

**DOCKETED**

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## **Opposed to Fountain Wind Project**

I have been living in Shasta County for 40 years, including 8 years in Burney, near the proposed project site. As a younger man I hiked some of the area of the proposed site, observing a mixture of wildlife, including nesting Bald Eagles. Before moving here 40 years ago I lived in 4 different states and 2 foreign countries. I live in Shasta County because I think this is one of the most beautiful areas in the whole country.

The first time I saw a large, modern wind turbine I was awed by its novelty, its size, and the engineering involved. But after the windmills were installed on Hatchet Ridge just west of Burney, their visual presence all day long, every day of the year, became a visual blight on our beautiful rural area. They corrupt the view of our natural mountains and are visible over 30 miles away.

I do not want to see more of our natural surroundings spoiled by the addition of more windmills. We have a healthy population of Bald Eagles in Eastern Shasta County. I believe that the windmills are a threat to the Eagles and many other species of birds. If a citizen kills a Bald Eagle it is a Federal offense, punishable with up to a year in prison and a fine up to \$250,000. In their presentation. ConnectGen said that they would mitigate the killing of Eagles and other wildlife. They did not say how. I suggest that they could be fined \$250,000 per Eagle killed. How would they be held accountable?

ConnectGen claims that financial arrangements would be in place to ensure proper removal and disposal of the wind turbines at the end of their useful life. I would only trust this statement if the total money was held in separate escrow. If the company went out of business, or declared bankruptcy would there still be the money available to remove and dispose of the wind turbines?

I believe that if the state of California truly feels the need for more wind turbines, they should be located in remote desert areas or far offshore.

Our beautiful Shasta County is too precious to be degraded by the installation of any more wind turbines. The experience of having the smaller Hatchet Ridge project has been enough to convince the vast majority of county residents that we don't want any more of these eyesore projects. That is why the county passed the ordinance prohibiting any more of these wind projects. Please respect the strongly held views of our county residents and do not approve the Fountain Wind Project. Thank you. Milo Johnson