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Support for Staff Assessment of Fountain Wind Project

On Page 1-4 of the Executive Summary of the Staff Assessment, the following statement appears, "Staff acknowledges the key role wind generation plays in SB 100 goals, but concludes the evidence is clear that this location is not compatible with this proposed facility." This statement correctly captures what a mountain of public, tribal and agency testimony has been trying to explain to the CEC and others. Staff concludes that the project has major unmitigable impacts on Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Forestry Resources, Hazards, Hazardous Materials/Waste, and Wildfire, Land Use and Agriculture and Visual Resources. Many locations in CA have successfully incorporated large quantities of wind generation, but none of these locations remotely resemble eastern Shasta County. Here we are all about timber, tourism, tribal concerns and wildfire, and this project would dramatically negatively impact all of these. Here, in terms of renewable energy, we emphasize biomass and hydro development and have successfully incorporated large quantities of each. Bottom line is that the staff has gotten this exactly right in terms of their evaluation of the Fountain Wind Project. This is not the project where the CEC should override local and regional concerns. It is simply the wrong project in the wrong location for a myriad of reasons. It should be rejected by the Commission.