

I am writing to give my support for the Humboldt Wind Project.

Global climate change is the most serious threat to life on earth as we know it. We are living with the impacts everyday in very tangible ways here in Humboldt County and around the world. For us, living with the threat of drought , wildfires and sea level rise are very real. its far beyond time to act as we should have believed the science about climate change years ago. It's to late to avoid some impacts that are already in the pipeline but we need to act vigorously, now, to avoid reaching a tipping point that will lead to great swathes of the earth being uninhabitable, civil unrest and huge numbers of climate refugees and mass extinctions of life forms .

Terra Gen's proposed Humboldt Wind Project is an urgently needed step in the right direction. By switching away from fossil fuels for electricity generation and toward clean, renewable wind power we will avoid putting more CO2 into the atmosphere. This is a benefit not only to ourselves in Humboldt County but is a contribution to the global fight against climate change. Not only will we be doing our part, but we will serve as an example to other communities that local, parochial interests can be subsumed to the greater good.

Having said that, it's important to recognize the impacts this project will have on birds and bats that live or migrate through the turbine zone and do all in our power to avoid and minimize them.

Reducing the number of turbines and using the largest feasible size turbines to still achieve the 155 MW seems prudent ways to minimize bird mortality.

Studies have shown that bat mortality can be minimized by powering down the turbines during low wind periods of 6 m/s or less and that this doesn't cause an unacceptable impact on productivity.

Balancing the loss of biodiversity due to habitat loss versus loss of species due to climate change is very complicated and difficult to measure. According to Ahmed Djoghla of the UN's Convention of Biological Diversity "Climate change now poses one of the principle threats to the biological diversity of the planet and is projected to become increasingly important driver of change in the coming decades."

All forms of electric generation, indeed all human activities have negative ie unintended impacts. When those take place far away in Canada,say, where fracking for gas and oil is occurring we don't see them and we can just pretend that they have nothing to do with us. Of course , that's not possible when a project is in your own back yard. We have to face the fact that there are costs to our energy dependent lifestyles and stop expecting others to shoulder those costs. The others in this equation include future generations.

In conclusion, it is my hope that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors grant the conditional use permit for the Humboldt Wind Project and it moves forward in a timely fashion.

Thanks for the opportunity to make a comment.

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