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| **Docket Number:** | 23-OPT-01 |
| **Project Title:** | Fountain Wind Project |
| **TN #:** | 250570 |
| **Document Title:** | fwp_data_responses_vis_noise |
| **Description:** | N/A |
| **Filer:** | Caitlin Barns |
| **Organization:** | Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. |
| **Submitter Role:** | Applicant Consultant |
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| NOI-001 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Noise | Sofi Khoshmashrab | Appendix B (g) (1) | ...provide a discussion of the existing site conditions, the expected direct, indirect and cumulative impacts due to the construction, operation and maintenance of the project, the measures proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the project, the effectiveness of the proposed measures, and any monitoring plans proposed to verify the effectiveness of the mitigation. | Noise Report TN 248290-1 – EXISTING NOISE ENVIRONMENT<br>Noise Report TN 248290-1 – NOISE GENERATED DURING OPERATIONS<br>Noise Report TN 248290-1 – NOISE GENERATED DURING CONSTRUCTION<br>Noise Report TN 248290-1 – RECOMMENDED NOISE REDUCTION MEASURES<br>DEIR Noise And Vibration TN 248288-15 – Sec 3.13.1.2 Environmental Setting - Noise Sources and Levels<br>Environmental Setting – Sensitive Receptors<br>DEIR Noise And Vibration TN 248288-15 – Sec 3.13.3 Direct and Indirect Effects<br>DEIR Noise And Vibration TN 248288-15 – Sec 3.13.3.2 Direct and Indirect Effects of the Project<br>DEIR Noise And Vibration TN 248288-15 – Sec 3.13.3.2 Direct and Indirect Effects of the Project – Mitigation Measure 3.13-2 | No | The noise contour maps in Figures 5a and 5b of the Noise Report TN 248290-1 are generated based on the operation of all 72 turbines with maximum capacity of 5.7 MW. However, according to Section 1.1 of the revised Executive Summary and Project Description (TN 248322), the project currently proposes the construction and operation of up to 48 wind turbines, each with a maximum capacity of 7.2 MW.<br><br>The Sound Pressure Level (SPL) of the proposed wind turbine with a 7.2 MW capacity is not provided in Noise Report (TN 248290-1) or DEIR Noise And Vibration (248288-15).<br><br>Please also provide the SPL level for this turbine in both dBC and dBA. | 9-Jun | See updated noise analysis (TN# 250569). | | |

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| VIS-01 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (1) | ...provide a discussion of the existing site conditions, the expected direct, indirect and cumulative impacts due to the construction, operation and maintenance of the project, the measures proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the project, the effectiveness of the proposed measures, and any monitoring plans proposed to verify the effectiveness of the mitigation. | TN 248288-4: DEIR Visual Resources Sections 3.2.2.1 Study Area, 3.2.2.2 Environmental Setting, 3.2.4.2 Direct and Indirect Effects of the Project, and 3.2.5 Cumulative Impacts<br>TN 248320-10: Shadow Flicker Rev. 2<br>TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2, Sections 2.2 Setting, 4.0 Affected Environment, 5.0 Results and Discussion, and 5.4 Potential Mitigation<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Section 2.6 Visual Resources and 3.0 Conclusions | No | • The current impact analysis addresses the previous project and must be revised to address the currently proposed project.<br>• The selected seven KOPs are inadequate to support the present analysis and must be revised/augmented. Specifically:<br>o Of the original seven KOPs, only two (KOPs 1 and 2) are close enough to the project such that turbines could be perceived. A better balance of distant and proximal viewing locations needs to be represented in the selection of KOPs in order to accurately characterize Aesthetics impacts on public views. For example, a portion of the B turbine string is within one mile of SR 299. That segment of SR 299 and may be an appropriate location for a representative KOP if project visibility can be demonstrated.<br>o Under the currently proposed project design, KOP 1 is no longer orientated toward the project and must either be reoriented or replaced such that the project is visible in the frame of view.<br>• The visual simulations provided to support the impact analysis are inadequate in terms of quality, content, and format and must be revised and/or<br>o The resolution of the provided images is so low that the turbines | 2-May and 9-Jun | The KOPs provide the vehicle by which existing and proposed conditions are representatively discussed in the VIA and EIR. The seven KOP locations were prevoiusly identified and selected based on coordination with Shasta County, the lead agency for the Project during development of materials to support the CEQA analysis. Changes will be made to the set of KOPs as follows. Included below are references to: updated viewshed figures, high-resolution JPEG images of existing simulations, and figures showing the comparative effects between the project as proposed in the DEIR and as revised and submitted to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors on 9/13/21 (Fig6_fountain_wind_sims_091321 [TN# 249950-3])), all of which were submitted via Kitework on May 2, 2023:<br>- KOP 1: Remove from set.<br>- KOP 2: Retain. Please see 9/13/21 BOS Fig 6-2D, which indicates that the most proximate / visible turbines remain within the field of view shown here. Please also see high-resolution JPEG of simulation for KOP 2 (KOP2c_FtnWind_BOS_Sept2021-revised).