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May 12, 2019

Humboldt Wind Energy Project
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department, Planning Division
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While the Humboldt Wind Energy Project DEIR states that several mitigation efforts will be implemented in order to lessen the impact to several avian species, the DEIR does not appear to consider just how important the greater Humboldt area is for avian species. Several avian species utilize Humboldt Bay as a stop-over or wintering ground (Chen, 2017; USFWS, 2013). Similarly, with Humboldt Bay serving as the second largest estuary in the state of California (Colwell & Feucht, 2018), several shorebirds fly into the area and feed. On a final related note, the Black Brant goose, a previously endangered species, (Black et al., 2013) has been recorded to stop-over in Humboldt Bay and may face harm that could potentially place their population at risk if proper measures are not taken to ensure their safety. Placing any level of risk to these avian species not only directly impacts them, but also changes the landscape in an ecological sense and diminishes the aesthetic value of Humboldt Bay and the surrounding area. Unless every danger to avian species can be guaranteed to be mitigated or minimized to Less than Significant, the project should not move forward anytime soon.

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Respectfully,

André Sanchez

Citations

Black, Jeffrey M., Derek E. Lee, and David H. Ward. "Foraging home ranges of Black Brant Branta bernicla nigricans during spring stopover at Humboldt Bay, California, USA." Wildfowl 60.60 (2013): 85-94.

Chen, Elise. "Humboldt Bay is more important to birds than you might think." Audubon California. 01 Mar. 2017. <<http://ca.audubon.org/news/humboldt-bay-more-important-birds-you-might-think>>

Colwell, Mark A., and Elizabeth J. Feucht. 2018. "Humboldt Bay, California is more important to spring migrating shorebirds than previously recognized."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Birds - Humboldt Bay". 25 Mar. 2013. <www.fws.gov/refuge/Humboldt_Bay/wildlife_and_habitat/HumboldtBirds1.html>