

Humboldt Wind Energy Project Planner
County of Humboldt Planning Department
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June 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Ali Freedlund, a private citizen of Petrolia, CA would like to register my comments to the proposed Terra Gen Wind Farm project on Bear River and Monument Ridges in Humboldt County.

I have to say that I really wanted to like this project as a step toward improving our carbon footprint and lessening our dependence on fossil fuels. And I tried. But the more I looked into it, the more I realized that the proposed location is NOT a good fit for an industrial wind farm for the following reasons:

The scope is way too large. The windmills are way too high and take up way too much earthly space that, once replaced with cement pads, will never again have the microbial threads that connect forests and meadows. These pads become these huge disrupters, even though they will be covered, with dirt they will be kept sterile with herbicides and machinery and need to be evaluated for that habitat disconnection in such a prolific ecosystem. The thing about turning towards alternative energy systems is that they need to not destroy habitat, I know we can do better than this. Destroying habitat in this way has a permanent impact as well as a carbon footprint.

All Kinds of Birds like the endangered Marbled Murrelets and Eagles, but also Owls, falcons, kites would be harmed and possibly killed by the windmills. There are too many proposed windmills to not have a significant impact on a very important flyway. I support Audubon and CDFW in their concerns over the potential harm for some already endangered populations of birds.

Bats—The Draft EIR claims that bats will be harmed and again, not only do we need the bats, but they perform critical roles in our ecosystems. We can do better than to propose a project that seriously will remove threads of the tapestry of this place. The tapestry has already been weakened, let’s build it back, not had further injury.

Fire Danger- These windmills will be lightning targets. I honestly cannot think of a more dangerous proposition with all the horrible wildfires already happening. Many windmills have failed in the past causing either sparks and small fires or larger ones.



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Having them so close to large swaths of forests on the Humboldt Redwood Company land is risking a conflagration that puts us all at risk. New technologies that are not quite on the market involve bladeless windmills, let us pause and wait for a better way that is on the horizon. I know of no current windmill farms where people and birds are ok with the impacts. Story after story of people that started with a positive or open-minded attitude toward a wind farm in their area have come out again and again with stories of how devastating the impacts have been on their lives.

New Roads in Sensitive Areas- 17 miles of new roads including in the already impaired watershed of Jordan Creek. Many of us remember the impacts this watershed has suffered. But the 100-200 foot-wide swaths through the forest on fragile Fransiscan Complex soils that are known to be easily erodible is more than a shame, it should not be allowed as this land is supposed to be covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan, not a Habitat Destruction Project.

Finally, please carefully consider all the comments you receive and understand that only a few Humboldtians will gain from this project. Construction workers will come in from out of the area, only skilled maintenance workers from out of the area will be hired, and the Wiyot tribe-who hold original rights to this land are against it. A big energy firm such as Terra Gen should be training Humboldtians out the gate, offering scholarships to graduating seniors interested in the fields of alternative energy, investing in the conservation of habitats here in the County (yes there are some like the Van Arken Creek properties in the Mattole watershed that have willing sellers), going way smaller scale to mitigate the impacts, locating the project on already impacted lands such as near freeways, and developing alternative energy systems that do not kill, maim or injure our feathered and batty friends.

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(Cont.)

Most Sincerely,



Ali Freedlund

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