<br>- KOP 3: Supplement. A second simulation will be produced showing the view centered to the east-southeast from KOP 3. 9/13/21 BOS Fig 6-3D indicates that additional turbines would be visible. (See KOP3cFTNWind_BOS-Sept2021-revised)<br>- KOP 4: Add view from closer east-west stretch of SR299, per CEC request. Turbines would be visible in direct views of short duration; show in deference to disclosure. Simulation may also demonstrate extent to which new / expanded roads would be visible. (See KOP4c_FtnWind_BOS-Sept2021-revised)<br>- KOP 5: Retain as representative of viewer experience from Burney. The town of Burney is moderately to heavily forested in its downtown and in areas along / south of SR 299. The northern segment of the town consists mainly of rural residences and small ranches. Where absence of forested areas would allow for unobstructed line-of-sight toward the proposed project, views would appear to represent private | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- Impact analysis that addresses the current project from all final KOPs.<br>- Addition of an augmented KOP analysis and additional simulation for the expanded KOP 3 frame of view.<br>- Replacement of KOP 4 with a new location with analysis and simulation.<br>- Findings of additional field review to determine feasibility of a second KOP (5b for residential area) in the community of Burney.<br>- Narrative description of the location and visibility (or lack there of) of areas to be subjected to road widening and/or landscape clearing.<br>- Description of night lighting proposed to be used on the site along with any proposed night lighting control measures to be employed to minimize off-site night lighting visual impacts.<br>- Revisions to Table VIS-06 including turbine | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| | | | | | | | | described in the text and captions as being visible are minimally discernible.<br>o In some simulations, the color of the turbines does not appear as bright (white) as one would expect for turbines not being backlit by the sun. This artificially reduces structure visibility.<br>o Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations of the proposed project at life-size scale (when the picture is held 10 inches from the viewer's eyes) have not been provided as required in the Siting Regulations Appendix B (g) (6) (F) and must be submitted.<br>• The DEIR acknowledges that vegetation cleared corridors may be detectable in long distance views and states that minimal visual contrast would result. However, there is no analysis or simulations to support this conclusion. Therefore, an evaluation of the considerable vegetation clearance that is proposed for the Overhead Collector Corridors and for Road Widening shall be provided. If any in-line views of a cleared linear corridor are visible from a public vantage point, a representative KOP shall be established, and a simulation shall be prepared. | | residences or otherwise less developed conditions than the community center / gathering place views this KOP was selected to represent. (See KOP5c_FtnWind_BOS-Sept2021-revised)<br>- KOP 6: Retain. Please see high-resolution JPEG (KOP6c_FtnWind_BOS-Sept2021-revised)<br>- KOP 7: Retain. Please see high-resolution JPEG (KOP7c_FtnWind_BOS-Sept2021-revised)<br><br>Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations (as included in the DEIR and provided as supplement to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors in September 2021) were submitted via Kiteworks on May 2, 2023 (See KOP files "EXISTING" and "DEIRproposed").<br><br>With the exception of the two access points along SR 299, road widening required by the project would be limited to areas within the project footprint and likely not prominently visible from SR 299 or other publicly accessible points due to obstruction from roadside vegetation.<br><br>The Applicant will coordinate with FAA to establish the type and amount of night lighting required for the Project. This information is not known at present. As agreed in communication with CEC on 4/13/23, the Applicant will provide a reasonable timeline for when CEC would receive final night lighting plans. | heights in feet, total height from base to the hub, and the total height from the base to the blade tip.<br>- Submittal of all images in full-page, high resolution format | |

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| | | | | | | | | * Proposed night lighting at the project site is insufficiently described to support the stated conclusion that lighting impacts would be less than significant. All proposed lighting with the potential to be viewed by the public beyond the project boundary must be described and mapped. Further, lighting mitigation measures need to be identified where night lighting has the potential to be viewed by the public. In those cases, a night lighting mitigation plan shall be provided. | | | | |
