

# Fountain Wind Project

## Summary

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>SCH Number</b>           | 2023110139  |
| <b>Lead Agency</b>          | California Energy Commission  |
| <b>Document Title</b>       | Fountain Wind Project   |
| <b>Document Type</b>        | NOP - Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR  |
| <b>Received</b>             | 11/3/2023   |
| <b>Present Land Use</b>     | Timber Production/Timber  |
| <b>Document Description</b> | <p>The Fountain Wind Project is a proposed wind energy generation facility on approximately 2,855 acres of private, leased land in unincorporated Shasta County, California. The property is located approximately 1 mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, 6 miles west of Burney, 35 miles northeast of Redding, immediately south of California State Route (Highway) 299, and near the private recreational facility of Moose Camp and other private inholdings.</p> <p>The project would have a total nameplate generating capacity of up to 205 megawatts (MW). The applicant proposes to construct up to 48 turbines, each with a generating capacity of up to 7.2 MW. Associated infrastructure and facilities would include a 34.5-kilovolt overhead and underground electrical collector system to connect turbines together and to an on-site collector substation; overhead and underground fiber-optic communication lines and/or a microwave relay station; an on-site switching station to connect the project to the existing regional grid operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company; a temporary construction and equipment laydown area; up to nine temporary laydown areas distributed throughout the project site to temporarily store and stage materials and equipment; an operation and maintenance facility with employee parking; up to three permanent meteorological evaluation towers (METs); temporary, episodic deployment of mobile Sonic Detection and Ranging or Light Detection and Ranging systems within identified disturbance areas (e.g., at MET locations); two storage sheds; and three temporary concrete batch plants. Up to 19 miles of new access roads would be constructed within the project site, and up to 19 miles of existing roads would be improved. No new transmission lines are proposed.</p> |

## Contact Information

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>        | Leonidas Payne               |
| <b>Agency Name</b> | California Energy Commission |
| <b>Job Title</b>   | Project Manage               |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Contact Types</b> | Lead/Public Agency                          |
| <b>Address</b>       | 715 P Street, MS 40<br>Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| <b>Phone</b>         | (916) 838-2124                              |
| <b>Email</b>         | leonidas.payne@energy.ca.gov                |

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## Location

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Counties</b>            | Shasta                    |
| <b>Regions</b>             | Unincorporated            |
| <b>Cross Streets</b>       | SR 299 and G Line Road    |
| <b>Total Acres</b>         | 2,855                     |
| <b>State Highways</b>      | SR 299                    |
| <b>Railways</b>            | None                      |
| <b>Airports</b>            | None                      |
| <b>Schools</b>             | None                      |
| <b>Waterways</b>           | various, See Attachment A |
| <b>Other Location Info</b> | see Attachment A          |

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## Notice of Completion

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>State Review Period Start</b> | 11/3/2023   |
| <b>State Review Period End</b>   | 12/4/2023   |
| <b>State Reviewing Agencies</b>  | California Air Resources Board (ARB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northern and Eureka Region 1 (CDFW), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Transportation, District 2 (DOT), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Energy Commission, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), California Natural Resources Agency, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Redding Region 5 (RWQCB), California State Lands Commission (SLC), Department of Toxic Substances Control, Office of Historic Preservation, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality |
| <b>Development Types</b>         | Power:Wind (Megawatts 205)  |
| <b>Local Actions</b>             | none  |
| <b>Project Issues</b>            | Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Cumulative Effects, Drainage/Absorption, Energy, Flood Plain/Flooding, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Growth Inducement, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water  |

Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mandatory Findings of Significance, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Schools/Universities, Septic System, Solid Waste, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities/Service Systems, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian, Wildfire

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## Attachments

**Draft Environmental Document [Draft IS, NOI\_NOA\_Public notices, OPR Summary Form, Appx,]**

FountainWind\_Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report **PDF** **549 K**

FountainWind\_SCH\_SummaryForm\_Package **PDF** **473 K**

**Notice of Completion [NOC] Transmittal form**

FountainWind\_NOC\_Package **PDF** **362 K**

**Disclaimer:** The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) accepts no responsibility for the content or accessibility of these documents. To obtain an attachment in a different format, please contact the lead agency at the contact information listed above. You may also contact the OPR via email at [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov) or via phone at [\(916\) 445-0613](tel:(916)445-0613). For more information, please visit [OPR's Accessibility Site](#).

## Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

|              |
|--------------|
| <b>SCH #</b> |
|--------------|

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Location:** County: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Nearest Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross Streets: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N / \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" W Total Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assessor's Parcel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Document Type:**

|                                      |  |                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP   | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR                 | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons  | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA        | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec     | (Prior SCH No.) _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI     | _____  |

**Local Action Type:**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update    | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element   | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan         | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan                | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |

**Development Type:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____               |  |

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks                | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land        | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding       | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality              | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard    | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources     | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption      | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs            | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____             |

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".


|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of          | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency      | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics            | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy          | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission                          | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board                        | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of                  | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission                 | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission                           | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of           | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission         |  |

### Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Consulting Firm: _____ | Applicant: _____      |
| Address: _____         | Address: _____        |
| City/State/Zip: _____  | City/State/Zip: _____ |
| Contact: _____         | Phone: _____          |
| Phone: _____           |                       |

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

## Attachment A for NOC

**Location:**

| Location  | Township/Range | Latitude               | Longitude               |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| NW Corner | 035N / 001E    | 40° 52' 17.78583515" N | 121° 51' 59.70380910" W |
| NE Corner | 035N / 002E    | 40° 51' 14.34660324" N | 121° 46' 48.60091825" W |
| SE Corner | 034N / 001E    | 40° 46' 41.24447906" N | 121° 49' 18.54399918" W |
| SW Corner | 034N / 002E    | 40° 46' 46.82428761" N | 121° 51' 30.65781792" W |

**APNs:**

|              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 027130046000 | 027140028000 | 027160020000 | 027160027000 | 027160047000 |
| 027160049000 | 027210006000 | 027220001000 | 029170006000 | 029170008000 |
| 029190010000 | 029190011000 | 029190012000 | 029190013000 | 029190014000 |
| 029190016000 | 029190017000 | 029200043000 | 029210001000 | 029210009000 |
| 029210019000 | 029210020000 | 029210021000 | 029220006000 | 029250001000 |
| 029250010000 | 030080005000 | 030080006000 | 030080007000 | 030080008000 |
| 030080013000 | 030080014000 | 034010003000 | 034010004000 | 034010008000 |
| 034010016000 | 034010017000 |              |              |              |

**Waterways within 2 miles of the project:**

|                             |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Mill Creek                  | Richardson Creek            | Willow Creek         |
| Buffum Creek                | Montgomery Creek            | Little Hatchet Creek |
| Hall Creek                  | Goat Creek                  | Little Cow Creek     |
| South Fork Montgomery Creek | North Fork Little Cow Creek | Cedar Creek          |
| North Fork Montgomery Creek | Hatchett Creek              |                      |

**Project Description:**

The Fountain Wind Project is a proposed wind energy generation facility on approximately 2,855 acres of private, leased land in unincorporated Shasta County, California. The property is located approximately 1 mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, 6 miles west of Burney, 35 miles northeast of Redding, immediately south of California State Route (Highway) 299, and near the private recreational facility of Moose Camp and other private inholdings.

The project would have a total nameplate generating capacity of up to 205 megawatts (MW). The applicant proposes to construct up to 48 turbines, each with a generating capacity of up to 7.2 MW. Associated infrastructure and facilities would include a 34.5-kilovolt overhead and underground electrical collector system to connect turbines together and to an on-site collector substation; overhead and underground fiber-optic communication lines and/or a microwave relay station; an on-site switching station to connect the project to the existing regional grid operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric

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**Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal****Form F**

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: Fountain WindLead Agency: California Energy CommissionContact Name: Leonidas PayneEmail: leonidas.payne@energy.ca.govPhone Number: 916-838-2123Project Location: unincorporated Shasta County*City**County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

See Attachment A

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

See Attachment A



If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Tribal Cultural Resources, wildfire risks, impacts to bald and golden eagles, land use ordinance banning development like the proposed project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Responsible Agencies

State Water Board

Regional Water Quality Control Board

Trustee Agency

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Attachment A for Summary Form

### Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Fountain Wind Project is a proposed wind energy generation facility on approximately 2,855 acres of private, leased land in unincorporated Shasta County, California. The property is located approximately 1 mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, 6 miles west of Burney, 35 miles northeast of Redding, immediately south of California State Route (Highway) 299, and near the private recreational facility of Moose Camp and other private inholdings.

