

My name is Ernie DeGraff and I live at 2342 Shamrock Dr., Fortuna, Ca. 95540. I am opposed to this wind energy project for many reasons. I urge you to select the “No Action” alternative, which you must develop, in your CEQA document as the preferred alternative. I am opposed to this proposed project for the following reasons:

Visual: The project would be visible from Fortuna and anywhere you can see the skyline of Bear River ridge and Monument Peak. In an area where the “naturalness” of the environment is paramount, this project would destroy that aspect. Towers 600’ high would be three times taller than the tallest trees in the surrounding environment, and dominate the the visual aspect of this natural environment

Damage to Wildlife: The “take” of murrelets during the life of the project (30 years) is unacceptable. And additional deaths of hawks, eagles, and ospreys is unacceptable. And who believes the life of these turbines terminates in 30 years? They will be there FOREVER. The noise and night lights associated with the wind turbines will forever change the wildlife habitat and cause irreparable harm.

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New Access Roads: These new roads will be hard to maintain and with periodic “torrential” rain events, will undoubtedly be washed out in many places, causing erosion and sedimentation of streams containing important endangered fisheries and aquatic wildlife. There is no way to build a road system to access these facilities that can withstand these unpredictable but inevitable rain events.

Fire Hazards: The power lines over inaccessible terrain of over 30 miles pose a real threat for wildfires. Think of the PG&E situation that caused the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed over 84 people.

Drilling under the Eel River: Project proposes to drill under the Eel River, which could cause toxic materials to be introduced into an aquatic habitat that supports fish and wildlife species, some of which are endangered species. And the threat of periodic, epic floods like those in 1955 and 1964 will always be present. And the alternative of having above ground transmission lines is out of the question visually and with respect to native birds.

This is not a project that Humboldt Co., the State of California, or the nation needs. Please choose the “No Action” alternative when making a decision that most of the citizens of Humboldt Co. are against it.