

DOCKETED

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Opposition to Fountain Wind Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

March 23, 2024

David J. Rickert
Shasta County
1450 Court St.
Redding, CA 96001

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 for Shasta County, California. As the CEO of this County, I am convinced that this project presents significant safety risks, threatens our tourism industry, causes ecological destruction, and negatively impacts local Indigenous Tribes. Furthermore, it is abundantly clear to me, as a leader in this community, that local residents, government officials, and community leaders vehemently oppose this project.

The California Energy Commission must carefully consider the increased hazards this project poses to our citizens, especially our first responders. Air tankers already face extreme danger while fighting fires in these heavily forested areas. The wind turbines would increase not only the likelihood of fire, but peril to our firefighters. I urge you to listen to the insights of experts such as Stephen Fitch, the former Forest Supervisor for Shasta Trinity National Forest, whose remarks can be found at stopfw.com. Additionally, as a resident myself, my neighbors and I are subject to extremely high insurance rates and forced to participate in the CA Fair Plan for fire insurance. We busily clear brush to maintain defensible space on our properties, and the consideration of this project certainly goes counter to our efforts.

Having recently relocated to this area from the Midwest, I have been astounded by the breathtaking beauty of the mountains, trees, and skyline, especially at sunrise and sunset. This natural splendor attracts tourists from around the world and must be preserved. Approving wind turbines towering over 600 feet would irreversibly mar this landscape. A landscape that is becoming rarer due to the pollution caused by human effort for efficiency. Once the turbines are installed, the unique charm of our skyline will be lost forever.

The California Energy Commission must also consider the potential consequences to the local environment, including local wildlife and habitat disruption. Several fires have ravaged through Shasta County in the last decade, and it is irresponsible for us, as stewards of the land, to unnecessarily pressure the ecological balance.

Tribal communities have also voiced their opposition to this proposed project, and their concerns should be given serious consideration by the Commission.

Despite multiple votes by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors to prevent this project, it appears that local authority and approval have been disregarded in favor of advancing the interests of the company behind this venture. I urge the California Energy Commission to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to voice their concerns and that those concerns are given due weight in the decision-making process.

I appreciate this opportunity to have my thoughts considered and recorded for the Fountain Wind Project.

Sincerely,

David J. Rickert
Shasta County CEO