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| NE Corner | 035N / 002E    | 40° 51' 14.34660324" N | 121° 46' 48.60091825" W |
| SE Corner | 034N / 001E    | 40° 46' 41.24447906" N | 121° 49' 18.54399918" W |
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### APNs:

|              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 027130046000 | 027140028000 | 027160020000 | 027160027000 | 027160047000 |
| 027160049000 | 027210006000 | 027220001000 | 029170006000 | 029170008000 |
| 029190010000 | 029190011000 | 029190012000 | 029190013000 | 029190014000 |
| 029190016000 | 029190017000 | 029200043000 | 029210001000 | 029210009000 |
| 029210019000 | 029210020000 | 029210021000 | 029220006000 | 029250001000 |
| 029250010000 | 030080005000 | 030080006000 | 030080007000 | 030080008000 |
| 030080013000 | 030080014000 | 034010003000 | 034010004000 | 034010008000 |

|              |              |  |  |  |
|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| 034010016000 | 034010017000 |  |  |  |
|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|

**Identify the project’s significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect**

Although the EIR will analyze the reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed project in the topic areas specified in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, and environmental justice (EJ), preliminary review of the application and other filed information indicates the following probable environmental effects:

**Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources.** At least twenty discrete tribal cultural resources are in the proposed project site or within its viewshed. The cumulative archaeological and ethnographic evidence, and modern Native testimony presented in Shasta County’s previous CEQA proceedings establish a Native American cultural landscape. According to members of the Pit River Tribe, trails link ridges like Hatchet Ridge to different valleys, settlements, and power places. Historical and current traditional medicine men and women travel to the power places to acquire their healing knowledge and visions. Successful vision quests at power places like Hatchet Ridge-Bunchgrass Mountain (in the project footprint) require those places to be isolated and tranquil, with sweeping natural vistas. Trails provide egress to hunting and plant-gathering areas, as well as to homes or trading partners. All these features of a cultural landscape coalesce in the Montgomery Creek drainage where the applicant proposes to build the project. Modern tribal communities retain their lengthy and intimate connection to this place and claim continuity of use today. In addition, over 20 known artifact and burial sites have been located in the area during planning work, which supports the conclusion that the region is rife with physical evidence of historical and cultural connection, including numerous instances of found human remains, the disturbance of which is probable. Mitigation for some found artifacts and burial sites is possible, but would not reduce the severity of impacts to a less-than-significant level for CEQA purposes.

**Wildfire.** Wildfire is a significant concern and public safety issue in California and locally. 21 years ago, the Fountain Fire, a significant damaging wildfire, burned through the area and destroyed more than 600 structures and indirectly lead to three deaths. A considerable number of documents addressing wildfire have been submitted to the docket from multiple sources. Staff’s preliminary assessment indicates that the project would have significant impacts and potentially have unmitigable impacts on wildfire. Three features of the project increase the risk of and potentially the severity of wildfires. First, the project creates open areas on ridgetops that allow wind to exacerbate fire risk to the exposed trees. Second, introducing fire sources such as electrical components (nacelles, electrical lines), and workers and associated equipment into the environment could create sparks and/or be a source of ignition in remote areas. Third, the project would introduce significant limitations on aerial firefighting abilities to aid in controlling

