

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-OPT-01
Project Title:	Fountain Wind Project
TN #:	260713
Document Title:	Morrison Enterprises Comments - The Wind Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Morrison Enterprises
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/18/2024 1:45:42 PM
Docketed Date:	12/18/2024

Comment Received From: Morrison Enterprises
Submitted On: 12/18/2024
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01

The Wind Project

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California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
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Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to the Fountain Wind Project in Shasta County

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission and Governor Gavin Newsom,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Fountain Wind Project in Shasta County. While I support clean energy initiatives, this project presents significant environmental, economic, and community concerns that outweigh its potential benefits.

Key Reasons to Oppose the Fountain Wind Project:

Environmental Destruction

The Fountain Wind Project threatens the fragile ecosystem of the Shasta County region. Construction and operation would involve large-scale deforestation, habitat destruction, and permanent alteration of natural landscapes. Native wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, would face displacement or harm, further disrupting the ecological balance of the area.

Fire Risk and Safety Concerns

Shasta County is already a high-risk wildfire zone. Industrial-scale wind turbines increase the potential for wildfires due to malfunction, electrical issues, or lightning strikes. In a community still recovering from past catastrophic fires, it is irresponsible to introduce new hazards that could put lives and property at greater risk.

Negative Impact on Local Communities

Residents of Shasta County have expressed overwhelming opposition to this project, citing noise pollution, visual blight, and declining property values. The towering turbines would irreparably change the rural character of the area and diminish the quality of life for those who call this region home.

Insufficient Energy Benefits

The energy produced by the Fountain Wind Project is unlikely to benefit Shasta County residents directly. Instead, it would primarily serve other regions, leaving local communities to bear the brunt of environmental and economic costs without seeing meaningful returns.

Disruption of Cultural and Scenic Values

Shasta County is known for its pristine natural beauty and cultural heritage. Large-scale wind turbines would mar the scenic views and disrupt the cultural significance of the land for local communities and indigenous peoples.

Better Alternatives Exist

California has numerous opportunities to expand renewable energy without sacrificing rural communities and ecosystems. Prioritizing solar projects in urban areas or expanding offshore wind capacity would yield cleaner energy solutions without the destructive consequences of land-based wind farms in sensitive regions like Shasta County.

Request for Action

I urge you to reject the Fountain Wind Project and protect the unique natural and cultural resources of Shasta County. California has the responsibility to lead the nation in sustainable energy innovation, but not at the expense of rural communities and fragile ecosystems.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I trust that you will make the right decision for the people of Shasta County and the future of California's environment.

Sincerely,
Chloe Morrison