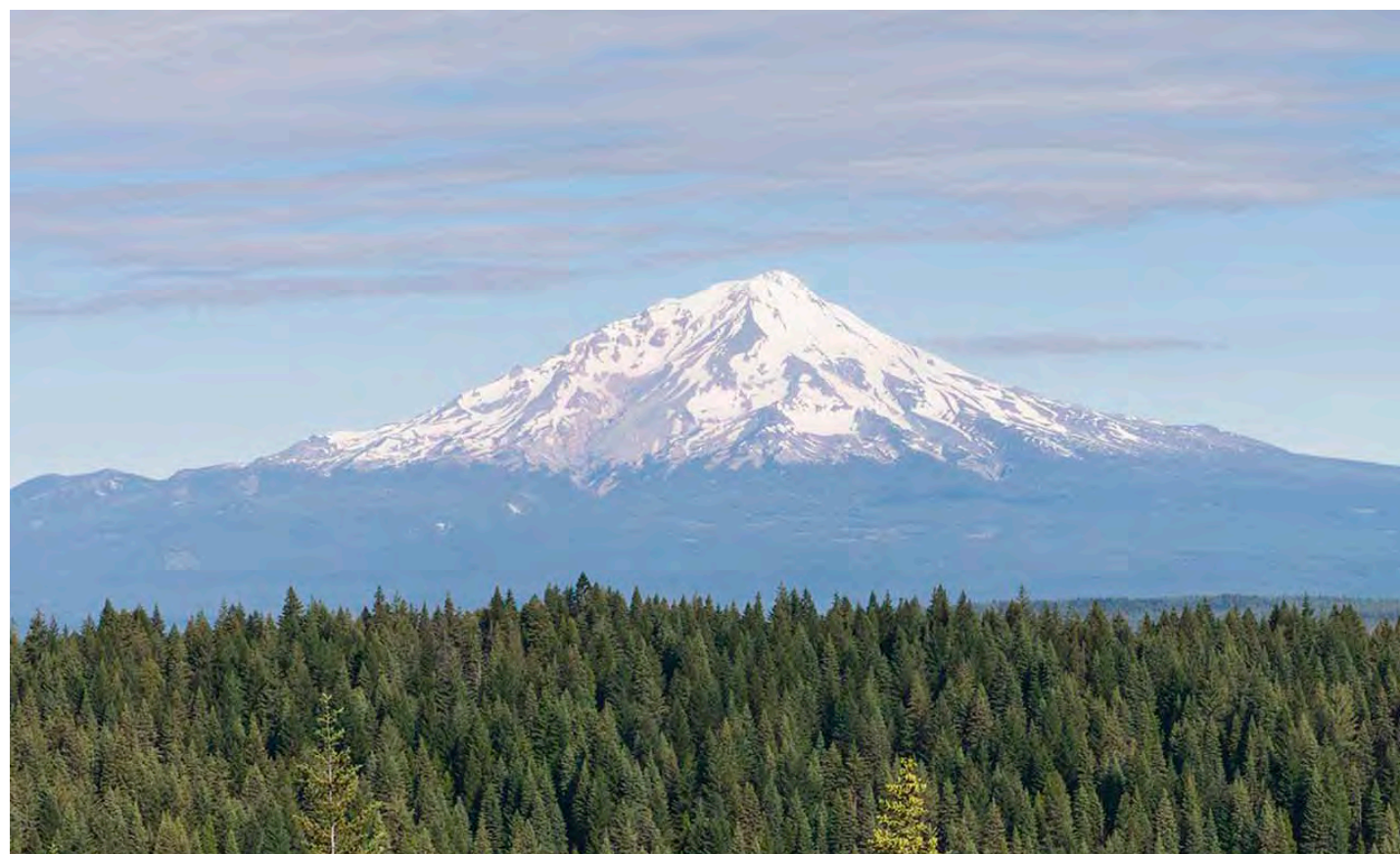


DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-01
Project Title:	Fountain Wind Project
TN #:	248296-8
Document Title:	Presentation - Applicant to CEC for Opt-In Appl
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Caitlin Barns
Organization:	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Submitter Role:	Applicant Consultant
Submission Date:	1/3/2023 2:43:41 PM
Docketed Date:	1/3/2023

