

DOCKETED

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Opposition to Fountain Wind Project with Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

I support green energy. I am proud to live in Shasta County. For Shasta County has been a leader in green energy long before it became a society concern or common place term. Why? It is due to the many electrical generating plants on the Pit River, Sacramento River as well those located on various reservoirs, rivers and creeks in the County.

1. Fire Risk

But I do oppose the construction of the Fountain Wind Farm ("Project"). It creates a fire risk that does not currently exist in the County. And though the Project can minimize this risk; it cannot eliminate it. I have lived in the County for 23 years and have seen first hand the effect of forest fires that have spread from tree crown to tree crown damaging homes and other property and causing deaths. The cost to recover from such damages is enormous. I doubt the Applicant has the financial wherewithal to pay such amounts. And the insurance market to fund the Applicant for such may be very small or nonexistent. They most likely are going to rely on there legal structure to avoid liability.

Yet I am not to saying they should not construct their project . I am saying construct it in another place. There are alot of locations in California or Nevada to build it where forest fire risk is zero. Such places are offshore or in the desert. And if the location is chosen with logistics in mind, the Project would be closer geographically to the location of the need for such power. This in turn has the effect of cutting down on electrical power losses due to wire resistance making the Project more efficient. And in the case of the desert locations, the windturbine structure would most likely enhance the beauty of the location. Just recall the last time you drove on US 95 where there hundreds of miles with nothing to look at but the dry terrain. How cool it would be to look at a few hundred windturbines to break up the monotonous drive. (US 95 runs from the Reno area to Las Vegas and then unto the Arizona border.)

2. Natural Beauty

Additionally Shasta County has been blessed by Mother Nature or the Almighty. For County's natural beauty is second to none. It is this beauty that draws thousands of people to visit it to enjoy the County's fresh water lakes, rivers, creeks and resevoirs for fishing, boating and swimming while

its forests and mountains provide a place to hunt and hike and look at the stars. The County's population can triple during vacation seasons. Its top industries include service and retail; both thrive because of this. This natural beauty is put in serious jeopardy with the installation of 48 - 600 foot wind turbine structures. This was not lost on the management of Lassen Park evidenced by their comment and request that alternate locations be determined so as to avoid viewing the structures in the Park.

3. These Wind Turbines Are Huge with Blinking Red Lights

To put this in perspective, neither Sacramento nor San Francisco has 48- 600 foot structures in their entire city. A 600 foot structure is equivalent to a 60 story building. I believe the tallest structure in Redding (the Shasta County seat) is seven stories. Keep in mind that these structures do not go away at night because each structure will have two blinking red lights required by aeronautical regulations. This in turn reduces clarity of skies and eliminates opportunity for County visitors to see star formations they cannot view where they regularly live.

4. Reduces Carbon Sequestration

The Project will reduce the carbon sequestration that is provided now by the trees that will be permanently removed on the 2855 acres dedicated to the Project. That is a lot of lost carbon sequestration. And during the construction process over 16,108 acres of trees will be lost. Though the Applicant states that they will regrow this area; it will take some time before any trees planted to have any effect on carbon sequestration.

5. Turbines Kill Birds

As we know, wind turbines kill birds, it is not "if" but how many. These structures are located in bird migration paths. And as mentioned above, they are huge. Their propellers can be as large as 200 feet, totalling 400 feet being swiped by them as they rotate. (This is one football field plus an additional 100 feet. Imagine 48 of them rotating at the same time.) I doubt many birds are going to make it through the propellers.

6. The Planning Department and Board of Supervisors

The County's Planning Department and its Board of Supervisors have spent

much time reviewing the Application for this Project and denied it after a thorough review. The County did not take this review lightly. At no small cost of both time and money to the County, they allowed 3 minutes to each County resident to speak and written comments were unlimited during the months permitted to make them. The Applicant was given unlimited time to speak and reply to both oral and written comments. Legal counsel was always available to make certain the letter of the law was followed and complete fairness was available to all. Please take very seriously their conclusion and the reasons for denial.

7. Summary

The Project makes Shasta County worse. Why? Because it puts in serious jeopardy its natural beauty, puts in jeopardy our tourist trade and in turn jeopardizes the County's economy, increases the possibility of a devastating fire arising out of damaged turbines and related equipment, reduces the acreage available to hunt, reduces carbon sequestration. And the light pollution caused by the red lights blinking on the top of the each turbine structure gives another reason people come to live and vacation in the County. And do not make light of the fact that windturbines kill birds. Some of them will be endangered ones.

8. Please

Respectfully, please deny the Applicant authorization to go forward; **but** do encourage the Applicant to submit an application for similar project outside of Shasta County.

Sincerely,

Robert Kloeppe

Resident of Montgomery Creek