

From: Angela Rex <westermaid@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2019 8:53 AM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt wind energy at Bear River and Monument Ridges

Humboldt Wind Energy Project Planner
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I am a wildlife biologist who spent three years locating golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, great-horned owls, and other raptors that were killed by wind turbines. On more than one occasion it was clear that a bird had been injured, often missing part of a wing, and left unable to fly or feed itself and was slowly starving to death. Most of the time the turbines were far 'cleaner' in their kills, such as the time I found a golden eagle sliced into thirds, it's blood covering a large swath of grass. I understand that the newer turbines kill fewer birds, but that is often qualified as 'per kilowatt hour', which is to say these turbines still kill and maim many avian species.

I64-1

I am quite concerned with the proposed wind energy project, and its placement in a forested habitat that is home to marbled murrelets, spotted owls, bald eagles, peregrines, and hopefully condors in the near future. Having worked within a windfarm, I am aware of the large amount of noise wind turbines generate, and believe that this would impact auditory hunters such as spotted owls, let alone the threat of direct take by wind turbine strike to many bird species. Additionally, the suggestion in the DEIR of mitigating spotted owl impacts by barred owl management ignores that it is NOT legal to shoot barred owls for management, and currently only allowed for research purposes (and the current large scale barred owl removal project may not support Diller's assessment of barred owl removal benefiting spotted owls).

Furthermore, I am alarmed as to the impact this project will have on bats, whose turbine related fatalities are harder to detect, especially in forested locations. It appears that two species of concern were detected in the Stantec surveys, and I am doubtful that the proposed mitigation in the DEIR will be sufficient to avoid a significant impact.

I64-2

I am also aware of how large a footprint the newer turbines create, the massive pads and roads needed to bring these turbines in, and that level of habitat destruction and degradation is important to consider. Roads and culverts can impact water quality for salmon bearing streams and break up contiguous habitat for forest dwelling mammals, such as fisher.

1164-3

In addition, I think it is of utmost importance to consider the will of the Wiyot on whose historical lands these turbines would be built, and to respect their wishes as to their sacred sites. The tribe has come out against this project, and I believe it is imperative to take these concerns into account.

1164-4

Wind energy can be an important part of moving away from fossil fuels, but placing a large windfarm in this area is a risky venture that has the potential to do great damage to the wildlife in the area. I am not convinced by the proposed mitigation methods in the DEIR that the benefits of this project will outweigh the ecological costs.

1164-5

Thank you,

Angela Rex