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<b>Project Title:</b>	Fountain Wind Project
<b>TN #:</b>	262849
<b>Document Title:</b>	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Comments - CEQA Comment Letter Fountain Wind Project
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*Comment Received From: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Submitted On: 4/29/2025  
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01*

## **CEQA Comment Letter Fountain Wind Project**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 April 2025

Kaycee Chang  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **COMMENTS ON CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF ASSESSMENT/ DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE FOUNTAIN WIND PROJECT, DOCKET NO. 23-OPT-01, SHASTA COUNTY**

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is a responsible agency for the proposed Fountain Wind Project (Project) as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, section 21069). On 25 March 2025, the Central Valley Water Board received a Notice of Availability of a Staff Assessment, which includes a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), prepared by the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the Project.

The Project proposes to construct a wind energy generation facility consisting of up to 48 turbines, each with a generating capacity of up to 7.2 megawatts, with a total nameplate generating capacity of up to 205 megawatts. Associated infrastructure and facilities would include a 34.5-kilovolt overhead and underground electrical collector system to connect turbines together and to an on-site collector substation; overhead and underground fiber-optic communication lines and/or a microwave relay station; an on-site switching station to connect the project to the existing regional grid operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company; a temporary construction and equipment laydown area; up to nine temporary laydown areas distributed throughout the project site to temporarily store and stage materials and equipment; an operation and maintenance facility with employee parking; up to three permanent meteorological evaluation towers (METs); temporary, episodic deployment of mobile Sonic Detection and Ranging (SoDAR) or Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) systems within identified disturbance areas (e.g., at MET locations); two storage sheds; and up to three temporary concrete batch plants. Up to 19 miles of new access roads would be constructed within the Project site, and up to 19 miles of existing roads would be improved. No new transmission lines are proposed.

The proposed Project site is located on approximately 2,855 acres of private, leased land in unincorporated Shasta County. The property is located approximately 6 miles west of Burney, one mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, immediately

south of California State Route 299, and near the private recreational facility of Moose Camp and other private inholdings.

On 27 January 2023, the Central Valley Water Board submitted comments to CEC following review of the Project Opt-In application (Application) submitted to CEC by the project proponent. The comment letter identified the following permits that may be required from the Central Valley Water Board for the Project:

- Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401, Water Quality Certification;
- Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State;
- Coverage under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order WQ 2022-0057-DWQ);
- Coverage under NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Order 2014-0057-DWQ);
- Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) (Form 200) for wastewater treatment and/or disposal;
- Coverage under General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timberland Management Activities on Non-Federal and Federal Lands (Order No. R5-2017-0061).

The Central Valley Water Board reviewed the Staff Assessment/Draft EIR and has the following comment. Although Section 5.16.5 (Water Resources) of the document proposes Conditions of Certification (COC) to ensure conformance with most of the permits identified in the Central Valley Water Board's comment letter (COC WATER-1, WATER-2, WATER-3, and WATER-4), the Staff Assessment/Draft EIR failed to include the potential need for Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (i.e., waters that are not federally jurisdictional) or a Report of Waste Discharge (Form 200) for wastewater treatment and/or disposal related to three temporary concrete batch plants. To mitigate potential impacts to water quality, the Central Valley Water Board requests the incorporation of additional Conditions of Certification to conform with the aforementioned permits that may be required for the Project.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at (530) 224-4784 or by email at [Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov).

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LC: db

Enclosure: Central Valley Water Board, *Comments on AB 205 Opt-In Application for Certification, CEC Docket Number 23-OPT-01, Fountain Wind, LLC, Fountain Wind Project, Shasta County, 27 January 2023*