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The Monarch Butterfly, Stantec and Fountain Wind

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Stantec added a fraudulent submission to the CEC about Fountain Wind's impact on the Monarch butterfly, so I will help clarify things.

From Stantec ***….."and there is no evidence to suggest that individual monarchs collide with wind turbines"***

The Project would not affect overwintering sites for the western populations of the monarch and would not substantially affect monarch habitat (milkweed and nectar plants), and there is no evidence to suggest that individual monarchs collide with wind turbines, as discussed in **Exhibit A**. Thus, there is no evidence to support a conclusion that the project would have a population-level impact on this species. The Project's impact on this species should be considered less-than-significant under this Appendix G criterion. Further, even if the take of individuals of the species could be considered to be a significant impact under CEQA (which we have demonstrated above is not the case under the significance standards in the statute), mitigation measures are available to reduce that impact to a less than significant level, as discussed below.

Taken in combination, construction of the Project would have little to no negative impacts to monarchs at a population level under this criterion. As a result, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on monarch butterfly (identified as a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]). Impacts would be less than significant.

Wind turbines have been obliterating butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, bats and all raptors for decades and if a sweeping blade misses a Monarch Butterfly, the wind vortex created, will suck it back into the path of the next blade.

Spinning wind turbine blades, create air currents that suck blade victims backwards into the path of on coming blades. The industry first found out about this in 1992.

J.E. Winkelman 1992 ***…"the birds were swept down through the wake behind the rotor."***

Renewable Energy Annual 1995

December 1995

Finally, while wind power is considered to be environmentally benign relative to conventional energy technologies, it does face certain environmental hurdles. First, some consider large-scale commercial wind farms to be an aesthetic problem; second, high-speed wind turbine blades can be very noisy, although technological advancements continue to improve this problem; and third, differential pressure gradients around operating turbines can cause birds to be drawn into the path of the blades.

Each spring, monarchs leave their overwintering habitat and spread out across interior California and several western states, including Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Washington (Dingle et al. 2005).

For Monarch's, moving east from California's northern interior their migrations are made much easier by catching the winds that move through the split in the Cascade mountains, right where the Fountain Wind project will be sitting.

Research has shown this migration route to be true, but Stantec has managed to get their hands on a misleading monarch migration map, that suggests otherwise.

