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Comment Received From: Kathryn Hettich Submitted On: 1/19/2024 Docket Number: 23-OPT-01

Opposed to Fountain Wind Project - Fire Aviation Safety

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Kathryn Hettich 311 South St. Apt. 108 Redding, CA 96001-2144 January 19, 2024

Mr. Leonidas Payne, Project Manager

California Energy Commission Environmental Office, 715 P Street, MS-15 Sacramento, CA 95814 Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov

Subject: Opposition to the Fountain Wind Project in Shasta County

Dear Mr. Payne and members of the California Energy Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Fountain Wind Project in Shasta County, California. As a concerned resident of California, I believe that this project poses significant environmental, social, and economic risks that must be carefully considered and addressed.

I viewed the online presentation by Stephen Fitch, retired Shasta-Trinity NF Supervisor and concur with his assessments: namely, that a wind-farm would 1) substantially degrade the prized wild scenery of the northstate, and 2) pose significant impediment and danger to aerial response in fire-fighting. The second reason alone should be the end of discussion about the Fountain Wind Project. Pilots and fire fighters should be primary among sources evaluating the project for the EIR.

Since 2015, I have worked several summers as Fire Lookout for the US Forest Service. In my position, I am concerned for the safety of communities interspersed near National Forests and subject to fire. I am also concerned for the safety of the responding professional fire crews. The area proposed for the Fountain Wind Project is NOT suitable on account of fire safety alone.

I urge the California Energy Commission to conduct a thorough and transparent review of the Fountain Wind Project, considering the potential consequences it may have on the community and environment. It is essential that all relevant stakeholders, including local residents, are given the opportunity to voice their concerns and have their input taken into account during the decision-making process, especially considering that Shasta County has twice rejected this project already. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the California Energy Commission will carefully evaluate the concerns and objections of the residents of Shasta County before making any decisions regarding the Fountain Wind Project.

Sincerely,

Kathryn (Kay) Hettich