and reducing the intensity of wildfires in the project area due to the spacing and height of the proposed remote turbines (over 600 feet tall). Aerial firefighting uses several types of aerial firefighting assets including large and small fixed wing planes and helicopters; however, the use of these assets would be limited within the project area due to the presence and layout of the turbines. With the project layout, there are no clear straight paths for firefighting planes to fly across/through the project area and aerial firefighting would be primarily limited to small areas along the edge of the project site and areas outside the perimeter of the project. The ability of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to use firefighting planes or helicopters within the project site during wildfires would be further dependent on other considerations such as fire conditions, wind, and topography that would increase the hazards related to the presence of the turbines. CalFire does not fly aerial firefighting craft within a minimum of 500 feet vertically or horizontally of turbine structures; for safety, this minimum distance would be increased, potentially significantly, during fires based on site and fire conditions. Although the project will increase access to the project site area for groundbased firefighting, the limits on use of aerial firefighting assets within the project site would hamper the effectiveness of firefighting activities. The testimony from Shasta County's CEQA proceedings, the applicant's Opt-in application, and comment letters submitted to the CEC present conflicting assessment of the significance of the additional wildfire risk the project represents, but there is substantial evidence to support the finding of significant impacts. CEC staff is currently coordinating with regional CalFire experts to discuss CalFire's perspective on the wildfire risk from the project turbines and other project features, and how effective proposed or other potential mitigation would be in the event of a wildfire.

**Visual Resources.** The aesthetic effects of the Fountain Wind Project are being assessed from nine, representative Key Observation Points (KOPs) at eight different locations, ranging from nearby viewing locations on Highway 299 in Hatchet Mountain Pass (approximately 0.5 to 0.75 mile distant; KOPs 4a and 4b) to moderate distance views (3 to 8 miles) from local mountain communities including Round Mountain, Montgomery Creek, and Burney (KOPs 2, 3a/3b, and 5a/5b respectively) (TN 250566). More distant regional views (approximately 18.5 to 28.5 miles) are from the Pit River Overlook (KOP 6) and the City of Redding (KOP 7) (TN 248320-8). Based on an assessment of project-induced visual contrast, structural dominance, and view blockage or impairment, it is expected that the project's overall visual change is likely to result in significant impacts. It is anticipated that project turbines and the eastern access road would substantially degrade the existing visual character and quality of public views of the site and its surroundings when seen from portions of Highway 299 through Hatchet Mountain Pass as documented in the visual simulations prepared for KOPs 4a and 4b. It is anticipated that these impacts would potentially be significant and unmitigable.

**Biological Resources.** Staff anticipates significant adverse impacts to or direct mortality of bald and golden eagles during project operations. Staff also anticipates significant adverse impacts due to mortality and injury to raptors as a result of collisions with wind turbines and electrical transmission lines during project operations. The

United States Fish and Wildlife Service has advised the applicant to obtain a take permit for bald and golden eagles based on the potential for the take of these species.

**Inconsistency with local ordinance.** Effective August 11, 2022, Shasta County Code section 17.88.335 prohibits any wind generation electric system not allowable under the small wind ordinance, which allows a single turbine per 5 acres for the electrical use of the service property only, not for sale to the grid, and not to exceed 65 feet in height. Section 17.88.335 was amended March 14, 2023, to add to the Legislative Findings in support of the Ordinance that “In light of the [impacts to biological, visual aesthetic, wildfire safety, historical, cultural, and tribal interests], the construction of large wind energy systems will not have an overall net positive economic benefit to the County of Shasta. The listed impacts outweigh any potential economic benefits to the County that may be available from such large wind energy systems.” Also, subdivision (f) of the revised ordinance states that no County officer, agency, or department is authorized to agree to any community benefits agreement for large wind energy systems without the prior approval of the Board of Supervisors. As currently proposed, the project is inconsistent with the Shasta County zoning prohibition against large scale wind. Therefore, the CEC cannot approve the project unless the CEC determines the facility is: 1) required for public convenience and necessity, and 2) that there are no more prudent and feasible means of achieving such public convenience and necessity. (Pub. Resources Code § § 25525 and 25545.8). In making the determination regarding the lack of a more prudent and feasible means to achieve the convenience and necessity of the project, the CEC must consider the impacts of the facility on the environment, consumer benefits, and electric system reliability.