Letter I80

From: Andres Rodriguez <andres.rafa.rodriguez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 8:20 PM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Public comment for the Humboldt Wind Energy Project draft EIR

Humboldt Wind Energy Project Planner
County of Humboldt Planning Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Hello Humboldt Wind Energy Project Planner,

My name is Andres Rodriguez. I've lived in Humboldt County since August of 2017. Here are a few questions I have about the wind project that I would like you to address:

- How would this project achieve the displacement of its target of approximately 372,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year? Would its implementation limit the energy production of existing greenhouse-gas-emitting energy producers?
- This project has a theoretical capacity of 155 megawatts. How much energy is actually expected to be produced by this project annually?
- Is the CO_2 displacement estimate based on the project's theoretical capacity or is it based on what the project is actually expected to generate?
- How many acres of trees total will be clearcut for the entire project?
- How many trees are expected to be lost overall for the entire project?
- What is the carbon footprint of the project from beginning to end, and how long would it take to become carbon neutral?

Here are a few thoughts I have about the project that I would like you to consider:

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As it stands there is no guarantee that the energy produced by this project will be used here in Humboldt County. If it is not used in Humboldt County and goes elsewhere in California, it would do little to curtail California's overall CO_2 emissions. According to the California Air Resources Board, California emitted 429.4 million metric tons of CO_2 in 2016. The displacement of 372,000 metric tons of CO_2 from this project would be less than a tenth of a percent of California's 2016 CO_2 emissions. If this energy will not be used in Humboldt County, it doesn't make sense to destroy and damage parts of our forest, our local ecosystem, our historic landscape, and our tribal cultural resources here in Humboldt County. Not for such a small displacement of carbon. Let's develop renewable energy solutions on already-developed land. Or at least on land that isn't forested. Forests themselves are a key component in reducing atmospheric CO_2.

If the energy produced by this wind project will be used locally, it would be beneficial to figure out if it would actually help us reduce our carbon footprint. Recently, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) completed an inventory of Humboldt County's greenhouse gas emissions in 2015. It will be published later this week. I think we should consult this inventory to get a better feel for how this project would help us reduce CO_2 emissions before continuing with this project. According to an article by the Northcoast Environmental Center, that inventory showed that transportation was the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Humboldt County, followed by livestock. Electricity consumption ranked third. Maybe more greenhouse gas reductions can be made by addressing the top two sources. A closer

look at the actual estimates of greenhouse gases emitted in RCEA's inventory would help us answer this. Further, according to RCEA's 2017 Power Content Label, households using the REpower plan already get 44% of their energy from renewable sources. The electricity for those with the REpower+ plan is 100% renewable. Given how renewable our electricity already is, this project might not do much to reduce our CO_2 emissions from electricity consumption. We need to be sure of it before we choose to destroy and damage parts of our forest, our local ecosystem, our historic landscape, and our tribal cultural resources here in Humboldt County. Again, forests themselves are a key component in reducing atmospheric CO_2.

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(Cont.)

Thank you for your time,
Andres