

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



IN THE MATTER OF:

*Fountain Wind Opt-in Application for
Certification*

DOCKET NO. 23-OPT-01

NOTICE OF JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL
SCOPING and INFORMATIONAL MEETING

RE: FOUNTAIN WIND PROJECT

**Notice of Joint Environmental
Scoping and Informational Meeting**

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

In-person at:

**Gaia Hotel and Spa
Himalaya Ballroom
4125 Riverside Place
Anderson, CA 96007
(Wheelchair Accessible)**

Remote Access via Zoom:

See attendance Instructions below.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a meeting pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.7.2 to present and solicit information on the proposed Fountain Wind Project. This will be a hybrid meeting with both a publicly accessible physical location and public access online or by phone through Zoom™. Members of the public can participate in the meeting consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Agenda

Please see agenda attached at the end of this notice.

Background

Effective June 30, 2022, Assembly Bill (AB) 205, and as modified by AB 209, added sections 25545-25545.13 to the Public Resources Code which expanded the CEC's existing power plant licensing authority by creating the Opt-in Certification Program. This new program allows specified clean energy projects to seek consolidated permitting at the CEC until June 30, 2029, if they adhere to specified labor standards, including the use of skilled and trained workforce, and provide local and community benefits, as specified. These projects include solar photovoltaic or terrestrial wind electricity generating power plants 50 megawatts (MW) or more, energy storage systems 200 megawatt-hours or more, the electric transmission line from these facilities to the first point of interconnection, and facilities that manufacture or assemble clean energy or storage technologies or their components with a capital investment of at least \$250 million.

Under this statutory authority, the CEC permit replaces all local, state, and federal permits, except for leases issued by the State Lands Commission and permits issued by the Coastal Commission, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, or regional water control boards. For manufacturing facilities, the CEC permits do not replace permits issued by the local air quality management districts or the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The law also requires the CEC to be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and after an application is deemed complete to do the following:

1. Prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
2. Hold public meetings as close as practicable to the proposed project site.
3. Consult with California Native American Tribes that are culturally and traditionally associated with the geographic area of the proposed site.
4. Find that the applicant has entered into one or more legally binding and enforceable agreements with, or that benefit, a coalition of one or more community-based organizations.
5. Find that the construction or operation of the facility will have an overall net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority over the site and related facility, as specified.
6. Determine whether to approve or deny the proposed project at a publicly noticed business meeting within 270 days unless certain extensions apply.

Fountain Wind LLC (Applicant) filed an opt-in application on January 10, 2023, for the Fountain Wind Project, a wind energy generating facility proposed at a site in unincorporated Shasta County, California. On February 10, 2023, the CEC deemed the application incomplete and docketed a letter detailing the information deficiencies. Then on October 30, 2023, after receiving additional data, the CEC staff determined that the application was complete. On November 3,

2023, the CEC staff issued a Notice of Preparation of a draft EIR to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Project Summary

The Fountain Wind Project is a proposed wind energy generating 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 applicant proposes to construct up to 48 turbines, each with a generating capacity of up to 7.2 MW, for a total generating capacity of 205 MW. Associated infrastructure and facilities would include an electric power distribution system consisting of a 34.5-kilovolt overhead power line and an underground electrical collector system to connect turbines together and transmit 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; 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.

For more information regarding proposed project facilities, construction-related activities, and associated timelines, please download and view [the applicant's updated project description](#) (TN 251663, submitted August 17, 2023) available [on the project's docket](#).
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=251663&DocumentContentId=86566>

Purpose of the Joint Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting

The Joint Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public, including surrounding communities, to learn about the proposed project and the CEC's opt-in certification process. The public will be able to obtain information, identify areas of environmental concern to be addressed during the CEC's environmental review of the project, and provide other comments.

During the meeting, the applicant will explain its proposed plans for constructing and operating the project and related facilities. CEC staff will describe CEC and CEC staff's role and responsibilities in reviewing the opt-in application and engaging with government agencies, the public, and California Native American Tribes to inform this review. The CEC's Public Advisor will describe how interested members of the public can participate in the process, including during environmental review and CEC decision-making.

The meeting also assists CEC staff in obtaining additional information to prepare the draft environmental impact report, determine whether the project meets all program requirements,

including benefits to the local government and community, and provide a recommendation as to whether the CEC should ultimately approve or deny the application.