| VIS-02 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (6) (A) | Descriptions of the existing visual setting of the vicinity of the proposed project site and the proposed routes for any project-related linear facilities. Include: | TN 248288-4: DEIR Visual Resources Sections 3.2.2.1 Study Area, 3.2.2.2 Environmental Setting, 3.2.4.2 Direct and Indirect Effects of the Project, and 3.2.5 Cumulative Impacts<br>TN 248320-10: Shadow Flicker Rev. 2<br>TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2, Sections 2.2 Setting, 4.0 Affected Environment, 5.0 Results and Discussion, and 5.4 Potential Mitigation<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Section 2.6 Visual Resources and 3.0 Conclusions | No | * Descriptions and maps of the proposed overhead electrical collector routes to be cleared of vegetation and existing roadways to be widened shall be provided.<br>* If any in-line views of a cleared linear corridor are visible from a public vantage point, a representative KOP shall be established, and a simulation shall be prepared. | 2-May and 9-Jun | Please see "10-Mile Radius Viewshed - Overhead Collector Poles," (TN# 249950-6) which indicates no line-of-sight visibility between the proposed collector poles and nearby main roadways or populated areas, with the exception of individual cells along two segments of SR299, one no closer than 3.2 miles to the nearest overhead collector pole and one 5.4 miles away. The cleared linear corridor would not be visible from these locations. | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- While the information submitted regarding the Overhead Collector Poles is sufficient for my analysis purposes, the description of the cleared linear corridors should be expanded to include a narrative description of the location and visibility (or lack there of) of any and all areas to be subjected to landscape clearing including roads to be widened. | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| VIS-03 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (6) (A) (i) | Topographic maps at a scale of 1:24,000 that depict directions from which the project would be seen, the view areas most sensitive to the potential visual impacts of the project, and the locations where photographs were taken for (g)(6)(C); and | TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Figures 5a, 5b, and 5d through 5g | No | · Maps provided are at scales ranging from 1:60,000 to 1:506,880. These maps shall be revised to reflect the location and view direction of existing, revised, or replaced KOPs.<br>The scale of the maps can be deemed acceptable with the submission of a kmz file depicting the locations of the 48 proposed turbines, the linear areas to be cleared of vegetation (electrical collector corridors and roads to be widened), all other project ancillary structures/facilities, and the final KOPs. | 2-May and 9-Jun | .kmz files provided via Kiteworks on May 2, 2023. | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- Please assign the appropriate heights to each turbine/tower (either in tabular format or individual kmz data label) so that the specific heights of each turbine and met tower shown on the kmz can be identified. | KMZ submitted via Kiteworks. Spreadsheet of turbine heights provided (TN# 250564). |
| VIS-05 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (6) (C) | In consultation with Commission staff, identify: i) designated scenic roadways or scenic corridors and any visually sensitive areas that would be affected by the proposed project, including recreational and residential areas; and ii) the locations of the key observation points to represent the most critical viewing locations from which to conduct detailed analyses of the visual impacts of the proposed project. Indicate the approximate number of people using each of these sensitive areas and the | TN 248288-4: DEIR Visual Resources Sections 3.2.2.1 Study Area, 3.2.2.2 Environmental Setting, 3.2.4.2 Direct and Indirect Effects of the Project, and 3.2.5 Cumulative Impacts<br>TN 248320-10: Shadow Flicker Rev. 2<br>TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2, Sections 2.2 Setting, 4.0 Affected Environment, 5.0 Results and Discussion, and 5.4 Potential Mitigation<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Section 2.6 Visual Resources and 3.0 Conclusions | No | * The selected seven KOPs are inadequate to support the present analysis and must be revised/augmented. Specifically:<br>- Of the original seven KOPs, only two (KOPs 1 and 2) are close enough to the project such that turbines could be perceived. A better balance of distant and proximal viewing locations needs to be represented in the selection of KOPs in order to accurately characterize Visual Resources impacts on public views. For example, a portion of the B turbine string is within one mile of SR 299. That segment of SR 299 may be an appropriate location for a representative KOP if project visibility can be demonstrated.<br>- Under the currently proposed project design, KOP 1 is no | 2-May and 9-Jun | See response to VIS-01. The seven KOP locations were prevoiusly identified and selected based on coordination with Shasta County, the lead agency for the Project during development of materials to support the CEQA analysis.<br><br>With the removal of KOP 1, no other KOP would represent a view from a designated scenic resource or other area with presumed visual protection. Hatchet Mountain Vista Point, a signed scenic overlook located east of the project site along eastbound SR 299, is oriented to the east, and also falls outside of the project viewshed. The 2020 populations of Montomery Creek, Round Mountain, and Burney were 176, 160, and 3,000 respectively.