

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Fountain Wind Project
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Document Title:	Stephen Allen Fitch Comments - Visual Impact from retired Forest Supervisor of adjacent National Forest
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*Comment Received From: Stephen Allen Fitch
Submitted On: 4/13/2023
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01*

Visual Impact from retired Forest Supervisor of adjacent National Forest

Please see attached letter. Thanks Steve

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

March 11, 2023

Leonidas Payne, Project Manager
California Energy Commission
Environmental Office, 715 P Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov

Re: Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01)

Dear Mr. Payne,

Your staff has a good start on identifying the inadequacies of the Fountain Wind Project study on Visual Resources. Please consider the following concerns as you continue to review the subject application and your request for more information on this project.

Visual Resources:

Shasta County's theme is "Shasta Cascade Wonderland". It is the gateway for recreationists from California and beyond venturing up into the great scenic forests of Northern California Oregon, Washington **and** the Congressionally designated National Recreation Area, the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, the All American Road, the Pacific Crest Trail, State Highway 299, and Interstate 5. All of these are within view of this project. All but 2 were established by law for their scenic amenities and recreation enjoyment.

As your staff points out Key observation points (KOPs) are inadequate. Many more should be established and studied by your staff and reported in **every one of these areas**.

Mitigation:

Direct impacts-

Disguising these swirling giants twice the height of the Statue of Liberty, interrupting our landscape views, from the above areas will simply be impossible. Turbines, to be effective, must be on ridge tops and clear of vegetation and other obstructions. They will extend at least 600' above the highest tree eliminating any possibility of screening. We believe they will be in view of millions of travelers looking east as they travel up interstate 5. They will be perfectly framed by Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen. They will be impossible to hide along highway 299 and to virtually all those that visit the scenic amenities mentioned above.

Indirect impacts-

Our scenic attraction that draws recreationists to this area is one of the **keys** to the stability of the economy of Shasta County and California.

In Shasta County two of four scenic routes into these forest and scenic activity areas established by law mentioned above have been essentially destroyed by fire.

This project will severely degrade one more route (State Highway 299 east) leaving only Highway 44 unscathed. The County's review of the proposal mentions that it will violate 3 scenic elements of our County General Plan. It will destroy views on key access routes to each of the above amenities plus two National Forests, a National Park and a State Park. It is hard to imagine a

project more disruptive to the visual quality of the county for visiting recreating public. The economic impact on this recreation dependent county will be very significant and not mitigable.

Please ensure that these concerns are adequately considered by your staff as you review this project already turned down by our Planning Department and Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephen Fitch

Stephen Fitch

Shasta Trinity National Forest Supervisor Retired
(Past supervisor of 7 National Forest in 3 states)