CEC welcomes public comment at the meeting concerning the project. Feedback on the following considerations, in particular, is greatly appreciated:

1. CEC staff identified probable significant environmental effects across multiple topic areas including tribal cultural resources, biological resources, visual resources, and wildfire in its Notice of Preparation. Are there mitigation measures sufficient to reduce these impacts below the level of significance? What additional mitigation measures might CEC staff consider to further reduce impacts in these topic areas?
2. Are there other topic areas in which the proposed project creates a potential significant environmental effect?
3. The proposed project is inconsistent with the Shasta County ordinance which bans large scale wind projects and concludes that such projects have no positive economic benefit to the county. The opt-in law authorizes the CEC to approve a project despite a conflicting local ordinance. What factors are most important and should be considered by CEC staff in developing a recommendation for or against approval of the project despite the inconsistency with the local ordinance?
4. What value to state goals, such as meeting renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, does the project and its 205 MW of renewable energy generation bring, if any? What value to local consumer benefits, local environmental goals, and grid reliability within the county does the project create, if any?
5. The applicant is proposing to contract with the Community Foundation of the North State to fund grants to meet the legal requirement for the applicant to enter into one or more legally binding and enforceable agreements with, or that benefit, a coalition of one or more community-based organizations. Does such an agreement provide community-based benefits? What types of projects should be funded to benefit local communities?
6. Are there alternative renewable energy generation technologies or project sites the state should consider instead of the Fountain Wind's potential energy generation of 205 MWs?

Attendance Instructions

In-person participants may join the meeting at **Gaia Hotel and Spa--Himalaya Ballroom, 4125 Riverside Place, Anderson, CA 96007**. Masks and social distancing are encouraged, but not required.

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/88198540640?pwd=S2RtczRkdFZ0Vkd6aFU1dXRuamxYUT09> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID **881 9854 0640** and passcode **260713** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **881 9854 0640** and passcode **260713**.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A certified transcript of the workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

A public comment period will be provided during the Meeting. Depending on the number of members of the public seeking to make a comment, the total time allotted for public comment and the time allotted for each comment may be adjusted during the meeting.

If participating via Zoom's online platform, use the "raise hand" feature to indicate you would like to make a comment. The Public Advisor will open your line to speak. Please restate and spell your name for the record, indicate if you have an affiliation, and begin your comments.

If participating by telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute. The Public Advisor will announce the last three digits of the phone number listed and open your line. Make sure to unmute your phone before speaking then restate and spell your name for the record, indicate if you have an affiliation, state your position on the proposed project, if any, and begin your comments.

Additionally, the Public Advisor may upon the request of interested members of the public who are not able to attend, neutrally read their comments into the record during the public comment period. If you are interested in this service, please email concise comments the day before the Meeting to the Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov. Comments submitted the day of the Meeting or that cannot be read within a two-minute timeframe will be filed in the Docket referenced below.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2023.

The CEC maintains publicly accessible online dockets for its proceedings where public comments, notices, agendas, and other documents are filed and maintained. The [docket](#) for the Fountain Wind Project, 23-OPT-01, is available at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.

The CEC encourages use of its quick and easy e-commenting site where anyone can “Add Comment” to a docket. Comments may be entered into a “Comment Text” box or attached as a document. Any attachments must be downloadable, searchable, maximum size of 10 MB, and in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1208.1. Visit the [e-commenting page](#) for the docket associated with this event at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.

Comment by Email or Regular Mail: To request your comment be docketed by CEC staff, email your comment to docket@energy.ca.gov and include docket number 23-OPT-01 and “Joint Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting” in the subject line, or send a paper copy of your comment to California Energy Commission, Docket Unit MS-4, Docket No. 23-OPT-01, 715 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

Public Advisor. The CEC’s Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject and General Inquiries: CEC Project Manager, Leonidas Payne at STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov.

Availability of Documents: All documents filed in these proceedings, including a full and formal transcript of the Joint Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting rendered by a professional court reporter, will be posted in the docket for the proceeding. Please visit the following pages for more information:

- CEC’s web page on the proposed project at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/wind/fountain-wind-project>
- The “Docket Log (23-OPT-01)” link on the Fountain Wind Project’s web page at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.
- Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-OPT-01>.
- When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Fountain Wind Project subscription topic. Enter your email under “Subscribe Fountain Wind Project”

on the Fountain Wind Project webpage
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/wind/fountain-wind-project> to subscribe. To receive notices on this and other email subscription topics, visit Subscriptions, at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: November 17, 2023, at Sacramento, California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Huber", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Huber
Director—Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division

Subscriptions:
Fountain Wind Project

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Joint Environmental Scoping and Informational Meeting

Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01)

The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. and will conclude at 10:00 p.m.

All start and end times are estimates

1. Welcome
2. Presentation on the opt-in certification process
3. Presentation by the Applicant on the project as currently proposed, including information on project features which address mandatory requirements of the opt-in licensing process (e.g. labor agreements/prevaling wage, economic benefits, community benefits)
4. CEC staff Presentation on analysis and issues identified so far
5. Presentation on public participation opportunities by the CEC's Public Advisor
- (Break)
6. Input and comments from California Native American Tribes, responsible and trustee agencies, elected officials, other government agencies.
- (Break)
7. Comments from interested members of the public, organizations, and neighboring communities.
8. Adjourn