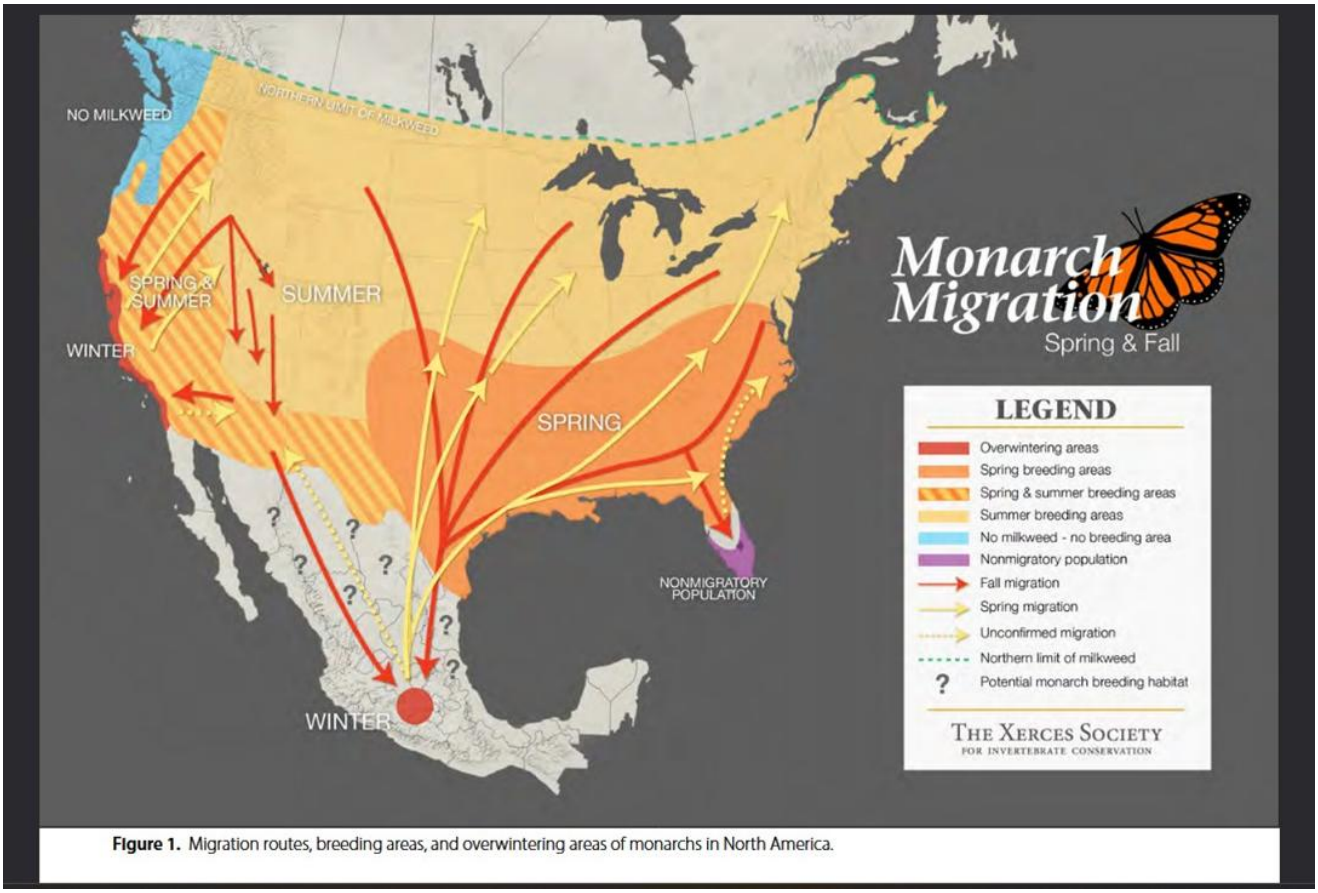
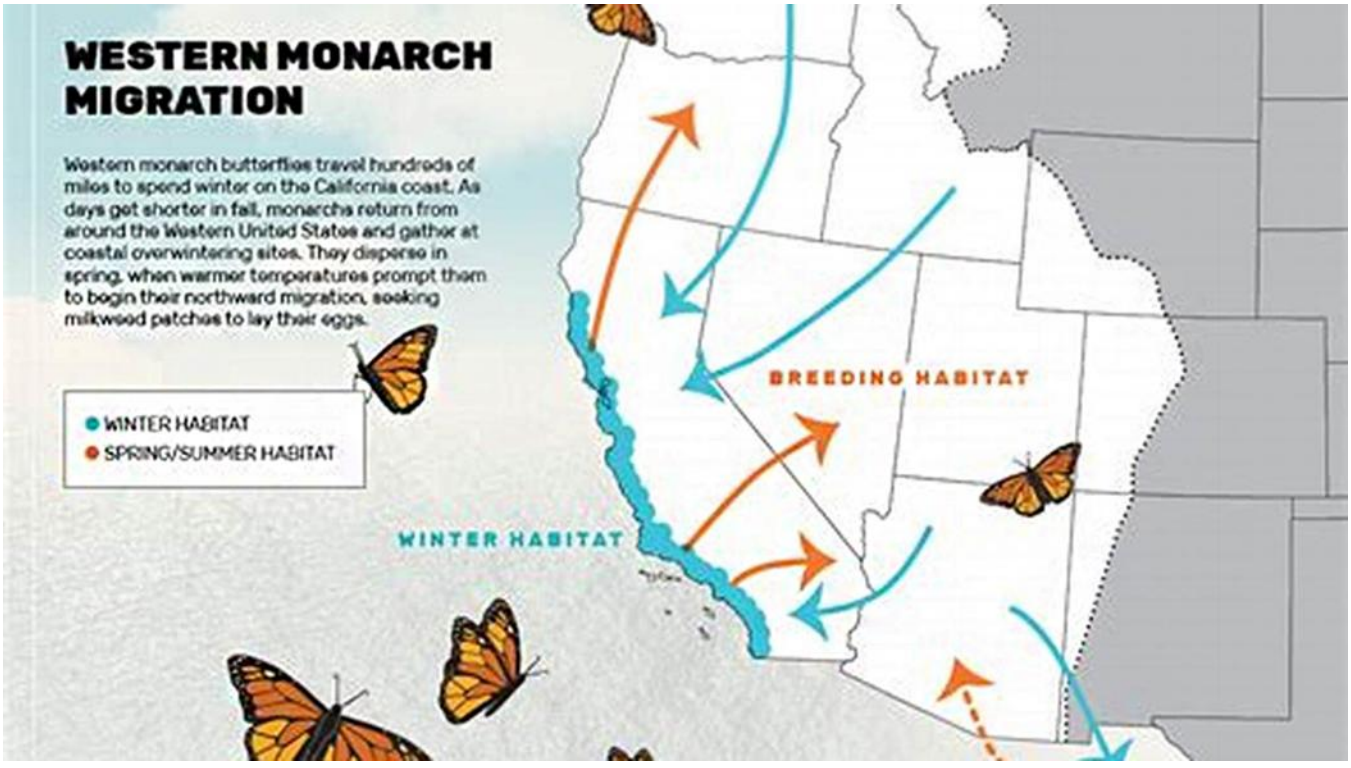
