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Thumbs Down on the Fountain Wind Project

The citizens of Shasta County and the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of several of the towns involved, and the Indian tribes, have unanimously stated their opposition to this project. One of the serious concerns is wildfire danger, and the ability to fight a wildfire in the vicinity of this huge wind project.

The Stantec Consulting Services submission dated April 23, 2024 includes a lengthy rebuttal of Chief O'Hara's comments regarding the increased fire danger and fire-fighting difficulties involving the proposed turbines. The consultants try to convince us that the project will actually reduce fire danger in the surrounding areas by the presence of roads and firebreaks, and other "mitigating efforts". I submit that one can't mitigate a fire and its damage after it has occurred. The consultants are being disingenuous, suggesting that fire danger would be reduced.

In the very first part of this same submission, signed by consultants Shane Lauderdale and John Messina, they state, "Since 2021, moreover, the Project size has been reduced from 72 turbines to 48 turbines, further reducing fire risk." They can't have it both ways. I, and the majority of Shasta County citizens, believe that the fire risk can best be reduced by lowering the number of turbines to zero. We don't want this project for many reasons.

Several times the consultants refer to the existing, much smaller, Hatchet Ridge project. The two projects are not comparable. They boast that there has never been a fire in the Hatchet Ridge project. We might add the word, "yet." And the proposed turbines are much bigger than the existing turbines. The Hatchet Ridge turbines are located in an almost straight line, causing less difficulty to aerial fire-fighting capabilities, in addition to their considerably shorter height and turbulence-producing capability.

The proposed Fountain Wind turbines are huge, much higher, and cover a much larger geographical area, and are mostly not aligned in straight lines. Aerial firefighting near the project will be severely hampered. While having additional road access into the area is beneficial, it will not make up for the lack of aerial firefighting capabilities.

The late spring storm of this past weekend covered the higher mountain ridges on all three sides of Redding in beautiful fresh snow. When the weather cleared and the sun came out the views in all three directions were staggeringly beautiful. We live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country. And we want to keep it that way. The sight of 48 huge wind turbines will severely detract from the natural beauty of our area. We respectfully request that you put a stop to continued efforts to force wind turbines on Shasta County. Because of our beauty, we are a popular area for California residents to

retire to. We invite you to consider Shasta County in your future retirement plans. Thank you for your consideration.