

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Mark David Harner  
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## **Fountain Wind Project**

Mr. Leonidas Payne, Project Manager  
California Energy Commission  
Environmental Office, 715 P Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov  
Re: Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01)

September 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Payne,

I am an enthusiastic proponent of green energy, but wish to express my concerns about the proposed Fountain Wind Project. Foremost among these is the fact that the electricity produced must be transported great distances, with the result that much will be lost during transmission. When it becomes necessary to construct towers and substations, great distances also result in the unnecessary displacement of residents along transmission lines.

Efficient use of resources and respect for landowners and consumers alike demand that generation projects be constructed as near the point of consumption as possible in order to reduce the cost and impact of electricity produced. California has huge, unexploited wind resources capable of meeting the needs of its growing population in the very areas where they are most needed. It may be argued that off-shore wind is expensive, but history shows that the price of any technology decreases rapidly when production scales up. Given that such off-shore wind will soon become a necessity, perhaps the time to begin developing that resource is today.

Finally, the rationale for the development of additional wind power in rural Northeastern California appears to be the lack of political power of this region relative to expanding urban centers located to the south. Those who demand more electricity refuse to shoulder the environmental, societal and economic costs of that energy, and so slough these off on that subset of the population that is powerless to resist. Of course, this flies in the face of everything we know about encouraging responsible behavior. Where is the incentive to conserve energy if the costs associated with its use fall upon someone else? It is my hope that the Commission will pursue the development of renewable energy resources nearer to those who need them, and by doing so improve the efficiency of these systems, encourage conservation, and limit the negative impacts on rural populations who already bear a disproportionately large burden.

Thank you,

Mark Harner