

From: [CEQAResponses](#)
To: [Werner, Steve](#); [Ford, John](#); [Shortridge, Tricia](#); [Humboldt Wind](#); [Elizabeth Burks](#)
Subject: FW: Humboldt Wind LLC, Humboldt Wind Energy Project Comment Letter
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:58:39 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks,



Tasheena Evenson
[Planning and Building Department](#)
 Code Enforcement
 Legal Office Assistant II
 Direct: 707.268.3733
tevenson1@co.humboldt.ca.us

From: Tony Silvaggio <anthonyvsilvaggio@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:54 AM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt Wind LLC, Humboldt Wind Energy Project Comment Letter

Dear Planning Director Ford,

I am in strong opposition to the proposed wind project from Humboldt Wind, LLC. While I recognize that climate change is a serious threat to Humboldt County, this project is one that I do not support. The proposed project, as outlined in the DEIR, is poorly sited and will cause long-term impacts to cultural and environmental resources. I oppose this project because it destroys tribal resources, harms threatened species, and offers few direct material benefits to our community.

As the DEIR states very clearly, “the entire Wiyot ancestral territory can be viewed from Bear River Ridge. Likewise, Bear River Ridge is visible from anywhere within Wiyot territory. In the past, the ridge would have been used as a high prayer spot. Project operation may also impede success of the condor reintroduction program proposed for the Bald Hills region of Redwood National Park. The condor is a spiritual symbol for the tribes of Humboldt County. Project operation would permanently alter the character of this tribal cultural resource, which is a cumulatively considerable contribution to the cumulative loss of cultural resources in the county.” There are no acceptable mitigation efforts offered in the DEIR to avoid, minimize, and compensate for these significant impacts on Wiyot cultural and botanical resources.

Regarding the environmental impacts, this project is likely to result in death of numerous special-status species, such as the marbled murrelet, violating section 9 of the ESA by harassing and harming the threatened bird. In addition, it will cause population-level impacts to once-numerous species, such as the hoary bat, and impact efforts to re-establish the California Condor. Again, the DEIR fails to take adequate measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for these significant impacts.

I161-1

I161-2

Besides the environmental impacts of the project, Terra Gen has set the mark pretty low for the wind power industry coming to our community, which I believe sets a really dangerous precedent. Terra-Gen has made it clear that they will not sign a community benefits agreement with the communities most impacted by the project. A Community Benefits Agreement or "CBA" is a contract signed by community groups and project developers that requires the developer to provide specific amenities and/or mitigations to the local community or neighborhood. I want to point out that Terra Gen is offering the affected community very little for this wind project. On the east coast, wind companies have given impacted communities material benefits for the wind farms in their backyards. For example, the town of Lowell was paid at least \$400,000 annually for 25 years by the power generator for wind farm projects. The power company also created a "Good Neighbor Fund" that allocated funds generated by the project to the neighboring towns affected by the wind farms. In addition, Terra-Gen has made it very clear to organized labor that they will not enter into any project labor agreements with any labor unions. What this means is that for the lifetime of the project, they will not entertain any proposals for hiring union workers, training local workers, or guaranteeing a living wage for project workers.

I recognize that wind farms are an important part of our future here in Humboldt County, but I believe that this is the wrong project, in the wrong location, for all the right reasons. I strongly oppose this project. It destroys tribal resources, harms threatened critters, and offers little direct material benefits to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter.

Sincerely

Anthony Silvaggio
1741 Waters Avenue
Mckinelyville, California

I161-3