

From: Jane Hartford <jehartford9@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 12:19 PM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Draft EIR for Humboldt Wind Project (proposed by Humboldt Redwood Co. and Terra Gen)

To the CEQA Response Team:

Please include all of my comments in this email trail as my response to the proposed Humboldt Wind Project's Draft EIR.

Thanks,

Jane Hartford, PO Box 143, Scotia, CA 95565

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Hartford <jehartford9@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Comments on Draft EIR for Humboldt Wind Project (proposed by Humboldt Redwood Co. and Terra Gen)
Date: May 31, 2019 at 8:59:55 AM PDT
To: Cliff Johnson <cjohnson@co.humboldt.ca.us>, "Ford, John" <jford@co.humboldt.ca.us>, planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us, CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us
Cc: Frank Bacik <FBacik@townofscotia.com>, "infoscotiacsd@gmail.com" <infoscotiacsd@gmail.com>, "Bohn, Rex" <rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>, rsundberg@co.humboldt.ca.us, "Bass, Virginia" <vbass@co.humboldt.ca.us>, "Wilson, Mike" <mike.wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>, "Fennell, Estelle" <efennell@co.humboldt.ca.us>, "Hayes, Kathy" <khayes@co.humboldt.ca.us>, Frank Bacik <FBacik@townofscotia.com>, Leslie Marshall <infoscotiacsd@gmail.com>

Dear Cliff and all,

Please read this article from EPIC re the HRC/Terra Gen Wind Project.

<https://www.wildcalifornia.org/blog/proposed-wind-project-presents-alarming-impacts?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=400c5134-0a3b-483b-8919-8f77009cd517>

Here are some key points:

"Yet still, renewable energy is not without its environmental costs, and here the proposed project has *many worrying* impacts. The project is proposed in a precarious location—along Monument and Bear River Ridges between the Eel



River and the ocean, and overlapping in part with the Cape Mendocino Grasslands Important Bird Area.

Due to its location, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife warned in an early letter to the county that the location was one with “High or Uncertain Impacts to Wildlife” or was “Inappropriate for Wind Development.” Poorly conceived or developed project have tarnished the reputation of wind power in the past.

From the Draft Environmental Impact Report:

- Operational impacts to nonraptor birds are “potentially significant,” particularly to a population of horned larks which are reproductively isolated from other populations and may represent a unique and distinct evolutionary lineage.
- Impacts to raptors are “significant and unavoidable,” with potentially over 100 raptor deaths *per year*.
- Hundreds of bats are likely to be killed per year, with reason to suspect that this project—owing to its close proximity to a known bat migratory “hot spot”—could cause species-level impacts to the hoary bat.
- An estimated 20.86 marbled murrelets, a species protected by the Endangered Species Act, will be killed through the 30 year life of the project.
- Bald and golden eagles will likely be killed by the operation of the project, although there is no estimate yet on the total number.

And so on. Renewable energy should be an answer to the Anthropocene, not a further cause of it. We need to do the right things in the right way. “

Thanks for considering this project very carefully.

Jane Hartford
PO Box 143
Scotia, CA 95565

On Apr 24, 2019, at 1:26 PM, Jane Hartford <jehartford9@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Cliff,

Please include my following comments in the response to the Draft EIR for the Humboldt County Wind Project.

Dear Cliff & John, & Humboldt Board of Supervisors:

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(Cont.)

1. As a new homeowner in Scotia, I believe this proposed project must not be allowed to happen for many reasons. I bought a home and moved to Humboldt County in July 2017 because I wanted to eventually retire amidst the magnificent redwood forests, and the amazing natural beauty of Monument, and Bear River ridges beautifully enveloping the town of Scotia.

My reasons for buying a home in Scotia would be completely destroyed if the proposed Humboldt Wind project is allowed to proceed to construct the monstrously sized windmills on these ridges, clear-cutting a 50-Ft wide swath of road, eleven miles long across the ridges. This would completely destroy my views and reduce the value of my property.