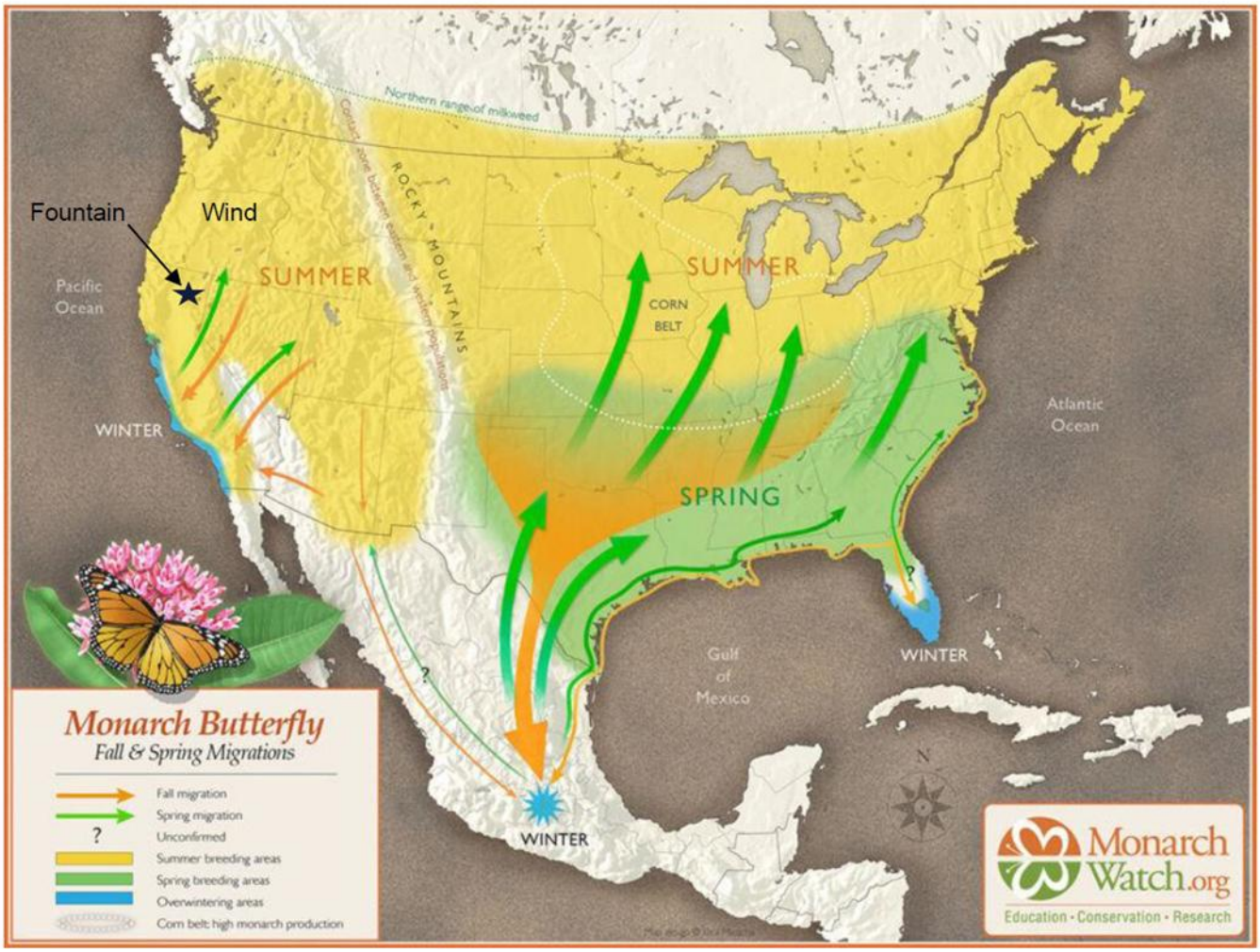


