

John Ford
Humboldt Wind Project Planner
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H St.
Eureka, Ca
95501

Dear John Ford and Project Planner,

We are writing to express our concerns about the industrial scale project known as the “Humboldt Wind Project”.

First, I think that a DEIR for such a large project should have a public comment period for at least 90 days. The process of public participation is essential to an adequate review of the environmental, cultural and visual impacts created by the proposed project. The documents are almost 900 pages long and the planning department has only allowed 56 days for it’s review. This is unacceptable and I request that you extend the time for public review at least 34 days for a total of 90 days.

The Humboldt Wind Project is being rushed through the review process to benefit Terra-Gen venture capitalists. We all want to take action to stop the devastating effects of climate change but this project is not carbon neutral and will consume a massive amount of energy during it’s construction and operation for thirty years.

The best alternative is the no action alternative under this DEIR. Humboldt County will not even benefit from the wind energy project because the energy produced will be distributed through transmission lines to other counties in California.

I196-1



The action that needs to be taken to curb climate change is to place solar panels on houses and land throughout Humboldt County. Solar panels will create decentralized power without the blight of transmission lines running through our forested landscape with 100' wide buffers that will need to be treated with herbicides for the life of the project.

The North Coast is a biological treasure with the Redwood Parks, Wild beaches, mountains and rivers and represents the possibility of refuge and resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Placing this massive wind project in this sensitive area will have profound impacts on the region. The proposed project administrative buildings off Highway 101 will directly effect the Ancient Redwoods and tourist attraction - The Avenue of the Giants.

The project proposes to build 17 miles of new road 200 feet wide in some places, up through the impaired Jordan Creek watershed a tributary to the impaired Eel River. Three concrete batch plants are proposed for this massive industrial project that should not be built in these sensitive watersheds where people have been working for decades to restore the damage from the logging and protect endangered salmonids that are in danger of extinction. The project propose to use 15,000 gallons a day which will be extracted from the sensitive watershed of the Eel River.

Monument ridge and Bear River ridge are sacred to the Native American tribes in Northern California. The Yurok tribe is working to reintroduce the California Condor to the Northern California landscape. The proposed wind project will impact song birds, raptors, eagles, Northern Spotted Owl and other owls, marbled murrelets and the recovery of the California Condor.

In fact, we taxpayers spent decades and millions of dollars to stop the logging of the Headwaters Forest and the associated Marbled Murrelet

I196-1
(Cont.)

Conservation Groves which were set aside to protect the Marbled Murrelet nesting areas from logging. Now this project proposes to take/kill Marbled Murrelets in the same region of critical habitat. These rare sea birds fly at 60 miles per hour from the ocean feeding to nest on the limbs of ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest Reserve. They are already on the brink of extinction.

The mitigation offered by Terra-Gen is to place corvid resistant trash containers in the county parks (which should already be happening). The project mitigation measures propose thinning second growth stands in parks to more quickly encourage old growth characteristics of the forest to create habitat for the Marbled Murrelet. This is ludicrous because by the time these forests recover the old growth characteristics there may not be any Marbled Murrelets left to nest there.

The TAKE and killing of Marbled Murrelets (and many other species) is absolutely unacceptable and illegal under the State and Federal Endangered Species law. The project will impact Marbled Murrelet habitat within 1/4 mile which fails to meet the 1 mile buffer recommended by the Pacific Seabird Group a group of scientists who are monitoring the health of the Marbled Murrelet populations. The bird surveying should be conducted for at least one year to get an accurate understanding of the bird populations that will be impacted by these enormous wind turbines.

The point of an DEIR is to evaluate the impacts that the project will have on the environment, watersheds, endangered species, visual and cultural features and minimize those impacts. The DEIR does not address the everlasting impacts that the project will have on the Redwood and Fir forest biome and the rare coastal prairie ecosystems that will be impacted by this project. The construction of concrete pads on which the 60- 600 foot long turbines will be installed will be buried 10 feet in the soil of the native grasslands. These platforms will be a blight on the landscape for ever and will never be removed nor will the coastal native grass prairie be

1196-1
(Cont.)

1196-2

remediated or restored to its original and natural state.

The project claims that there will be 400 gallons of oil used annually to lubricate the turbines which are 250 feet long spinning at 200 miles per hour. The vibrations emitted from the turbines will exceed the 50 decibels maximum that the county is allowing in order to protect Northern Spotted Owls as they seek nesting habitat. This will hurt our local and struggling population of owls.

The amount of activity that will take place to construct and maintain the wind machines will have severe social and visual impacts on the rural towns of the North Coast. There will be some short term jobs created which most likely will be given to out of the area workers who have done this kind of work in other parts of the state.

The project proposes to bring the huge pieces of equipment through Humboldt Bay by barge. These huge pieces of equipment will be trucked down the scenic Highway 101 corridor to Jordan Creek and will even require working with CalTrans to detour around two interchanges. This will not only have impacts on our small communities but also presents a major threat to public safety.

Please do not accept this DEIR which surely will not survive a court challenge because it does not meet the standard definitions of CEQA by identifying the environmental impacts and minimizing those impacts.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Lanman
Hale Hale
PO Box 1985
Redway, CA
95560

1196-2
(Cont.)