

From: [CEQAResponses](#)
To: [Werner, Steve](#); [Ford, John](#); [Shortridge, Tricia](#); [Humboldt Wind](#); [Elizabeth Burks](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on the DEIR
Date: Friday, June 14, 2019 2:34:23 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: Annamarie McKellips <plantnerd710@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 4:44 PM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Comment on the DEIR

To Whom it May Concern,

Needless to say, a Large-Scale Wind Farm South of Scotia would be a detriment to the aesthetics of our community’s unique Landscape. One of the largest industries that upholds this community is the revenue from travelers for our breathtaking landscapes, geology, and geomorphology of our coasts. Humboldt County’s forests have extreme value that deserve to be taken into consideration. This is an issue that large corporations have been allowed to overlook in the past. It’s simple economics to consider raw materials and their value when looking to capitalize upon them. The environmental impact of a Large-Scale Wind Farm in our community cannot be mitigated. The value of Redwood forests and preservation of the surrounding areas is essential to the conservation of endemic native species, wetland conservation, groundwater replenishment, flood control, long term weather patterns, etc. There are countless efforts of locals to not only restore environmental conditions to their original capacity, but to conservation, which looks to preserve cultural property for future generations. All of our biotic systems are inherently connected by a dynamic food web/ ecosystem relationship. In this essay I will address the environmental diversity present in our community,

Disrupting a temperate rainforest’s delicate ecosystem is not justified nor rationalized. There are only seven temperate rainforest ecosystems around the world and North America is home to one of them. These redwoods are not just a home to us humans, but also to cougars, pumas, deer, elk, bobcats, lynx, mountain lions, wolves, bears, bald eagles, raptors, spotted owls, barred owls, salmon, Northern goshawks, osprey, kestrels, and many more diverse species that can be found nowhere else in the world. Not only is the animal kingdom extremely dynamic, the tree species range from white fir, doug fir, redwood, alder, madrone, oak, maple, dogwood, rhododendron, blackberries, salmonberries, sword fern, lady fern, various lichens/mosses. The number of species of epiphytic bryophytes and macrolichens is

I204-1



typically 40-75 species in a 1-acre plot. The diversity that is present in this area is indescribable, as well as, irreplaceable. The Humboldt Bay has a National Wildlife Refuge whose focus exists primarily to protect and enhance wetland habitats for migratory water birds using the bay area, including tens of thousands of shorebirds, ducks, geese, swans, and the black brant.

Humboldt County in California has some of the largest tracts of redwood forests. There is also a presence of Native American tribes, who have sacred burial and cultural sites in the forests, and guard the land protectively. Due to these factors, ecotourism is a viable alternative to resource extraction and land degradation (Doremus, 1999). Tourism is already an industry in the region, and management practices that enforce strict monitoring of tourism impacts, especially negative environmental impacts, could see ecotourism as a sustainable alternative to resource extraction. Tourism to natural and protected areas worldwide has increased exponentially, prompting management agencies to seek enhanced visitor management including communication aimed at influencing tourists' behavior to reduce impacts and strengthen conservation stewardship. In Eureka, California, travelers spent a record \$448 million for Humboldt County in 2017, a four percent increase from the previous year, 2016. In a related trend, the local lodging industry collected more than \$7.5 million, an increase of nine percent. The entire state of California has only a three percent average rise.

Eureka posted the highest dollar gain among the cities, \$131,000, for a total bed tax collection of \$3 million. Unincorporated Humboldt County, likewise, notched an impressive gain of \$311,000, almost 18 percent over the previous year, to push its total to more than \$2 million. "Despite a drop in international travel to the United States last year, Humboldt has yet again outperformed the national and state industry averages," said Eureka-Humboldt Visitors Bureau executive director Tony Smithers. "We think this has to do with the strength of our core attraction, the redwoods, and the success of our marketing focus on them." In 2017, visitors to the county spent most of their money on food, \$150 million, lodging at \$107 million, transportation costs accounted for \$59 million, entertainment/recreation at \$58 million, and retail sales at \$44 million. Ecotourism spending has generated almost \$17 million in local tax receipts and \$20 million in state tax receipts in Humboldt County, according to the new state tourism report, published by Dean Runyan and Associates, the nation's premier travel industry market research firm. Industry employment generated by travel spending accounted for 5,540 jobs, a slight increase over 2016.

Humboldt County is severely lacking in records of Soil Data, Wetland delineation, current Wetland Map Data, Fault Line Mapping, Monthly Water Budgets, and Fish Populations. This county needs more record of natural resource commodities to fully consider the impact that is being done. There are more wetlands that have not been delineated yet and are not considered part of wetland mapping inventory. Therefore, not considered for restoration, conservation, or preservation.

In conclusion, this community is one of the few communities that maintains the pristine condition of their environment. The environmental aesthetics of this community is heavily relied upon by its constituents. It behoove the state of California and the County of Humboldt to reconsider this Large-Scale Wind Energy Project and the negative impacts it could have on the livelihoods of the individuals who have built this community. The livelihood of the community is not only dependent on the revenue that is brought in from tourism, but is also heavily reliant on the quality resource management. In addition to the members of the community, The number of endemic species of trees, animals, and flowers that call this area home are irreplaceable and cannot be mitigated. In order for this community to thrive, there needs to be an expansion on proper resource management which can document

and consider all of the environmental impacts as a whole without excluding because of a lack of documented information. There cannot be an accurate evaluation of the impact of this project when this County severely lacks data in the following categories: soil classification mapping, wetland mapping, fault line mapping, water budgets, and many other natural resource data points that would be necessary to fully understand the impact to our community. We would respectfully ask you to diligently reconsider the detrimental impacts of this project proposal on the aesthetics of our landscape, in turn, negatively impact our livelihoods, and quality of life.

I204-1
(Cont.)

Thank you for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A concerned member of our community