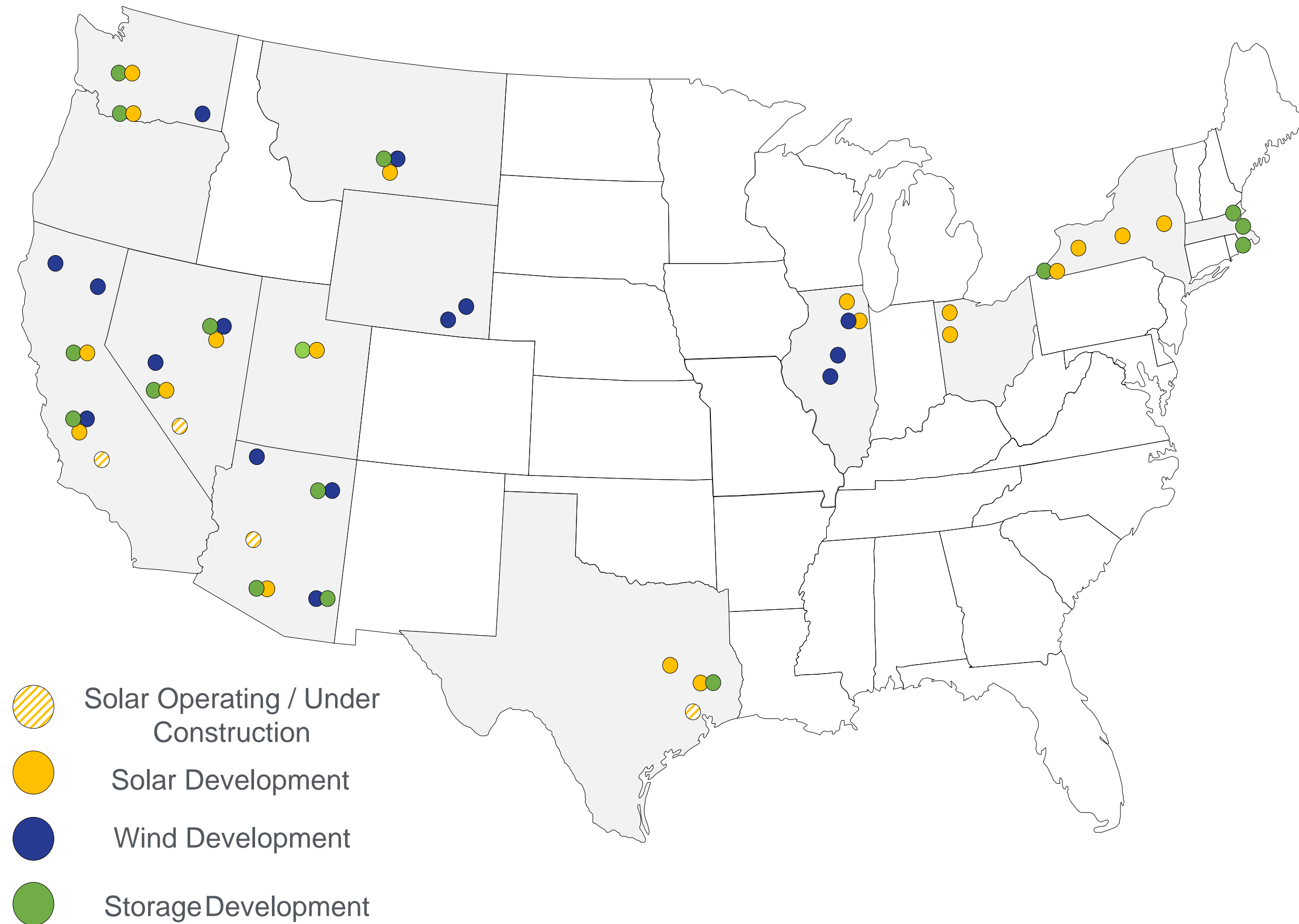


Fountain Wind Project Overview



Connecting Power, Projects, and People

About ConnectGen



ConnectGen is an independent renewable energy company developing large-scale wind, solar, and energy storage projects across North America.

ConnectGen has established a portfolio of over 24,000 MW of wind, solar, and energy storage projects.

Our experienced team holds deep familiarity with transmission system analysis and market design/regulatory issues.



ConnectGen is backed by Quantum Energy Partners. Founded in 1998, Quantum Energy Partners is a leading provider of private equity capital to the global energy industry, having managed together with its affiliates more than \$17 billion in equity commitments since inception.

Project Overview

Project began development in 2011 shortly after the adjacent Hatchet Ridge Wind project began operations. Intensive study took place 2017-2021.

Project is sited on commercial timberlands and adjacent to existing 230 kV PG&E transmission line. Until 2022 amendment, County zoning allowed wind energy

Ideal location for wind project: utility grade wind speeds in an area that avoids most environmental impacts and mitigates those that could not be fully avoided/mitigated.

Provides critically needed in-state wind energy where greenfield wind sites are exceptionally scarce.

Essential to meeting state's carbon objectives.

Responsibly sited project which will generate millions of dollars in local revenue, income and taxes.



Eligibility for CEC Opt-In Program and Certification by Commission

Is the project a qualifying "facility" under PRC 25545? YES

The Project is a terrestrial wind energy electrical generating project with a generating capacity of 50 MW or more

Will the application enter into a project labor agreement meeting PRC 25525.3.3 requirements? YES

A certification attesting to compliance with the requirements of PRC 25545.3.3 will be provided with the application materials.

