and expanded. It became a shaded oasis offering fishing, birding, swimming and recreation.

But in 2004, the recent former owners chose to divert water flow from the lake. The lakebed currently contains only a very shallow remnant. Late last year, after learning about a probable change of ownership, a town support group called

the Revitalization Alliance set about to rehabilitate and fill the lake, surrounding trails and park. The effort has now accelerated, as the ownership change is almost complete.

In addition, the National, State and San Diego Audubon Society, State Fish and Game and The US Wildlife Service have heard about and are now promoting lake rehabilitation. These entities are promoting lake rehabilitation because it is important habitat for the endangered Tricolored Blackbird, which is a designated "Species of Special Concern" as well as other wildlife.

They have submitted a proposal to the new owner of the Jacumba Hot Springs Spa and to the Revitalization Group. Audubon plans to seek funding for much, but not all of the lake rehabilitation. This effort is currently in the planning phase, looking forward to implementation in 2012.

People in Jacumba, as well as surrounding towns and area, are all eagerly looking forward to a revived and enhanced Lake Jacumba.

Howard Cook is a member of the Jacumba Sponsor Group and a resident of Jacumba.

Desert View Tower

Along border-straddling Interstate 8, between San Diego and El Centro, Desert View Tower has been an enduring attraction. Yea, there's a gaudy Indian casino miles west near Alpine, down in a ditch near the Reservation, but DVT is still the rest stop of choice.

Vaughn, who owned the town of Jacumba, built the stone lookout between 1922-28. Its 70-foot tower was dedicated in memory of the area's rough pre-highway days, when the journey between Yuma and the Pacific Ocean took a month across blasted moonlike terrain.

Over the decades, the Tower has enjoyed periods of prosperity and complete neglect, managed by a succession of owners. The gift shop was added around the base during one of the boom times.

Today, the $2 combo ticket ($1 for kids) admits one to the three-floor "museum," view from the hurricane deck, and Boulder Park.

The museum is basically whatever happens to be hanging on the walls as you climb to the top of the tower. A sparse and yellowing collection of prints of paintings depict the Old West, the Revolutionary War, and randomly celebrated astronauts and military units. Historic black and white photos provide glimpse of the Tower under construction.

The top deck affords a vantage of I-8 winding down to the arid valley floor. No panaviewers, though each window is labeled to identify landmarks shimmering in the distance.

Tourists who carry their own binoculars might spot the US Border Patrol apprehending illegal immigrants streaming across a nearby crossing in the mountains. Prime your camcorders if you leave via east I-8 -- you might witness parades of the recently arrived escorted along the shoulder. No stopping allowed!

The real attraction at the Desert View Tower is Boulder Park, a jumble of rocks weathered by wind into caves and craggy walkways. Kids adore this area, and scramble with sugared-beverage abandon up the switchback path over friendly-looking precipices and outcroppings.

The Depression Era carvings strung along the path are a bonus, hand-carved animals, faces, and folk creatures inspired by the natural shapes in the boulders. Folk artist and out-of-work engineer W.T. Ratcliffe sculpted the quartz granite boulders without any particular theme in mind; but he likely knew kids would love the rocky maze. The carvings and tower are registered as an official California Historical Landmark.

Education

Mountain Empire Unified School District
3291 Buckman Springs Rd., Pine Valley, CA 91962
(619) 473-9022 Phone | (619) 473-9728 Fax | meusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Clover Flat Elementary
39639 Old Hwy 80, Boulevard, CA 91905
(619) 766-4655 Phone | (619) 766-4537 Fax

Jacumba Elementary
44343 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba, CA 91934
(619) 766-4464 Phone | (619) 766-4532 Fax

Pine Valley Elementary
7454 Pine Blvd., Pine Valley, CA 91962
(619) 473-8693 Phone | (619) 473-8026 Fax

Mountain Empire High
3305 Buckman Springs Road , Pine Valley, CA 91962
(619) 473-8601 Phone | (619) 473-8038 Fax

Population and Housing Estimates
ZIP Code 91934

SANDAG

	Jan 1, 2021
Total Population	**999**
Household Population	999
Group Quarters Population	0
Persons Per Household	**2.54**