<br><br>As reported in the DEIR transportation section, on the two-lane rural section of SR 299 between Deschutes Road (on the east edge of Redding) and Elm Street (on the west edge of Burney), the peak-hour volume ranges from between 320 and 490 vehicles per hour. | The information submitted is sufficient for my analysis purposes. However, given the lack of specificity of the information provided, some assumptions will need to be made. For example, since only general population data has been provided for the communities of Montgomery Creek, Round Mountain, and Burney, it must be assumed that all residents of those communities would experience some level of visibility of the Project. Similarly, since only peak-hour traffic volumes | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| | | | | | estimated number of residences with views of the project. Also identify any major public roadways and trails of local importance that would be visually impacted by the project and indicate the types of travelers (that is, residents, recreationists, workers, commuters, etc.) and the approximate number of vehicles, bicyclists, and/or hikers per day. | | | longer oriented toward the project and must either be re-oriented or replaced such that the project is visible in the frame of view.<br>* The approximate number of people using each of these sensitive areas and the estimated number of residences with views of the project shall be indicated in the analysis. The types of travelers (that is, residents, recreationists, workers, commuters, etc.) and the approximate number of vehicles, bicyclists, and/or hikers per day shall be included. | | | are provided at one location and without distinction as to the category of travelers, it must be assumed that the peak-hour measurements provided also apply throughout the Hwy 299 corridor and that all vehicles contain viewers with high visual sensitivity. | |
| VIS-06 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (6) (D) | A table providing the dimensions (height, length, and width, or diameter) and, proposed color(s), materials, finishes, patterns, and other proposed design characteristics of each major component visible from off the project site, including any project-related electrical transmission line and/or offsite aboveground pipelines and metering stations. | TN 248288-2: DEIR Section 2.4.1, Figure 2-4a: Typical Wind Turbine and Figure 6: Typical Overhead Collector Line Pole<br>TN 248288-4: DEIR Visual Resources Sections 3.2.2 Setting and 3.2.4 Direct and Indirect Effects<br>TN 248297-2: CEQA Initial Study, Figure 6: Typical Overhead Collector Line Pole<br>TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2<br>TN 248322: Executive Summary and Project Description, Sections 3.1 Wind Turbine Generators; 4.1.2 Overhead Collector System; 4.2 Substation, Switching Station, and Interconnection Facilities; | No | A table that describes the dimensions (height, length, and width, or diameter) and proposed color(s), materials, finishes, patterns, and other proposed design characteristics of each major component visible from public viewpoints beyond the project site shall be provided. The table shall include wind turbines, electrical collector lines, operations and maintenance buildings, meteorological towers, and any other built project components that would be visible to the public. | 2-May and 9-Jun | Table provided (TN# 249952). | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- Revisions to Table VIS-06 to include turbine heights in feet, total height from base to the hub, and the total height from the base to the blade tip. | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| | | | | | | 4.3.1 Access Roads; 4.3.3 O&M Facility; and 4.3.4 Meteorological Equipment<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Section 2.6 Visual Resources and Section 3.0 Conclusions | | | | | | |
| VIS-08 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (6) (F) | i) Provide:<br>full-page color photographic reproductions of the existing site, and<br>full-page color simulations of the proposed project at life-size scale when the picture is held 10 inches from the viewer's eyes, including any project-related electrical transmission lines, in the existing setting from each key observation point. If any landscaping is proposed to comply with zoning requirements or to mitigate visual impacts, include the landscaping in simulation(s) representing sensitive area views, depicting the landscaping five years after installation; and estimate the expected time until maturity is reached. | TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Figures 5a, 5b, and 5d through 5g | No | o The visual simulations provided to support the impact analysis are inadequate in terms of quality, content, and format and must be revised and/or replaced to correct the following inadequacies:<br>The resolution of the provided images is so low that the turbines described in the text and captions as being visible are minimally discernible.<br>In some simulations, the color of the turbines does not appear as bright (white) as one would expect for turbines not being backlit by the sun. This artificially reduces structure visibility.