Will the Project will have an "overall net positive economic benefit to the local government" per PRC 25545.9? YES

- Employment growth
- Infrastructure and environmental improvements
- Assistance to public safety agencies
- Property taxes and sales taxes

Will the Project enter into enforceable agreements that benefit community-based organizations per PRC 25545.10? YES

The Project has proposed a Community Benefit Program of approximately \$2,800,000 based on direct feedback from project stakeholders

Does the Project qualify as an Environmental Leadership Development Project pursuant per PRC 25545.13? YES

New Jobs & Long-term Revenue for the County



200
UNION CONSTRUCTION JOBS



12
WELL-PAYING LONG-TERM JOBS



\$50 MILLION
IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE



\$3.5 MILLION
IN SALES TAX REVENUE

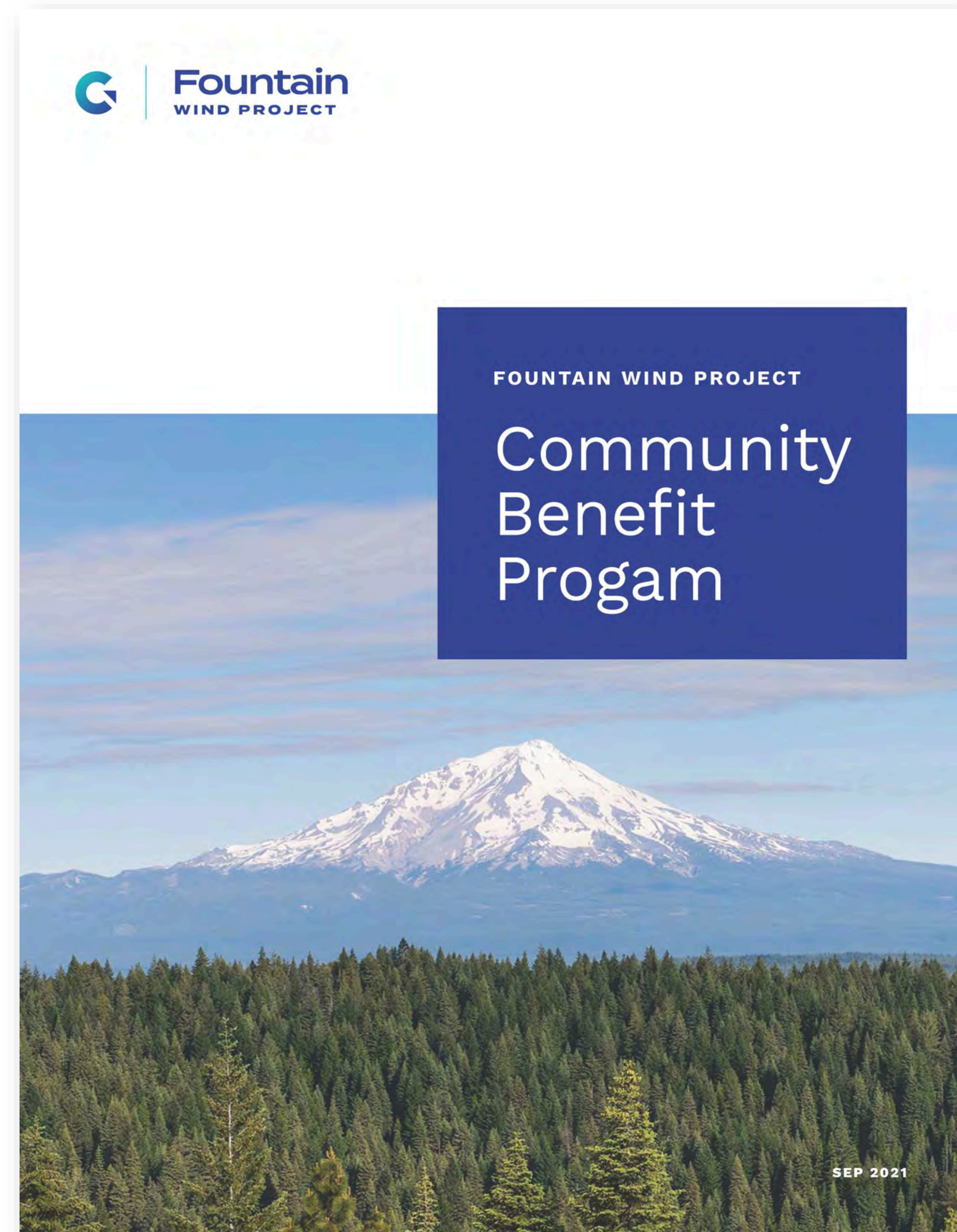
Significant Community Benefits Program

ConnectGen's core values include community engagement and community investment

Prior to the requirement outlined in AB 205 ConnectGen spent multiple years engaging with the community, learning about local issues, and crafting a program to address local needs

ConnectGen is proud to support Shasta County through the Fountain Wind Project Community Benefit Program, which consists of approximately **\$2,800,000** in funding to support education, public safety, fire protection, and workforce development

The projects and organizations highlighted in the Program were identified based on direct feedback from members of the community



Significant Community Benefits Program



\$1 million commitment to Shasta County Sheriff's Office

Based on feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and community leaders in Shasta County it is clear that improving public safety throughout the County is of utmost priority. In consultation with the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, ConnectGen has proposed a funding commitment of \$1,000,000 for county-wide public safety purposes such as illegal cannabis growth eradication or improvements to the County's emergency management response operations.



\$100,000 commitment to the Shasta County Fire Safe Council and the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

Based on public interest in wildfire prevention and protection, representatives of ConnectGen held meetings with the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District and Shasta County Fire Safe Council to identify opportunities for the Project to support additional fire safety projects for the citizens of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek, as well as Shasta County as a whole. Over the course of multiple conversations, it was communicated that the county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan, originally prepared in 2016, needs to be updated to include the communities of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek.



