

June 12, 2019

To Humboldt Wind Energy Project Planner:

Please approve the Humboldt Wind Energy Project, the long term environmental benefits out-way the immediate costs. Though we agree with many of the environmental concerns regarding this project, we have also heard a lot of misinformation that we hope will not influence the final decision. If we believed this project did nothing to reduce global warming we would not support it. But this is not the case. The Humboldt Wind Energy Project is an important opportunity to contribute to the global good by rapidly switching to local low-carbon energy, and demonstrating leadership for other communities to do the same.

To clarify:

Electricity from these wind generators WILL be used locally. It is impossible for electrons to go anywhere other than the nearest load.

The amount of low-carbon energy produced WILL be significant. This one project could supply 36% of Humboldt's entire electricity consumption. The 40,000 homes this project could power would take our team of six solar installers 200+ years to complete.

This wind project WILL help reduce global warming. All new infrastructure has large carbon contributions, however, it IS proven that increasing low-carbon energy on the electrical grid is critical to preventing the worst effects of global warming. On-shore wind is ranked the #2 most effective, viable solution to climate change (*Drawdown*, edited by Paul Hawken, 2017).

This wind project IS low-carbon. There are multitudinous factors in calculating carbon footprint. However, life cycle emissions from wind are calculated at 11g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh produced, compared to natural gas at 465g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh. If this unique project were double the typical carbon footprint, that is still 443g less CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh than natural gas ([www.factcheck.org/2018/03/wind-energys-carbon-footprint/](http://www.factcheck.org/2018/03/wind-energys-carbon-footprint/)).

Our current task as a global society is not to design a perfect electrical grid, but to curve the trajectory of the current grid away from catastrophe. Global climate data makes clear that the time to act slowly has past. 230+ countries believe climate change is the #1 issue we face, every legislator in our federal government believes it's a colossal threat to humanity. The United Nations has reported there is just 11 years at current rates until we cause irreparable damage. Our efforts now will fall short of perfection, mistakes will be made, but not trying would be the most unfortunate mistake of all.

As a Humboldt County family with a small business installing rooftop solar, we are encouraged that big business and big government are finally getting to work addressing climate change. Not taking action to reduce carbon emissions will result in increased wildfires, hurricanes, melting glaciers and tundra, rising sea levels, deadly heat waves, forest deaths, changes to seasons effecting food production and animal migrations, further acidification of our oceans that already is killing off corals, shellfish, and phytoplankton - the foundations of the marine food chain, drought, famine, etc... If we don't think globally and act locally, who will?

We fully support the RCEA goal of 100% local and renewable energy for Humboldt County by 2025. Local environmentalists and energy experts have worked diligently to make this a reality for Humboldt County. We support their choice of renewable energy provider, location, and environmental review. In addition, we think wind turbines are beautiful.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul & Amber Woodworth  
1407 Peninsula Dr.  
Arcata, Ca 95521

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