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Support Fountain Wind Project Approval

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

January 30, 2024

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California Energy Commission

Attn: Mr. Leonidas Payne, Project Manager

715 P Street, MS 40

Sacramento, CA 95814

Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov

Re: Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01) Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting

Dear Mr. Leonidas and Commission Members,

Please accept this letter supporting approval of the Fountain Wind Project by the CEC. Please be aware that I am currently serving as a City of Redding Council Member. Until several weeks ago, I had the honor to serve as the mayor. However, this letter is written on behalf of my spouse Tina and me as residents of the City of Redding in Shasta County and not on behalf of the City Council.

Tina and I moved from Southern California and decided to settle in Shasta County, where I established my practice as an attorney. The quality of life and the natural beauty of the area were two of the primary reasons for moving here. Friends who live here also touted the sense of community and the availability of a full range of health and recreational services and facilities. The educational system for our children added to the attractiveness of the area where we wished to live as a family.

Over the years, our community, which encompasses not only the City of Redding but also all of Shasta County and the north state, has experienced growth. A majority of the growth has been well planned and sensitive to our natural environment, which is another of the primary reasons why we live here; however, the level of economic development has been severely lacking. The economic benefits are one of several reasons why we support the Fountain Wind project, in addition to the following:

- Sensitivity to the environment as demonstrated by reducing the project from 72 to 48 turbines not only to minimize view/shed impacts but also to avoid Pit River Tribe areas of concern.
- Removing turbines north of SR 299 to reduce impacts on wildlife and plant resources, particularly birds. The Wintu Audubon Society noted in their December 3, 2023 letter to Mr. Payne, CEC Project Manager, that “Wintu Audubon takes no overall position in favor or opposed to the project at this time.” Their letter identified the issues they wanted the EIR to address.
- Outreach efforts by ConnectGen to the Pit River Tribe to address the Tribe's concerns.
- The December 4, 2023 technical report “Fountain Wind Project Impacts on Fire Behavior and Aerial Firefighting,” prepared by Pyroanalysis, LLC, succinctly addressed

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the concerns and identified the net benefits to fire protection and mitigation measures for the project area. Furthermore, the report addressed aerial firefighting concerns.

- Sales tax revenues are projected to exceed \$3.5 million over a construction period of two years.
- The Hatchet Ridge Wind Project now pays the highest property tax in the county. The proposed project would become the highest and pay more than \$50 million over 30 years. These property taxes would not just go to the County, but to the cities and school districts as well.
- An estimated 200 construction jobs are projected plus 10 yearly high-paying jobs with benefits.
- Reducing the potential for regular and rolling brownouts in the area.
- Providing a clean and reliable renewable energy supply source that benefits the area and the state as a whole.

In my role as a Redding City Council member as well as my regular business as a Shasta County resident, I know firsthand there is a significant amount of support for the project within our community, and we hope that you and the Commission recognize that not everyone in Shasta County is opposed to this project. In fact, I believe it is quite the opposite.

We look forward to reviewing and commenting on the Draft EIR. Based on the previous efforts by the project proponents, project revisions, and the information provided to date, there should be no reason why the project should not be approved by the Commission.

Respectfully,



Michael Dacquisto