2. I suggest it may be no accident that Humboldt Wind, LLC picked two of the poorest towns in Humboldt County as the location for this project. It's common knowledge that poverty is not conducive to active citizenship and caring about anything beyond putting food on ones table, keeping ones head down, and/or, worse, using substances to escape the harsh realities of poverty (significant heroin/meth addiction is another huge and very disturbing problem—for current and potential home owners — in Humboldt County).

3. The Town of Scotia infrastructure cannot afford the traffic that 300 initial workers would create on their lunch breaks; nor can the log-pond in Scotia owned by the SCSO become a source for trucking water to the job site to damp down the huge road that Terra Gen plans to build on the ridges. This noise/traffic would completely disturb the peace of current and future homeowners here.

4. Given all the publicity around the Humboldt Redwood Company (formerly PALCO) and its parent, the Mendocino Redwood Company and their alleged labor and other alleged corporate tactics, etc, etc, it appears to me that this may be just one more example of wealthy corporations refusing to care about and cooperate with the communities of human beings that supply their labor forces and that they operate within.

5. It also appears to me that given all of the ongoing negative publicity about heroin addition in Humboldt County, this is a project that Humboldt County would not want to be associated with in its current location because of the onslaught of negative publicity this proposed project is bound to attract from journalists.

6. This is a "Bambi meets Godzilla" story clothed in a project that is financially attractive tax-wise to Humboldt County.

7. As a homeowner in Scotia and tax payer in Humboldt County, I'm strongly in favor of "nipping" the proposed location of the wind project "in the bud," and relocating this project closer to Bridgeville above Hwy 36, or between Blue Lake and Willow Creek above SR 299. There are plenty of other mountain ridges in Humboldt County to support a valuable Humboldt County Wind Project without literally destroying the barely emergent Town of Scotia.

8. As you may know, The Town of Scotia LLC is in the midst of trying to sell about 230 homes at affordable prices; and the major selling point of the Scotia Living Website is the beauty of the surrounding forests. Needless to say, the proposed wind project would be not be a selling point to future homeowners here — IF the ToS can sell these homes at all with the proposed Humboldt Wind Project looming.

9. Has Terra-Gen considered the alternative location far off the coast of the less populated area of Humboldt County near Petrolia? In my opinion, a wind project there would make good sense, because it would not be visible if it were placed far enough out to sea; and a wind project there would provide the benefit to Humboldt County taxpayers and to the Humboldt County economy of improved/new roads to that part of the lost coast. Tourists and residents without 4-wheel drives would actually be able to drive to Petrolia without blowing out their tires. *That would be the kind of win-win wind project I would likely be able to wholeheartedly support.*

10. Would the reduction of Co2 of the proposed wind project over 30 years be greater than that of the significant number of trees that would be killed to make way for the wind project? The trees already supply this service to California through photosynthesis, and if left untouched, they (the trees) will continue to provide this service for life—as opposed to the wind project’s 30 years. Also, how much Co2 would be released into the environment when the trees are killed? If the wind energy from this proposed project would result in a greater reduction of Co2 in our air than the reduction of Co2 that the killed trees would have provided over their lifetime; how much greater would that reduction of Co2 be?

11. I suggest that fast-tracking a proposed project like this in Humboldt County would stand to benefit none of the residents who live in Humboldt, and instead increase the profits of the Humboldt Redwood Company at the expense of installing this wind farm in a less impactful location.

12. I believe that a thoughtful, less-destructive-to-the-environment, win-win Wind Project can be created in a less populated part of Humboldt County if enough time & energy, thought & consideration are put into it.

In sum, once the old growth and endangered species are gone—they’re gone forever.

It all boils down to what kind of environmental legacy this Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Humboldt County want to leave for the generations to come.

I strongly urge you to NOT allow this proposed project to be permitted; and, instead, support the relocation of this project elsewhere within Humboldt County, ASAP.

Thanking you in advance for your deep and thoughtful consideration.

Jane Hartford
PO Box 143
Scotia, CA 95565

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(Cont.)