\$1 million Endowment for the communities of Round Mountain & Montgomery Creek

ConnectGen has committed a \$1,000,000 direct investment in the communities of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek based on feedback from residents regarding the need for local economic development. The funding would be administered by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the local School District, Shasta College, local non-profits, the Pit River Tribe, and at-large community members selected by the Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Committee would conduct community feedback sessions to determine how the community would like to see the investment be spent.

Significant Community Benefits Program



\$200,000 commitment

for enhanced internet service in the Intermountain region

Outreach with local stakeholders identified that one of the greatest needs in the community is access to reliable, cost efficient internet service. ConnectGen has committed to funding two new communications towers, to be installed by Shasta Beam, that will provide access to internet service to over 90% of residential and business addresses in the Big Bend, Round Mountain, and Montgomery Creek communities, totaling approximately 700 addresses.



\$250,000 commitment

to the Fall River Resource Conservation District for a high priority shaded fuel break project

ConnectGen recognizes that improved fire safety and fire protection is a matter of extreme importance in Shasta County. ConnectGen has partnered with the Fall River Resource Conservation District (“Fall River RCD”) to develop and implement a fuel reduction and fuel break project along Hwy 299 and Big Bend Rd., adjacent to the Fountain Wind Project, and will be providing funding in the amount of \$250,000 to the Fall River RCD for design, permitting, and implementation of the Fuel Break Project.



Community Access

to Shasta Cascade Timberlands Property for hunting and culturally significant activities

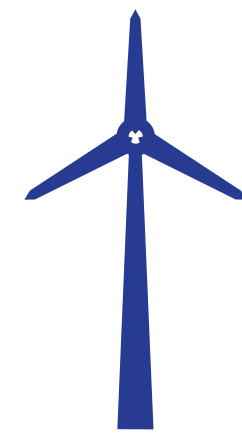
Based on strong interest from local residents and members of the Pit River Tribe, ConnectGen worked with the Fountain Wind Project landowner, Shasta Cascade Timberlands, to develop a program to allow public access to the property for hunting, as well as access to culturally significant sites. This community access program will be administered by the landowner’s land management company, with assistance from the full-time operational personnel that will be employed by the Fountain Wind Project.

Contributes to Fire Protection in Shasta County

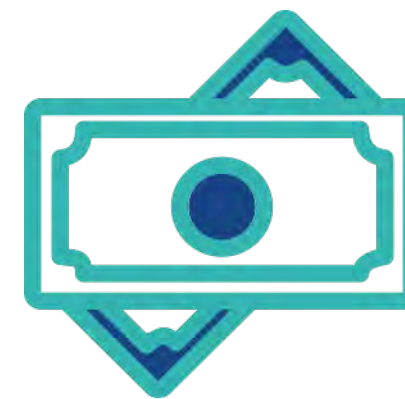
Fountain Wind would have significant fire safety systems in place at the project site, while contributing to the overall fire protection of the surrounding area.



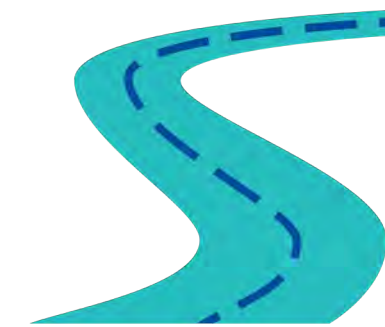
1,600 Acres
New Fire
Breaks



Enhanced Fire
Detection &
Suppression in
Turbine Nacelle



\$350,000 Funding
for Wildfire Safety
Projects

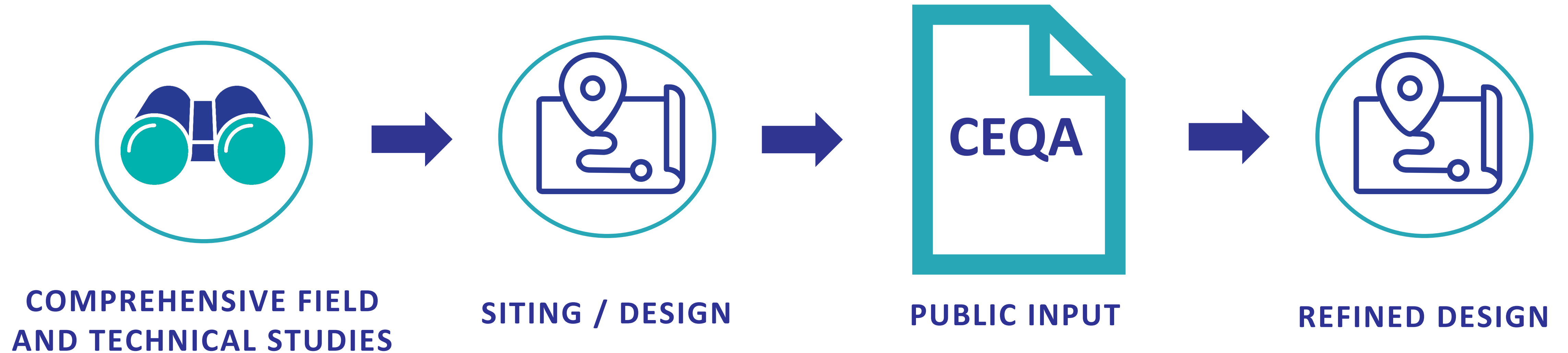


38 miles of
Enhanced
Access Roads



New 5,000-
Gallon Water
Tanks

Comprehensive Review and Revision



Fountain Wind has made revisions throughout the development process to reduce impacts and in response to stakeholder and agency feedback.