Figure 1. Migration routes, breeding areas, and overwintering areas of monarchs in North America.



Stantec submission shows the butterflies missing Fountain Wind and flying over Lake Tahoe and high Sierra Nevada mountains

Fountain Wind Project ***Monarch Butterfly Assessment***



Fact: There is no evidence of monarch butterflies being killed by wind turbines because contrived green energy research methodologies are created to hide negative impacts. This green energy research fraud has been ongoing for decades.

Jim Wiegand -Wildlife Biologist

More on the subject….

Insect fatalities at wind turbines as biodiversity sinks Christian C. Voigt

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3 HOW MANY INSECTS ARE KILLED BY WIND TURBINES?

Studies dealing with the question of how many insects are killed by wind turbines are difficult based on the reasons mentioned in the previous section. In a first pilot study conducted by the German Aerospace Center, Trieb and colleagues estimated for Germany's 30,000 onshore wind turbines that about 1,200 t of insect biomass is lost due to collisions with wind turbines during the plant growth period (April–October) (Trieb, 2018; Trieb, Gerz, & Geiger, 2018). Assuming an average wet

mass of 1 mg for an insect (Hu et al., 2016), this equates to about 1.2 trillion insects killed per year for all onshore wind turbines in Germany, or 40 million insects killed annually by a single wind turbine in Germany. It is important to note here that these estimates are sensitive to deviations from model assumptions, and thus they certainly require further confirmation based on robust empirical data. For example, these estimates may vary largely across regions, depend on the composition of local insect assemblages and on the relevance of insect migration in a specific region. Nonetheless, the postulated numbers hint at the magnitude at which insect fatalities might occur at wind turbines in the temperate zone. It is likely that this situation is aggravated in regions with a higher abundance of aerial invertebrates compared with Germany.

5 ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF INSECT INTERACTIONS WITH WIND TURBINES

As swarming and migration are linked to mating and dispersal, respectively, fatalities at wind turbines may have profound effects on insect populations at various spatial scales. Some insects, such as hill-topping butterflies, may occur only in small populations at a local scale. Placing wind turbines close to these populations or to the corresponding mating areas of these insects, for example on a mountain ridge or hilltop (Figure 2), may largely affect local populations. In addition, decline of insect populations may also diminish their ecosystem function, including services like pollination. Currently, we lack data on how siting of wind turbines affect insect fatalities at turbines and thus, how turbine siting may impact local insect diversity and associated ecosystem functions. Migrating insects may get in contact with wind turbines when moving at aerial layers that are also suitable for wind energy production. A high fatality rate of migratory insects at wind turbines may have negative consequences for distant insect populations. However, it seems challenging to quantify the effect of turbine-related fatalities on populations of migratory insects because of the intrinsic difficulty in establishing connectivity between the site where insects are killed and the corresponding source populations. It is noteworthy that insect–wind turbine interactions may also affect predators hunting for insects at turbines. Aerial insectivores such as bats are well known for searching and hunting insects in proximity to wind turbines (Foo et al., 2017; Horn, Arnett, & Kunz, 2008; Johnson, 1957; Roeleke, Blohm, Kramer-Schadt, Yovel, & Voigt, 2016; Valdez & Cryan, 2013). Rydell and colleagues argued that the findings of diurnal flies in the stomachs of bat carcasses collected below wind turbines is indicative of bats hunting for flies resting on turbine structures (Rydell et al., 2016). Furthermore, it was argued that bat mortality at wind turbines is linked to insect migration in northern Europe (Rydell et al., 2010).

Thus, insect attraction to wind turbines may impact trophic links associated with these insects, such as insect-mediated ecosystem functions and aerial predation of these insects at wind turbines. Concluding, interactions of insects with wind turbines have multifaceted consequences that reach across trophic levels and over larger spatial scales.

Christian C. Voigt
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