

From: [CEQAResponses](#)
To: [Werner, Steve](#); [Ford, John](#); [Shortridge, Tricia](#); [Humboldt Wind](#); [Elizabeth Burks](#)
Subject: FW: Terra Gen Wind Project DEIR
Date: Friday, June 14, 2019 2:36:53 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: Donald Morrill <donaldrmorrill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:55 PM
To: CEQAResponses <CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Terra Gen Wind Project DEIR

June 13, 2019

Project Planner, Humboldt Wind Energy Project
County of Humboldt Planning Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95

Dear Sir:

The public has been presented with a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on a wind generation project by Terra-Gen LLC. In review of the EIR, it is clear that while this is being presented as in concert with a statewide goal to reduce global warming, as well being financially beneficial, the costs to the citizens of the County and the U.S. as well as the environment are not adequately addressed and the benefits vastly overstated.

First, placing an enormous industrial project in Humboldt County forest land

in an area renowned for its beauty and wild nature is fraught with danger. While I've been informed that a wind generator owned by Terra-Gen has never caught fire, that is irrelevant (though possible!). The intense human industrial activity with enormous machinery for the 30 year life of the project presents a high and unacceptable risk for fires in our increasingly warm, dry state.

I120-1
(Cont.)

Second, the costs to the State, County and localities of road, bridge, overpass and maintenance and repair with enormous loads on huge construction vehicles will be very high during the life of the project, particularly in the initial stages, but also ongoing. They need to be carefully estimated and listed so that outlays for such expenditures can be planned. That has not been done in the DEIR

I120-2

Third, the building of roads up to 200 feet wide scaling high ridgelines, and the building of 60 huge concrete pads will entail some 3 million cubic feet of soil being dug and moved. Such an impact on this relatively unaltered wild place on precious wildlife and also the watershed will be staggering. That is inadequately addressed in the DEIR

I120-3

Fourth, wildlife, in particular raptors, will be killed by turbine blades, that is certain. The CA Department of Fish and Wildlife has already commented about that certainty prior to the EIR, as the coast range is a migratory path for raptors – Eagles, Hawks, and carrion feeders (?)

I120-4

The native California Condor's reintroduction is an inspiring, natural, and important development. They are not "experimental animals" and should not be called such, they're present now in the California environment and were here long before European-Americans arrived. This projects puts this fragile population at very high risk.

In addition, many special-status species wildlife, such as the marbled murrelet will be killed and may cause population level impacts to once numerous species such as the hoary bat. Any reduction in numbers of wildlife species must be more clearly elucidated than in the DEIR. In addition, there are many studies of the effects of wind turbines on the soil where in the Midwest there are effects on soil life – worms, other invertebrates, and possibly microbes with

I120-5

I120-6

all of which sustain human and other life. All studies done on such impacts should be researched and referenced. Reortedly studies in the mid west have shown that vibrations from windfarms have resulted in the loss of worms from adjacent landscapes. Please research the effects of windfarms thoroughly and intensively for the final EIR.

I120-6
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Fifth, public health affected wind turbines nearby is another serious concern not addressed in the EIR. Every study of impacts on nearby human health including mental health need to be read and referenced including. (<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp3909>),, (<https://docs.wind-watch.org/wind-turbine-noise-cardiovascular-events.pdf>) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23331380>), (<https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/health-effect-of-wind-turbines/>)

I120-7

Finally, the alternatives provided simply are not enough. While we choose SECTION 6.3.6 Aternative 1 NO PROJECT, Community based energy projects such as numerous much smaller wind generators, banks of solar electric panels, battery banks, and a County wide insulation and other locally based initiatives and projects could provide the same or more renewable energy power without a massive wind farm construction with unknown and known long term deleterious effects on wildlife, the soil, watersheds, and human health. Such paths are actively pursued in California with non profit groups such as www.localcleanenergy.org based in Oakland, and with publications like

I120-8

Community Power

Decentralized Renewable Energy in California, Al Weinrub, 2011.

For all those reasons we urge Humboldt County Planning Department to thoroughly and completely review and update the DEIR. Only when that is thoroughly completed can we be assured that every factor and impact of this project is available for the public to decide.

I120-9

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

Don Morrill & Sue Barton

5th Generation Landowners in Upper Bear River Valley

444 4th Street Apt. 31

Davis, CA 95616