

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-01
Project Title:	Fountain Wind Project
TN #:	252923
Document Title:	Vaughn Giove Comments - Please deny Found Wind project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Vaughn Giove
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/3/2023 2:23:56 PM
Docketed Date:	11/3/2023

Comment Received From: Vaughn Giove
Submitted On: 11/3/2023
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01

Please deny Found Wind project

Please do not approve this wind project for the following reasons:

1. Wind power is uneconomic and not profitable without extraordinary subsidies from government. Why should the CEC and CA government prop up an economically failing industry? Studies have shown that natural gas cost about \$37/MW while wind is \$118/MW. The public ends up paying for this subsidy to support an inefficient industry so the environmental public can "feel" good, but this is clearly not a sustainable industry as it relies on government, or I should say public funding support.

Several authors and experts in the field have expressed their views of the financial unsustainability of wind power:

<https://nypost.com/2023/11/02/opinion/collapse-of-projects-shows-again-that-wind-power-is-not-affordable/>

<https://heartland.org/opinion/wind-power-and-solar-power-arent-cheaper-than-coal-or-natural-gas/>

The public should not allow our government support uneconomically and inefficient industries for political reasons. Unbiased and apolitical engineers and physicists generally agree that wind is much too inefficient and costly for the societal benefit that it provides. Given the inordinate public subsidy in this industry, we deserve much better.

2. In addition to being financially unsustainable, wind power still requires redundancy or back-up power by traditional power sources for the periods when wind power generation is low. California imports 25% to 30% of its energy from other states, and renewable energy projects such as Fountain Wind will not reduce the demand for these imports. California needs smart solutions and public sacrifice to produce truly clean energy and not export our consumption and environmental impact on other states.

3. The Shasta Cascades Timberlands is extremely fire prone. Fountain Wind will occupy a portion of the 70,000 acer Fountain Fire scar from 1991. Hatchet Ridge has very strong winds and wind driven fires are common. Wind turbines increase the fire threat by diminishing the ability and effectiveness of aerial fire fighters.

4. The Pit River Tribe has seen thousands of acres of their sacred lands taken by the government to build the Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake, which was another renewable power project. We should respect the Tribe's request that we leave some of their ancestral grounds remain undeveloped. The Fountain Wind will occupy ridges of Pit River Tribal territory that once served as their hunting and foraging grounds in addition to being their spiritual and ceremonial grounds.

If California wanted to solve its energy problems and face the issue of importing 25 to 30% from out of state, the leaders would look towards the new generation of nuclear energy that is occurring in other parts of the world. No one in the United States likes to discuss that 70% of France's energy consumption is nuclear power produced within their borders.

From the Pit River Tribe's headquarters in Burney CA, every time they look to the West, their horizon will be forever scarred by the visage of those turbines. Worse their sacrifice will be in support of highly inefficient, unprofitable, government subsidized, environmental scam that was perpetuated upon the public by well meaning but ignorant individuals.

Fountain wind and wind power in general will not solve California's energy problems. The public ends up subsidizing a failing industry to appease the media and environmental luddites.