

August 19, 2007

DOCKET	
06-0II-1	
DATE	AUG 19 2007
RECD.	AUG 20 2007

TO: California Energy Commission,
California Department of Fish and Game

REF: Wind Power Development Impact on Birds and Bats (Docket No. 06-0II-1).

I was fortunate to attend your Livermore CA public workshop in the Spring of 2007.

As a citizen, not representing any formal organization, my interest remains high in your efforts to create guidelines to reduce wind power development impact on birds and bats. I had requested earlier to be added to your mailing list for notification of draft documents or additional public workshops. As this has not happened, may I ask that a copy be mailed to me to my address below?

On the Internet, I read your soon to be released Committee Draft Report on California Guidelines for Reducing Impact to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development (Docket No. 06-0II-1).

As a long time resident and active bird watcher in Livermore Valley, below are my comments to be added to the official records.

MY CONCERNS:

1. That the final guidelines may be too liberal in favor of the corporations involved in wind generation over the conservation of the avian population that has traditionally used the Diablo Hills (Altamont Wind Region) as migratory paths and winter residence.
2. That local agencies will be allowed to review and approve new projects instead of restricting these to the State level in order to safeguard the measures to be put into effect. (Example: The early developments involving wind energy in Alameda County which were approved by the County Board of Supervisors has resulted in a 22-year killing field of raptor species and song birds)
3. The pre-site analysis information needs to be made public for comment by others including avian advocates so the public can understand from a layman's perspective what the actual mitigation plan consists of.
4. What wildlife laws will be adhered to?
5. There is a need for strong post-construction monitoring in order to determine how appropriate pre-site decision bases have turned out. (Example: Carcass searches need to be increased to weekly, i.e., 52 times per year as opposed to once monthly presently or 12 times yearly which would present truer picture of mortalities.)

Finally, instead of voluntary compliance, might I suggest some initiative on your part to create formal legislation governing wind energy generation site selection and management in order to avoid costly litigation as has happened in the past.

I commend both your Commission and the Department of Fish and Game for their diligent pursuit of resolving the challenge of generating wind power while minimizing the impact to our avian population.

Respectfully yours,

RICHARD S. CIMINO
1281 Ridgewood Road
Pleasanton, Ca 94566