



Development of Statewide Guidelines for Reducing Avian Impacts from Wind Energy Development in California

DOCKET

06-OII-1

DATE Jun 9 2006

RECD. Jun 20 2006

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June 9th, 2006



Overview

- Energy Commission 2005 *Energy Report* conclusions regarding wind energy development and avian issues
- Project goal
- Proposed process for development of monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines
- Desired outcome
- Recent contacts
- Tentative schedule
- Information access
- Staff contacts



California Energy Commission 2005 *Energy Report*

The Energy Commission's 2005 *Energy Report* concluded:

1. . . . taking advantage of California's substantial wind resources requires that two related issues be addressed: repowering of the state's aging wind facilities and reducing avian deaths associated with operation of wind turbines;
2. . . . California has an important opportunity to more carefully site new turbines, thereby reducing and avoiding bird deaths from wind turbines; and
3. . . . statewide protocols for studying avian mortality to address site specific impacts in each individual wind resource area need to be developed.



Project Goal

To develop statewide, voluntary wind/avian monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines that are science-based and used by local permitting agencies, the California Department of Fish and Game, and wind developers to reduce bird and bat impacts while encouraging new wind development and repowering of existing facilities.



Monitoring Protocols and Mitigation Guideline Development Process

- Regular collaboration with agency staff, wind developers, county and city representatives, environmental organizations, and the public
- Anticipate holding 2 public workshops and 2 public hearings – *more if necessary*
- Energy Commission staff, in collaboration with CDFG staff, will produce the monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines with peer review by the Science Advisory Committee
- Drafts will be released for regular public comment



Desired Outcome

Monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines are consistently used by local permitting agencies to facilitate the permitting and environmental review process of wind energy development while minimizing impacts to birds and bats.



Recent Contacts

- Called all attendees of the January 10-11, 2006, California Audubon and American Wind Energy Association forum to solicit guidance on protocol and guideline development process, the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) criteria, and possible SAC candidates
- Many have provided suggestions on who should be on the Science Advisory Committee – *We have taken many of your suggestions - Thank you*
- Many counties have been contacted for their input



Tentative Schedule

- **April 12th, 2006** – Draft outline released for review and comment
- **June 9th, 2006** – 1st Committee hearing
- **June 16th** - written comments due on draft outline
- Staff begins developing monitoring protocols & mitigation guidelines
- **Mid/Late June** – Science Advisory Committee announced
- **Late July** – 1st Staff workshop – *seeking input on topics*
- **Mid-September** – Draft document released, workshop notice issued
- **Late September** – 2nd Staff workshop
- **Mid-November** – 2nd Committee hearing
- **Mid-December 2006** – Adoption at Commission Business Meeting



Information Access

Website:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/06-OII-1/>

[Docket No. 06-OII-1]

The following will be docketed and available on the website:

- All workshop and hearing notices
- All documents including draft monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines
- Additional material including monitoring protocols and mitigation guidelines developed by other states and countries
- Reports, studies, data, used to develop protocols & guidelines



Staff Contacts

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