The refinements are fully within the footprint studied and disclosed through the County's CEQA process.

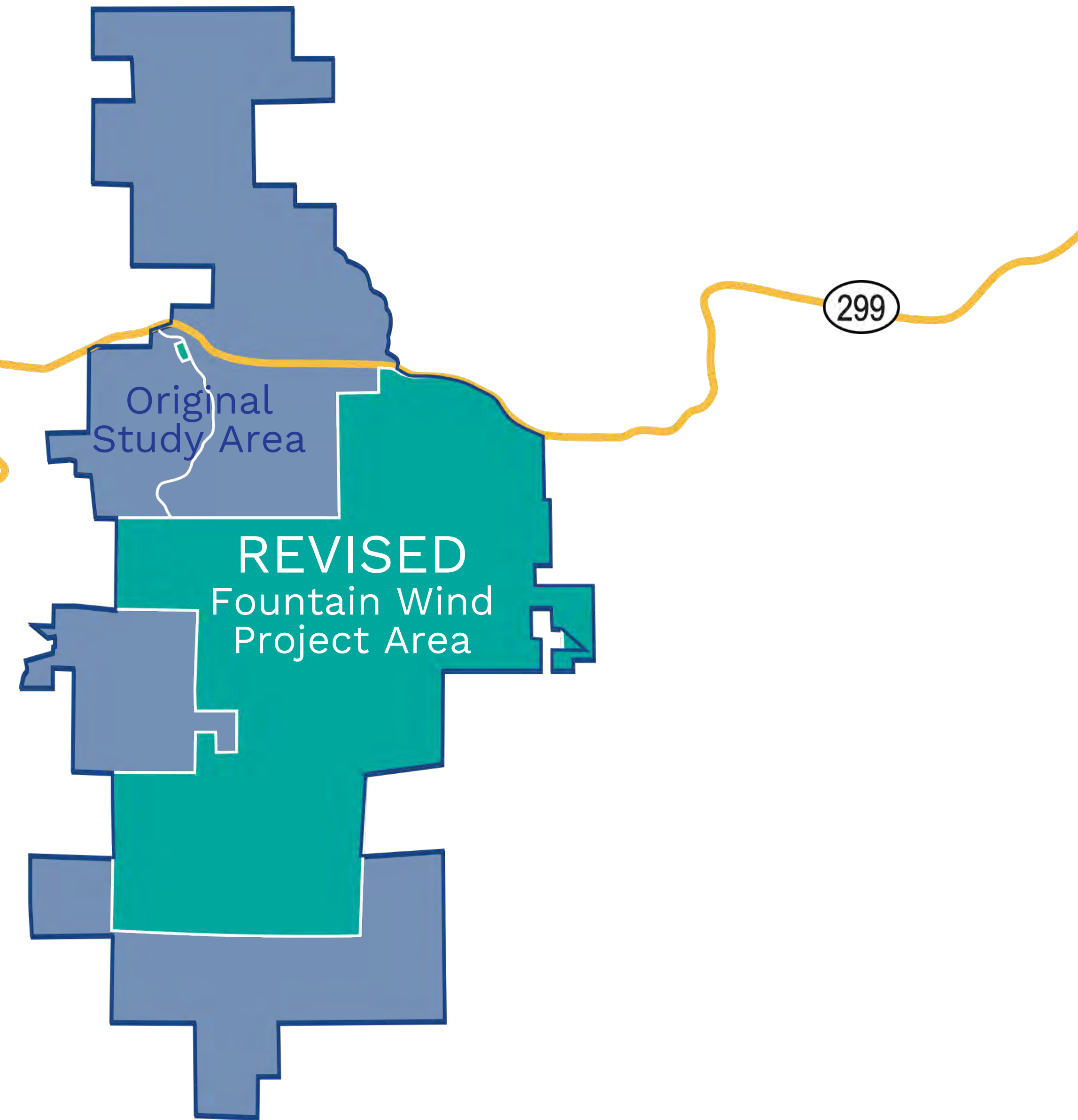
This was CEQA working.

Project Refinements

Based on public and agency comments, ConnectGen reduced the permanent footprint from 713 to 475 acres and total turbines from 72 to 48, with fewer roads, stream crossings and fewer impacts to habitat and wildlife.

