

ISSUES REGARDING THE HUMBOLDT WIND PROJECT DEIR

I have concerns regarding the DEIR for the wind turbine complex planned for Monument and Bear River Ridge.

1. I am concerned about the infrasound problem with large wind turbines. What is being done to insure that this will not be a health problem for people living in the area? As early as 2017, German doctors discovered that infrasound, (sub-audible vibrations created when the wind turbine blades passed the tower), affects the human brain. They also discovered that the infrasound waves travel as far as 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the turbines. It was determined that infrasound mainly affects the amygdala portion of the brain that processes stress. Since the sound is sub-audible the individual is not aware of where the waves are coming from, but feels stressed and does not know why. The brain therefore cannot relieve the stress and it builds up to affect the body in other ways, ie. blood pressure, headaches and heart rate. I believe that this issue needs a lot more study before we expose the citizens of our area to this potential health threat.

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5389622/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=ibsxVKU6B8s

2. After reading the DEIR, I noticed that there is nothing in the report that addresses the impact on home and property values. I have been told by the representative of Terra-Gen, the wind developer, that there would be no impact, based on a study done by Lawrence Berkeley National Labs. Upon researching the study, I discovered two scientific reports that question the validity of the study based upon flaws in the methodology of data collection. I have also found numerous circumstances of real people who have had a significant loss of property value after wind turbines were installed within view of their homes. This is a real issue for those of us who have invested in property near the planned wind complex. Terra-Gen has been quick to dismiss this question, but I think it deserves a more in depth look. Flaws in the Lawrence Berkeley study throw the entire results into question. I have attached the PDF files of those documents that critique the study.

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<http://www.bpwtag.ca/hoencritique.pdf> <file:///E:/Downloads/IWAComments090911.pdf>

3. As a photographer who has taken many photographs of the area, I question the photographic representations of how the wind turbines would look from various locations in the Eel River Valley. It looks to me that based upon the elevation of the ridges, the turbines have been made to look smaller than they will actually appear. A tower taller than the length of two football fields would seem to be more prominent than the ones in the DEIR. In my opinion the representations shown in the DEIR have been made to minimize the visual impact of the turbines. They have also been placed in locations different from the site map. I know someone who has been in a helicopter at an elevation of 600 feet above Bear River Ridge and she said that she could easily see the entire Eel River Valley and as far away as King Salmon. This seems to contradict Terra-Gen's representative's assertion that the turbines would not be visible anywhere in Fortuna except along a short section of Riverwalk.

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I believe that this project is not right for this area and should **not be approved**. Industrial wind turbine complexes should only be allowed in unpopulated areas. There are other, less invasive and destructive ways for Humboldt County to address the problem of clean renewable energy. This one is obviously all about the money!

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