

**DOCKETED**

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| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Fountain Wind Project                            |
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| <b>Document Title:</b>  | James Ward Comments - Objection to Fountain Wind |
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*Comment Received From: James Ward  
Submitted On: 8/23/2023  
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01*

## **Objection to Fountain Wind**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

August 19, 2023

Commissioner McAllister  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to Proposed Wind Project: Fountain Wind

Dear Commissioner McAllister,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Pit River Tribe to express my opposition to the proposed large-scale wind project that is being planned for the Montgomery Creek area. While I understand the importance of renewable energy, I believe it is crucial to carefully evaluate the potential impacts of such projects on our aboriginal lands, environment, and community.

The Tribe's aboriginal territory has been exploited since colonization for its energy resources and as recognized by Governor Newsom's 2019 Apology, dispossession of our homelands has occurred for far too long. The existing wind turbines on Hatchet Ridge already damage the landscape, and the installation of up to forty-eight (48) more will further disrupt the way of life for those that live in the area.

The topography of the Project Site is central to the Tribe's identity, oral traditions, and history. Changing the landscape so drastically is another state-sanctioned action (under SB 205) that leads to dispossession of homelands and is yet another attempt to erase our people from history. Our cultural sites on the land deserve protection.

Our region is renowned for its scenic beauty and serves as a recreational area for locals and visitors alike. The introduction of tall structures will alter the aesthetic appeal of our surroundings and impact the experience of those who enjoy the natural environment found. The project will change our homeland forever and damage important habitat for native plants, animals, and bird species. The project will also expose our area to greater threat of wildfire, which has already impacted the local communities in recent years.

In closing, I submit this letter in opposition to the Fountain Wind Project and urge the Commission to disapprove the project altogether.

Respectfully,

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Tribal Member Signature

*JAMES WARD*

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Printed Name