Key refinements included:

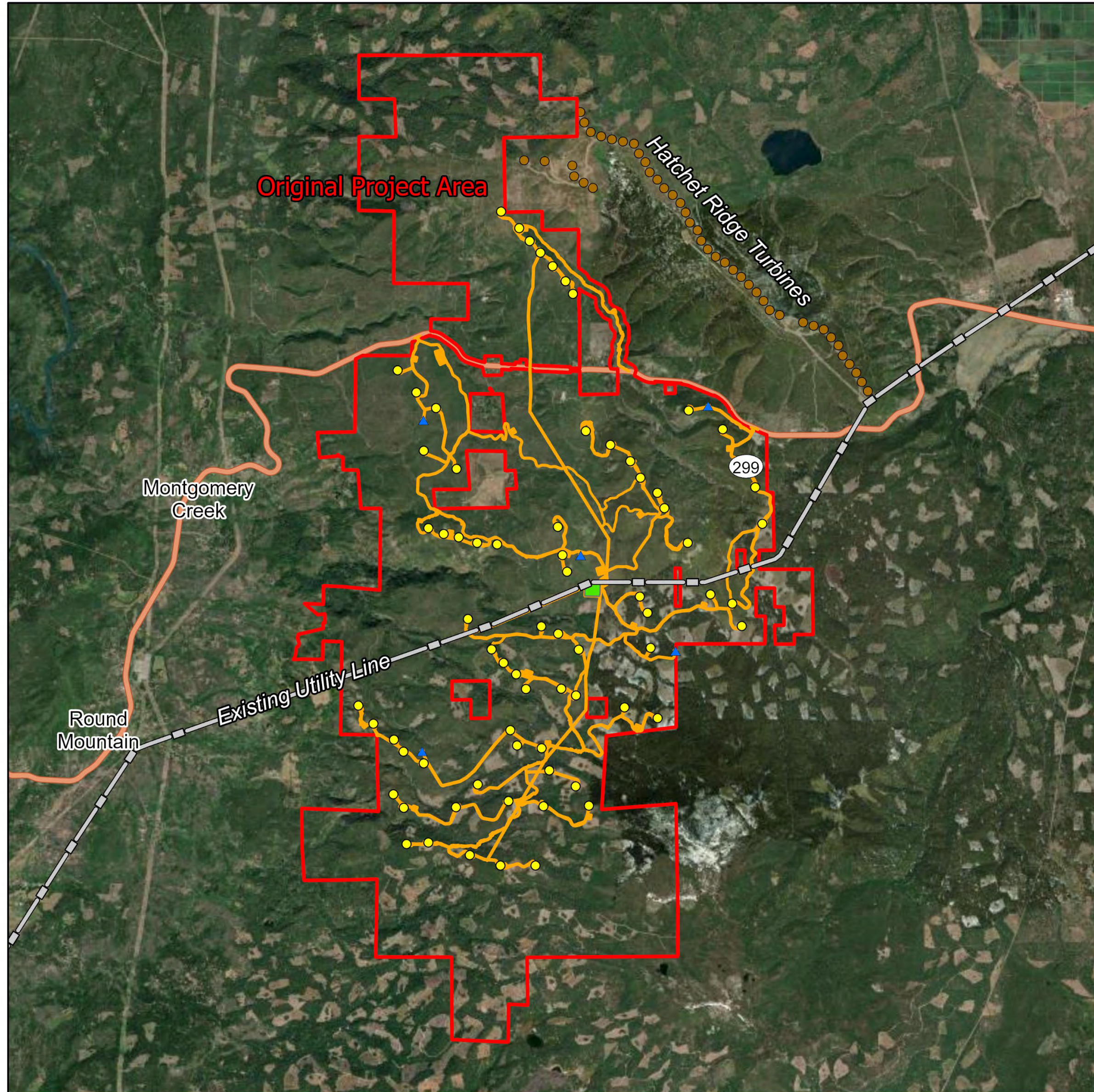
- Reduced the number of turbines by 24 (including removal of turbine M3 as requested by CDFW)
- Decreased turbine tip height by 10%
- Condensed Project Area by 50%
- Reduced permanent and temporary disturbance by 33% and 35%



