

June 14, 2019

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

Re: Public Comment

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the proposed Humboldt Wind Energy Project. I am not opposed to wind energy in general, but I oppose this project as currently planned because there appears to be too many unknown EIR factors. The project appears to be in an accelerated mode, and approval /comment is being sought before the EIR has been formally completed. This is inappropriate.

I229-1

Many individuals chose to stay in Humboldt County because of its natural beauty. We settle for smaller paychecks to live in this beautiful remote area. The massive size of the proposed wind machines will be a tragic intrusion on an otherwise scenic landscape that is visible from many roadways and locales. I live in Ferndale and view the proposed project skyline area daily. I wonder also how many trees will be clear-cut for the tower installations, and huge concrete pads? How many trees will be clear-cut to widen access roads?

I question the accuracy of the mock-up photos for the project. The photos appear to be taken on a hazy day, but the towers may be more visible on a clear-blue skied day. Excluded from the photo mock-ups were night time views of the project towers with red (flashing) aviation lights. How ugly that will be.

I229-2

Additionally, it is unclear to what extent the blades and wind-disruption may wreak havoc on the wildlife, particularly bird populations in the project areas. The proposed mitigation plan of simply releasing more birds to compensate for the projected number of bird deaths seems insufficient. Introducing more birds, as if they were fungible as ball-point pens, to the area does not guarantee the stability or survival of bird populations in a landscape that has been modified in such a way that it cannot safely sustain wildlife.

Other concerns:

- We live in seismically sensitive area. Will the potential vibrations from these huge wind towers increase the local soil instability?
- Will the winds created by the towers impact our weather patterns? If so, how?
- To what extent will our local roads and highways be damaged by the trucking in of materials for this project? The infrastructure of our road systems is already fragile.
- Who truly profits from this project locally? The proposed benefit of wind-based energy doesn't appear to be for our communities. I may have misunderstood, but it's my understanding that there isn't a formal contract for that yet, just a potential option that up to 30% wind energy might be available for purchase by our area.

I229-3

- A justification touted for supporting this project is that it allegedly will bring jobs to the area, but from what I have read, it appears the bulk of the jobs will be related to construction (which will be relatively short time period as compared to the proposed 30-year length of the project. Additionally, how many of these workers will be from our area? They may be contracted from outside the area.). Other than that, I think there are from 3 to 15 jobs post construction? Not enough to win my approval based on that alone.
- Additionally, it appears the county government will gain tax revenues, but it seems it would be at the expense of our environment, infrastructure, and potentially public health.
- What happens at the end of the project lifespan? Who cleans up the mess?

I229-3
(Cont.)

I hope public comment matters beyond the artifice of meeting some project compliance requirement. As I noted above, I am not opposed to wind-energy in general. I would be open to revisiting approval for this project if the unknown factors were addressed and the EIR was formally completed. If this project were to be greatly scaled down in size such that the towers were considerably lower, I would not be so concerned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tucker
PO Box 194
Ferndale, CA 95536