

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Fountain Wind Project
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*Comment Received From: Shasta Christian Youth  
Submitted On: 2/14/2024  
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01*

**Shasta Christian Youth opposition to Fountain Wind Project**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

# Shasta Christian Youth - Board of Directors

*P.O. Box 494591  
Redding, California*

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

February 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Payne,

By introduction, Shasta Christian Youth (SCY) is a ministry to the youth, their families, and churches of the north state and beyond through Mountain Meadows Bible Camp (MMBC) and Mountain Valley Expeditions (a backpacking ministry in the northstate). Through these ministries over the last 50 years thousands have heard the message of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 2012 the Ponderosa fire burned north and northeast from Manton up the ridges of Sierra Pacific Industries land and surrounded MMBC on three sides. By God's grace camp was spared. Then again in 2019 an arsonist started a fire just north of camp which burned to our property line - again camp was spared. In both cases aerial fire attack played a major role in protecting our facilities (see attached photo). Through those experiences and others (such as the fires within the northstate over the last several years), the Board of Shasta Christian Youth has become extremely aware of the dangers and effects of fire. One side effect has been the loss of our fire insurance and the inability to find affordable coverage, a common occurrence for those living within the foothill communities.

We write you now to express our concern over the proposed Fountain Wind Project. We are sufficiently aware of the proposed project and the effects it would have on the intermountain community. Our particular concern is two-fold. One, the loss of the scenic values of the foothill communities which display the beauty and glory of God's wonderful creation. The second is the endangerment this project would cause to the people of the area and their property due to the increased fire ignition potential and the loss of the ability to fight fire by aerial attack due to height and locations of the towers.

Another concern is that should your Commission approve this project the door will be opened to similar projects on the east side of the valley and possibly the west. The east side may find itself looking like Altamont Pass - so much for our beautiful Cascade Wonderland. MMBC is surrounded on three sides by Sierra Pacific Industry lands (SPI). The Hatchet Wind project sits on SPI lands and therefore there is the potential that SPI would entertain a similar project in the Shingletown/Viola area should the commission

approve this project. That would naturally destroy the Shingletown Ridge beauty and put that community and our camp in danger as well.

Over the last several years the northstate has lost much due to fire. The towns of Greenville and Paradise were destroyed and Chester, Westwood and Old Station were barely saved through massive aerial attack. Do we dare risk Round Mountain, Montgomery Creek, Moose Camp, Burney, and Shingletown by approving a project that takes away the ability to fight a fire with aerial attack? (pilot's docketed testimony to the CEC) How could anyone who cares about people consider that?

Due to these issues, we most respectfully ask you to uphold the decision of the Shasta County Planning Commission, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and the ban on industrial wind development in our county and vote to deny this project. No amount of money offered by the project's proponent is worth endangering the two greatest resources we have in the northstate, our people and God's beautiful creation.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Yours sincerely, for the SCY Board,

*Mark McKinley*

Mark McKinley, SCY Board Chairman

Email: [mmckinley429@gmail.com](mailto:mmckinley429@gmail.com)

SCY Board of Directors

Mark McKinley, Palo Cedro  
Dale Pack, Cottonwood  
Jim Weaver, Old Shasta  
Mark Boyle, Cottonwood  
Steve Kerns, Oak Run  
Shawn Bainbridge, Cottonwood

See photo on following page

This image is of a retardant drop at our Mt. Meadows Bible Camp on the arson fire in 2019. The snag trees are left from the 2012 Ponderosa Fire and are approximately 100 feet tall. That places the plane at about 200 feet above the ground. This drop would not have been possible with 600 plus tall wind turbines in the area. The young trees are a plantation we planted after the Ponderosa Fire.