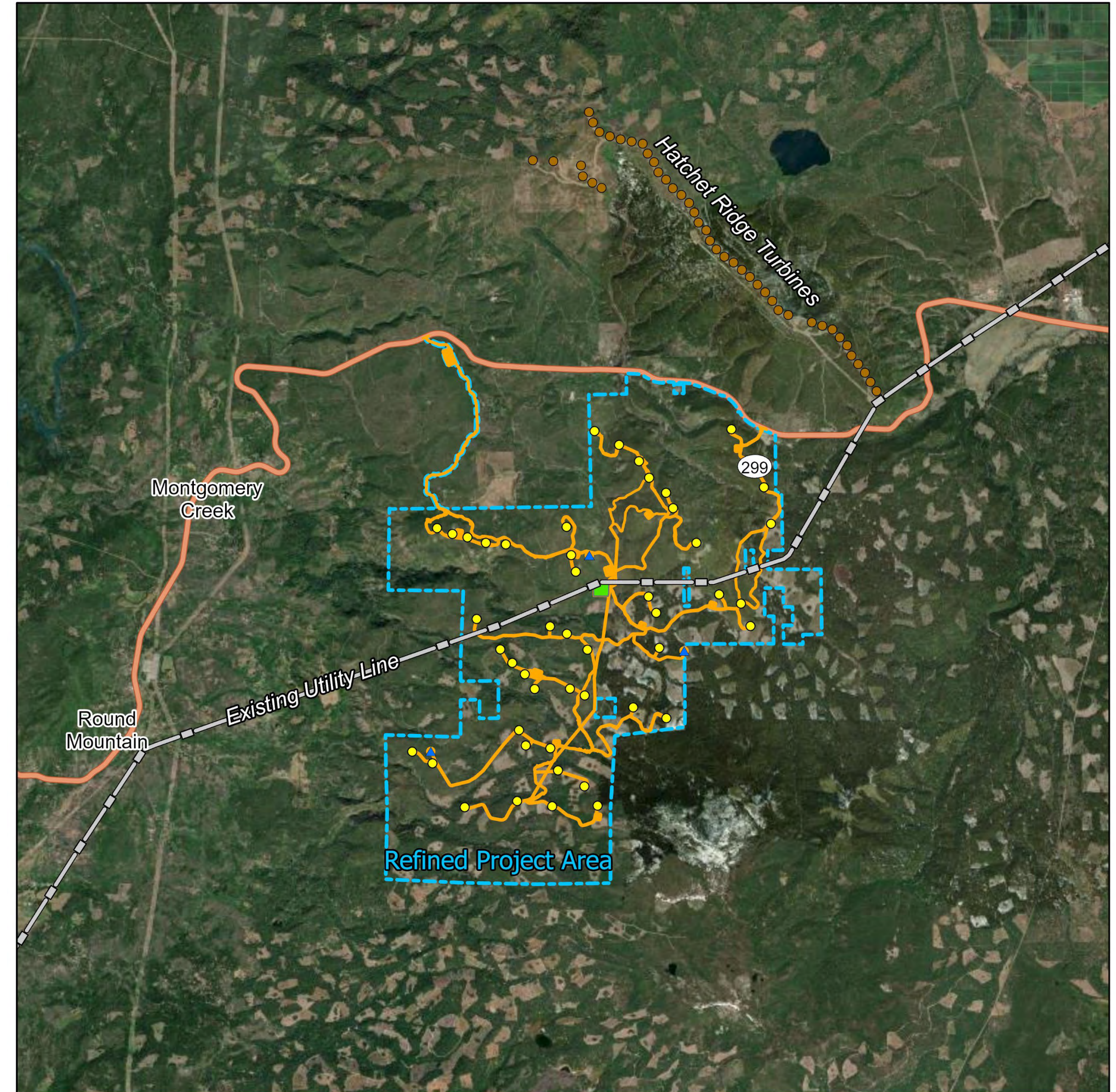
THE REFINED PROJECT AREA USES **50% LESS** OF THE PROPERTY



Original Project



Refined Project



Original Project

Fountain Fire Overlook



Refined Project

Fountain Fire Overlook



Original Project

Montgomery Creek



Refined Project

Montgomery Creek



Original Project

Round Mountain



Refined Project

Round Mountain



Project Commitments Based on CDFW Comments

- Relocation of collection lines and access roads to avoid existing drainages and associated aquatic features and to avoid cultural resource site FW11
- Elimination of turbine location M03 in response to a request by CDFW to reduce risks to avian and bat species.
- Worker environmental awareness training program
- Continued application of Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines
- Preparation and implementation of a Bird and Bat Conservation Plan and Nesting Bird Management Plan
- Application of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
- Adoption of a Federal Aviation Administration-approved lighting plan for meteorological towers and downward-facing and shielded lighting on other project components in consideration of the USFWS Communication Tower Guidance
- Implementation of an Invasive Species Management Plan
- Avoidance of sensitive habitats and waterways during application of dust palliatives































Opt-in Application Overview

- **Cover Letter**
- **Executive Summary:** project overview, permitting history, site selection criteria and alternatives, project refinements, summary of agency and community outreach, scoping and CEQA process, community and environmental benefits, Shasta County's permitting process.
- **Project Description:** overview of project component engineering including wind turbine generators, collection lines, substation, switching station, interconnection facilities, access roads, laydown areas, operations and maintenance facility, meteorological equipment; overview of construction sequence, schedule, and workforce; stormwater control, water use, wastewater procedures, hazardous materials; operations and maintenance; decommissioning and site restoration.
- **"Cross-walk" Matrix:** responses to each data request in Application for Certification Appendix B including source documents (e.g., DEIR sections, technical reports) corresponding to filenames in the docket and/or written responses for further clarification.