Housing and Occupancy

	Total Units	Households	Vacancy Rate
Structure Type	**455**	**393**	**13.6%**
Single Family - Detached	316	298	5.7%
Single Family - Attached	19	18	5.3%
Multi-Family	80	40	50.0%
Mobile Home and Other	40	37	7.5%

Household Income
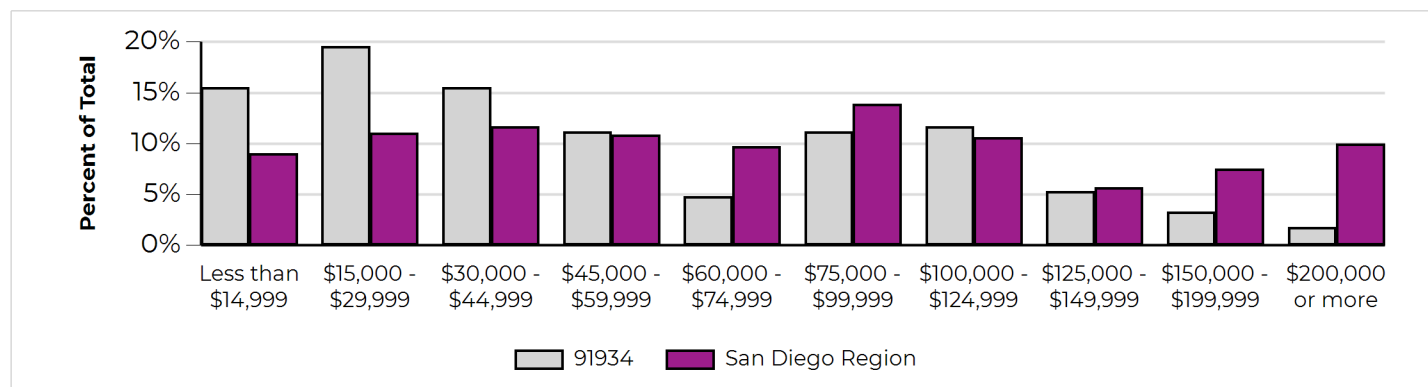### Households by Income Category (2010 $, adjusted for inflation)

	Less than $15,000	$15,000-$29,999	$30,000-$44,999	$45,000-$59,999	$60,000-$74,999	$75,000-$99,999	$100,000-$124,999	$125,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000 or more
% of Total	16%	20%	16%	11%	5%	11%	12%	5%	3%	2%

Median Household Income	2021
Adjusted for Inflation (2010 $)	$44,385
Not adjusted for inflation (current 2020 $)	$54,957

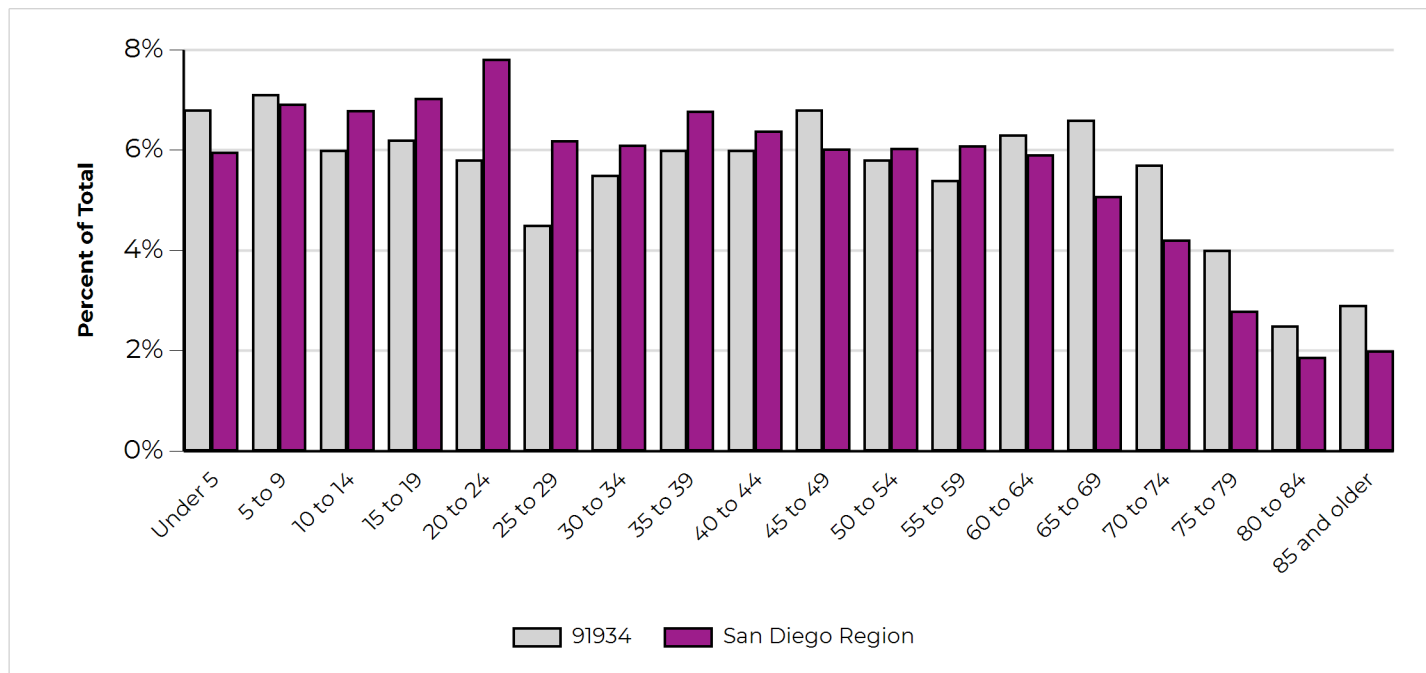## DATA SOURCES AND IMPORTANT ADVISORY:

SANDAG Population and Housing Estimates are derived from a composite of data sources, including the California Department of Finance (DOF) E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2022; the 2021 SANDAG Land Use and Housing Units inventory; the Census American Community Survey (ACS) Detailed tables; and the vintage 2020 DOF P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties.

Caution should be taken when using Population and Housing Estimates, especially for small areas of geography. Sampling error inherent with the data may materially impact the reliability of the estimates, resulting in a substantial margin of error. Additionally, conclusions should not necessearily be drawn about small differences between two or more estimates because they may not reflect statistically significant differences.

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
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Population by Age and Sex

	Total	Male	Female	Percent Female
Total Population	**999**	**520**	**479**	**48%**
Under 5	68	40	28	41%
5 to 9	71	35	36	51%
10 to 14	60	30	30	50%
15 to 17	38	23	15	39%
18 and 19	24	14	10	42%
20 to 24	58	38	20	34%
25 to 29	45	23	22	49%
30 to 34	55	30	25	45%
35 to 39	60	28	32	53%
40 to 44	60	27	33	55%
45 to 49	68	39	29	43%
50 to 54	58	28	30	52%
55 to 59	54	23	31	57%
60 and 61	26	13	13	50%
62 to 64	37	17	20	54%
65 to 69	66	36	30	45%
70 to 74	57	29	28	49%
75 to 79	40	24	16	40%
80 to 84	25	12	13	52%
85 and older	29	11	18	62%
Under 18	237	128	109	46%
65 and older	217	112	105	48%
Median Age	41.7	39.8	43.3	N/A

Population by Age

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
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Population by Race, Ethnicity and Age

	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic				
		White	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Isl.	All Other
Total Population	**282**	**610**	**12**	**27**	**30**	**38**
Under 5	18	40	2	0	1	7
5 to 9	35	30	2	2	1	1
10 to 14	27	24	1	2	2	4
15 to 17	14	20	0	1	1	2
18 and 19	7	15	1	0	1	0
20 to 24	21	28	0	2	1	6
25 to 29	8	27	0	3	1	6
30 to 34	16	28	1	1	5	4
35 to 39	18	37	1	3	1	0
40 to 44	13	38	2	2	5	0
45 to 49	17	43	1	1	2	4
50 to 54	27	26	1	3	0	1
55 to 59	19	35	0	0	0	0
60 and 61	3	19	0	1	3	0
62 to 64	7	25	0	4	1	0
65 to 69	10	54	0	1	0	1
70 to 74	5	50	0	1	0	1
75 to 79	7	32	0	0	1	0
80 to 84	7	16	0	0	2	0
85 and older	3	23	0	0	2	1
Under 18	94	114	5	5	5	14
65 and older	32	175	0	2	5	3
Median Age	33.4	47.1	30.0	39.2	41.0	24.2

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
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