<br>Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations of the proposed project at life-size scale (when the picture is held 10 inches from the viewer's eyes) have not been provided as required in the Siting Regulations Appendix B (g) (6) (F), and must be submitted. | 2-May and 9-Jun | Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations (as included in the DEIR and provided as supplement to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors in September 2021) provided via Kiteworks on May 2, 2023. | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations for all new and revised or augmented KOPs including KOP 3 (augmented), KOP 4 (to be replaced), and KOP 5 (if an additional viewpoint is added in Burney). | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| VIS-09 | Deficiency Letter Matrix | Visual Resources | Clayton Kerr | Appendix B (g) (1) | An assessment of the visual impacts of the project, including light, glare, and any modeling of visible plumes. Include a description of the method and identify any computer model used to assess the impacts. Provide an estimate of the expected frequency and dimensions (height, length, and width) of the visible cooling tower and/or exhaust stack plumes. Provide the supporting assumptions, meteorological data, operating parameters, and calculations used. | TN 248288-2: DEIR Section 2.4.1, Figure 2-4a: Typical Wind Turbine and Figure 6: Typical Overhead Collector Line Pole<br>TN 248288-4: DEIR Visual Resources Sections 3.2.2 Setting and 3.2.4 Direct and Indirect Effects<br>TN 248297-2: CEQA Initial Study, Figure 6: Typical Overhead Collector Line Pole<br>TN 248320-13: Visual Resources Technical Report Rev. 2<br>TN 248322: Executive Summary and Project Description, Sections 3.1 Wind Turbine Generators; 4.1.2 Overhead Collector System; 4.2 Substation, Switching Station, and Interconnection Facilities; 4.3.1 Access Roads; 4.3.3 O&M Facility; and 4.3.4 Meteorological Equipment<br>TN 248330-2: Project Refinement Memo, Section 2.6 Visual Resources and Section 3.0 Conclusions | No | * The current impact analysis addresses the previous project and must be revised to address the currently proposed project.<br>* The selected seven KOPs are inadequate to support the present analysis and must be revised/augmented. Specifically:<br>- Of the original seven KOPs, only two (KOPs 1 and 2) are close enough to the project such that turbines could be perceived. A better balance of distant and proximal viewing locations needs to be represented in the selection of KOPs in order to accurately characterize Visual Resources impacts on public views. For example, a portion of the B turbine string is within one mile of SR 299. That segment of SR 299 and may be an appropriate location for a representative KOP if project visibility can be demonstrated.<br>- Under the currently proposed project design, KOP 1 is no longer orientated toward the project and must either be re-oriented or replaced such that the project is visible in the frame of view.<br>* The visual simulations provided to support the impact analysis are inadequate in terms of quality, content, and format and must be revised and/or replaced to correct the following inadequacies: | 2-May and 9-Jun | See responses to VIS-01. | The information submitted is incomplete. The specific information still needed includes the following:<br>- Impact analysis that addresses the current project from all final KOPs.<br>- Addition of an augmented KOP analysis and additional simulation for the expanded KOP 3 frame of view.<br>- Replacement of KOP 4 with a new location with analysis and simulation.<br>- Findings of additional field review to determine feasibility of a second KOP (5b for residential area) in the community of Burney.<br>- Narrative description of the location and visibility (or lack there of) of areas to be subjected to road widening and/or landscape clearing.<br>- Description of night lighting proposed to be used on the site along with any proposed night lighting control measures to be employed to minimize off-site night lighting visual impacts.<br>- Revisions to Table VIS-06 including turbine | Please see visual resources addendum (TN# 250566 and 250567). |

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| | | | | | | | | - The resolution of the provided images is so low that the turbines described in the text and captions as being visible are minimally discernible.<br>- In some simulations, the color of the turbines does not appear as bright (white) as one would expect for turbines not being backlit by the sun. This artificially reduces structure visibility.<br>- Full-page, color photographs of the existing views and visual simulations of the proposed project at life-size scale (when the picture is held 10 inches from the viewer's eyes) have not been provided as required in the Siting Regulations Appendix B (g) (6) (F) and must be submitted.<br>* The DEIR acknowledges that vegetation- cleared corridors may be detectable in long-distance views and states that minimal visual contrast would result. However, there is no analysis or simulations to support this conclusion. Therefore, an evaluation of the considerable vegetation clearance that is proposed for the Overhead Collector Corridors and for Road Widening shall be provided. If any in-line views of a cleared linear corridor are visible from a public vantage point, a representative KOP | | | heights in feet, total height from base to the hub, and the total height from the base to the blade tip.<br>- Submittal of all images in full-page, high resolution format | |

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| | | | | | | | | shall be established, and a simulation shall be prepared.<br>* Proposed night lighting at the project site is insufficiently described to support the stated conclusion that lighting impacts would be less than significant. All proposed lighting with the potential to be viewed by the public beyond the project boundary must be described and mapped. Further, lighting mitigation measures need to be identified where night lighting has the potential to be viewed by the public. In those cases, a night lighting mitigation plan shall be provided. | | | | |