Opt-in Application Overview: “Cross-Walk” Matrix

Tit. 20 § B App. P	Data Request	Source Document/Section	Data Response	Filename in Docket
(i) Compliance with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards				
(1)	Tables which identify:			
(A)	Laws, regulations, ordinances, standards, adopted local, regional, state, and federal land use plans, leases, and permits applicable to the proposed project, and a discussion of the applicability of, and conformance with each. The table or matrix shall explicitly reference pages in the application wherein conformance, with each law or standard during both construction and operation of the facility is discussed.	<p>* Table of Applicable LORS</p> <p>*Shasta County Staff report dated 6/22/21 to the Planning Commission:</p> <p>- p. 12... "Based upon the provisions of the Zoning Plan outlined above, private energy production facilities, including wind energy systems that do not comply with the requirements for small energy wind systems, may be permitted with an approved use permit. Therefore, the processing of the use permit application filed by the applicant for the Project is consistent with the Shasta County Zoning Plan."</p> <p>- p. 13:" staff is of the opinion that the Project is consistent with the General Plan plan policies and zoning standards for the area and that the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Project would not be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or be detrimental or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County."</p>	See referenced source documents	lors_fwp_consistency_matrix ceqa_fwp_staff_report
(B)	Each agency with jurisdiction to issue applicable permits, leases, and approvals or to enforce identified laws, regulations, standards, and adopted local, regional, state, and federal landuse plans, and agencies which would have permit approval or enforcement authority, but for the exclusive authority of the commission to certify sites and related facilities.	DEIR Section 2 Description of Project and Alternatives, Table 2-8 (Summary of Permits and Approvals)	See referenced source documents	deir_fwp_2_descr_proj_and_alts
(2)	The name, title, phone number, address (required), and email address (if known), of an official who was contacted within each agency, and also provide the name of the official who will serve as a contact person for Commission staff.	Scoping Report Appendix B, Direct Mail Notice	See referenced source documents	ceqa_fwp_scoping_report
(3)	A schedule indicating when permits outside the authority of the commission will be obtained and the steps the applicant has taken or plans to take to obtain such permits.	Table 3 in Project Description	See referenced source documents	

Opt-in Application Overview: Docket File Database

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 ceqa_fwp_notice_of_preparation.pdf	1/22/2019 1:47 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	113 KB
 ceqa_fwp_scoping_report_part1.pdf	11/9/2022 1:03 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	27,789 KB
 ceqa_fwp_scoping_report_part2.pdf	11/9/2022 1:03 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	23,197 KB
 ceqa_fwp_scoping_report_part3.pdf	11/9/2022 1:03 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	14,587 KB
 ceqa_fwp_staff_report.pdf	9/20/2022 2:56 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	4,431 KB
 ceqa_fwp_timber_conversion_permit.pdf	10/12/2022 2:15 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	9,187 KB
 cul_fwp_cultural_report_author_qual.s.pdf	10/12/2022 2:19 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	113 KB
 cul_fwp_fig_structures_built_before_1977.pdf	10/12/2022 2:28 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	1,232 KB
 cul_fwp_nahc_letters.pdf	1/16/2019 2:45 PM	Adobe Acrobat Document	727 KB
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 deir_fwp_3-15_utilities_svc_systems.pdf	8/3/2020 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	350 KB
 deir_fwp_3-16_wildfire.pdf	8/3/2020 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	1,663 KB
 deir_fwp_4_comp_of_alts.pdf	8/3/2020 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	274 KB

Opt-in Application Overview--continued

Docket Files: 120+ documents (50,000+ pages) supporting the application, including:

- CEQA and Permitting Materials: Full text of Shasta County Use Permit, DEIR, FEIR, Initial Study, MMRP, NOP, scoping report, staff report, and Timber Conversion Permit;
- Technical reports (2017-2021): 28 biological studies (rare plants, birds [17 studies], bats, amphibians, aquatic resources); cultural survey reports, DPR forms, NAHC letters, surveyor qualifications; air quality and GHG inputs; documentation of tribal consultation under AB 52; hazardous materials database results; wildfire research and expert testimony; noise report; preliminary geotech report; visual resource studies including shadow flicker assessment, viewshed modeling, pre- and post-project simulations; traffic studies; socioeconomics reports; water supply assessment including correspondence with water district
- Applicant-prepared materials: FAQs; presentations for Planning Commission hearing, Board of Supervisors Meeting, public and agency outreach, tribal outreach; community benefits program information; agency and tribal outreach correspondence
- Appendix B Data Responses: information on interconnection agreement, lease agreement, disadvantaged communities, parcel owner contact information, text of relevant local ordinances; figures of design details and resource proximity; full text of submitted permits (LSAA, FAA DNH); labor certifications; assessment of compliance with laws, ordinances, and regulations

Conclusion

- The Project will provide tremendous benefits to both Shasta County and the adjacent communities of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek through over **\$50 million in tax revenues** and an almost **\$3 million Community Benefit Program**.
- Shasta County planning staff recommended that **the FEIR be certified**; that the **use permit be approved** and that the **Statement of Overriding Considerations be adopted**.
- Project is **consistent with Shasta County General Plan** Objective E-2 calling for “increase utilization of renewable energy resources” and E-d “priority shall be given to energy projects and programs that provide jobs and other economic benefits for County residents.”
- The Project continues to have **significant support** from local unions, businesses, non-profits, and community members.

Looking Forward

- Fountain Wind is ready to advance through the CEC permitting process. If approved, the project is shovel-ready.
- Significant demand for Fountain Wind: Project was in term sheet negotiations during permitting.
- Wind resources are scarce: Given CAISO Interconnection delays, there is a significant lack of projects in the queue that can come online in the next 2-3 years. Fountain Wind is the largest on-shore wind project in PG&E's service territory with a signed Interconnection Agreement.

If approved by the CEC in 2023, Fountain Wind would be positioned to start construction activities as soon as 2024