

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



IN THE MATTER OF:

Fountain Wind Project

Opt-In Application for Certification

DOCKET NO. 23-OPT-01

NOTICE OF STAFF ASSESSMENT PUBLIC
MEETING

RE: Fountain Wind Project

**Notice of Fountain Wind Project
CEC Staff Assessment Public Meeting
May 20, 2025**

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

In-Person and Remote

See Attendance Instructions

In-person at:

Red Lion Hotel, Redding

Sierra Room

1830 Hilltop Drive

Redding, CA 96002

(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access via Zoom™

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a public meeting on the Staff Assessment for the Fountain Wind Project, pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25545.7.2(b)(2) and 25545.7.6. The purpose of the meeting is for CEC staff to present the Staff Assessment, which includes a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), and receive comments on the assessment from government agencies, California Native American Tribes, the public, and the project applicant.

The Staff Assessment contains the CEC staff's independent, objective evaluation of the proposed project. The Staff Assessment was docketed for public review and comment on March 25, 2025 (TN 262350)¹:

- Link to Staff Assessment:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=262350&DocumentContentId=98875>
- Link to entire docket for this project proceeding:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.

The information obtained from public meeting discussions and comments will be a part of the record of the proceeding and will be considered in the preparation of the Updated Staff Assessment, which will include a Final EIR, and staff's recommendation for the CEC Commissioners to consider at a future Business Meeting.

The public can participate in the meeting consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the posted end time. Breaks, including a lunch break, will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CEC staff presentations of the Staff Assessment
 - a. Application overview
 - b. Engineering Evaluation, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Conformance with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards (LORS) *
 - c. Opt-In requirements
 - d. Summary of public comments received
 - e. Next steps in the CEC process
3. Applicant remarks
4. CEC Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs Presentation on Public and Tribal Participation Opportunities.
5. Government Comment: California Native American tribes, government agencies, and elected officials
6. Public Comment
7. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

¹ The Staff Assessment (including a Draft EIR) was submitted to the CEQA State Clearinghouse website on March 26, 2025, SCH# 2023110139.

* Note: Staff will begin an overview of the proposed project's conformance with laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS), staff's evaluation of the application's engineering, and a summary of environmental impacts. Staff presentations will highlight the following topic areas with significant and unavoidable impacts or LORS nonconformances (order may change):

- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Forestry Resources
- Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire
- Land Use and Agriculture
- Visual Resources

Background

Effective June 30, 2022, Assembly Bill 205 (2022, Ch. 61, Committee on Budget, Energy) added sections 25545 through 25545.13 to the Public Resources Code. These Opt-In provisions expanded the CEC's power plant licensing authority to include certain clean energy facilities, including terrestrial wind power plants generating a minimum of 50 megawatts (MW) or more of electricity. More information about this Opt-in Certification Program can be found at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program>.

Under the Opt-In Certification Program, the CEC, as the lead agency, must complete the following steps:

1. Prepare a Staff Assessment, which includes an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
2. Hold public meetings as close as practicable to the proposed project site.
3. Consult with California Native American tribes that are culturally and traditionally associated with the geographic area of the proposed site.
4. Certify compliance with requirements for community benefits agreements, project labor agreements, and economic benefits.
5. Determine whether to approve or deny the proposed project at a publicly noticed business meeting.

In January 2023, applicant Fountain Wind LLC filed an application for the Fountain Wind Project under the CEC Opt-In Certification Program. Consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.4, CEC staff reviewed the application materials within 30 days. On February 10, 2023, the CEC's Executive Director notified the applicant that the application was incomplete, identifying numerous specific information deficiencies under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877. Over the following eight months, the applicant submitted the information. On October 30, 2023, CEC staff determined the supplemental information required to complete the application was acceptable and issued a Determination of Completeness signed by CEC's Executive Director.

Following the determination of completeness, staff issued a notice of preparation of an EIR on November 2, 2023, held a public informational and scoping meeting in Shasta County on November 28, 2023, and notified the California Native American tribes affiliated with the project area of the application and invited consultation.

On March 28, 2024, CEC staff filed a notice that the schedule for review of the application would be extended, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.4(e)(2), due to a substantial change regarding water supply that resulted in supplemental information detailing new or additional environmental impacts (TN 255314). On March 25, 2025, CEC staff filed its Staff Assessment (TN 262350).

Project Summary

The applicant proposes to construct and operate the Fountain Wind Project on approximately 2,855 acres in an unincorporated area of Shasta County. The project site is approximately one mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, six miles west of Burney, 35 miles northeast of Redding, and immediately south of State Route 299.

The project consists of a 205 MW wind energy generation facility, comprised of up to 48 turbines, approximately 610 feet tall, rising above the existing tree canopy; a 34.5 kilovolt overhead and underground electrical collector system; an on-site substation; overhead and underground fiber-optic communication lines and/or a microwave relay; and an on-site substation and on-site switching station for connecting the project into the existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) transmission line.

The project also includes 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; and three temporary concrete batch plants.

The CEC maintains a website for this project with more information on the proposed project at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/wind/fountain-wind-project>.

Attendance Instructions

Attendees can participate in the public meeting in person or remotely via Zoom.

In-person. The in-person location is at The Red Lion Hotel, Redding, Sierra Room, 1830 Hilltop Drive, Redding, CA 96002.

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/86854261208?pwd=SY7AhfN5IOJXjV7RnNH1qhF1NaIjSB.1>
- or login in at: <https://zoom.us/join> and enter Webinar ID 868 5426 1208 and passcode 609758 and follow all prompts.

- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at 1-213-338-8477. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 868 5426 1208 and passcode 609758.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

Zoom Spanish Interpreting Services. Open the Zoom meeting. In the "Navigation" panel, click "Settings," then click the "Meeting" tab. Under "In Meeting (Advanced)," click "Language Interpretation" toggle to enable/ disable. If a verification dialog displays, click "Enable" or "Disable" to verify the change. If the option is grayed out, it has been locked, and you will need to contact your Zoom admin. Click "Mute Original Audio" to reduce background noise.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at: publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 269-9595.

Public Comments

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 23-OPT-01 and Fountain Wind Project in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

Oral comments. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Comments may be limited to two minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. There will be a comment sign-up option for in-person attendees. To comment via Zoom, attendees will be asked to use the "raise hand" feature so the CEC can announce your name and unmute you. If joining by phone you can press *9 to "raise your hand."

Written comments. The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [California Energy Commission: e-comment: Submit Comment](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01) at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 23-OPT-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Written comments on the Staff Assessment, including Draft EIR, may be submitted to the Docket Unit through 5:00 p.m. on **May 27, 2025**.

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 269-9595 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible, but at least five days in advance of the meeting. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject and General Inquiries. Email Kaycee Chang at STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 232-6319.

Availability of Documents. Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at: California Energy- Commission: Docket Log at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Fountain Wind Project. To receive these notices or notices on other email subscription topics, visit Subscriptions at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: May 5, 2025, at Sacramento, California.



Elizabeth Huber
Director, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Subscriptions:
[Fountain Wind Project]