

DOCKETED

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April 16, 2024

Henry Woltag
Fountain Wind LLC
1001 McKinney, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77002

Data Requests for Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01)

Dear Henry Woltag:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.4(d) and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15084(b) and title 20, section 1878(a), the California Energy Commission (CEC) staff is asking for the information specified in the enclosed data requests, which are necessary for a complete staff analysis of the Fountain Wind Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These data requests seek further information related to the technical areas of Traffic and Transportation and Water Resources following the receipt of a series of applicant filings dated March 1 through March 18, 2024.

To assist CEC staff in timely completing its environmental review, CEC staff is requesting responses to the data requests within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you are unable to provide the information requested or believe that additional time will be needed to provide a response, please send written notice to me within 10 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please email me at leonidas.payne@energy.ca.gov.

/S/

Leonidas Payne
Project Manager

Enclosure: Data Requests

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND: Traffic Study

On March 1, 2024, the applicant submitted an updated traffic study (TN 254771) that replaced the original traffic study (TN 251534) to account for its project change to now truck water and pre-mixed concrete to the site instead of using piped water on-site provided by the Burney Water District. The traffic study updated elements of the transportation analysis, like the calculation of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), but updates to other elements may have been overlooked, including modifications to the project trip generation during construction, which is necessary information to evaluate traffic operations on State Route (SR) 299 at the access intersections. In addition, there appears to be an inconsistency between the text description, discussing project traffic at the proposed access intersections and the figures (Figure 4 and Figure 5) illustrating this information.

The following data requests address the deficiencies in the traffic study.

DATA REQUESTS

TRANSPORTATION-1: Please provide a table summarizing employment levels and the daily, AM peak hour, and PM peak hour trip generation for the project under the construction scenario (peak conditions) and the operations and maintenance scenario. The table should summarize total, inbound, and outbound trips.

TRANSPORTATION-2: Please verify that the trip generation summarized in the table provided in response to DR TRANSPORTATION-1, matches the trip generation at the project access intersection on SR 299.

TRANSPORTATION-3: Please verify that the traffic analysis is correct. Update as needed in response to DR TRANSPORTATION-1 and DR TRANSPORTATION-2.

WATER RESOURCES

BACKGROUND: Water Supply

On March 18, 2024, the applicant submitted a water supply report (WSR) (TN 255154) that replaced the original water supply assessment (TN 248320), which was made obsolete by the Burney Water District's decision to deny water supply to the Fountain Wind Project (BWD 2023). Although the WSR clarified many details regarding water supply for the Fountain Wind Project, it does not adequately provide details regarding the purveyor and source of the water supply, which is essential information to evaluate related environmental impacts.

During construction, groundwater would be pumped from private or public wells within five possible groundwater basins in the greater Redding area, or from the Burney Creek Valley groundwater basin and imported to the project site. This water source may also

be utilized during project operations. This means that the location of groundwater extraction could be anywhere within a 600-square-mile area and in two possible directions from the project site. Moreover, the WSR did not explain why the amount of water proposed to be used during the 28-month construction period has increased from 49 acre-feet (AF) to 310.4 AF. In addition, by neither identifying a water purveyor, nor providing a letter of intent, will serve letter, or assurances from the water purveyor, the applicant is not complying with provisions of regulation (CCR, title 20, §§ 1701, Appendix B, (g) (14) (C) (v) & (g) (14) (C) (vi)). The WSR also contained several errors.

DATA REQUESTS

WATER-1: Please identify the water purveyor that will supply the extracted groundwater for construction and possibly for operations, and provide documentation that the water purveyor intends to serve the project.

WATER-2: Please identify the location, or locations, where groundwater would be extracted for project water supply.

WATER-3: Please explain the justification for increasing construction water demand from 49 AF to 310.4 AF.

WATER-4: Please make the following corrections to the WSR:

- Page 2, Project Overview Map 1 of 2 – Include the location of the proposed groundwater extraction well.
- Page 6, Section 4.0. last sentence – Please reword the misleading sentence “The Burney Creek Valley Groundwater Basin is underlain by this type of aquifer” since it refers to a fractured volcanic rock aquifer and the Burney Creek Valley groundwater basin consists of Quaternary lake deposits (DWR 2003).
- Page 11, Section 4.2.3. fifth sentence – The age of the Tehama and Tuscan formations is incorrectly identified as Pleistocene, but should be Pliocene.
- Page 19, Section 7.2.1.1, second sentence, and page 20, Table 5 – Nine existing wells are identified based on DWR well completion reports; however, well WW-1 at the CalTrans Hillcrest Rest Area was destroyed on Aug. 7, 1992.
- Page 21, Section 7.2.1.1, third paragraph, second sentence – The statement “No well completion report or yield information was available for Well 2” (associated with Moose Camp) is inaccurate. DWR well completion report No. 16785 is a well that was installed at Moose Camp and is probably Well 2 (DWR 2023).
- Page 23, Section 7.2.1.2, fourth paragraph, sixth sentence, and Section 7.2.2.1, first paragraph, third sentence – Table 10 is referenced, but there is no Table 10 in the document; the document has only 8 tables.

- Page 24, Section 7.2.2.1, second paragraph, fourth sentence – Table 11 is referenced, but there is no Table 11 in the document; there are only eight tables in the document.
- Page 25, Section 8.0. first sentence – Please revise the inconsistent sentence “Construction of the Fountain Wind Project would use water during construction and operational phases.”

REFERENCES

BWD 2023 – Burney Irrigation District (BWD). Burney Irrigation District Board of Director’s Regular Meeting Minutes. September 21, 2023. Available online: <https://www.burneywater.org/files/4515683c9/BWD+Minutes+092123+Regular+Mtg..pdf>

DWR 2003 – Department of Water Resources (DWR). Description of Burney Creek Valley Groundwater Basin, Supplemental Material, California’s Groundwater, Bulletin 188, Update 2003. Available online: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/5_049_DryBurneyCreekValley.pdf

DWR 2023 – Department of Water Resources (DWR). Well Completion Report Map Application. Available online: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=181078580a214c0986e2da28f8623b37>