From: Ford, John
To: Lippre, Suzanne
Subject: FW: Humboldt Wind Energy Project
Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019 9:54:55 AM
Attachments: image001.png

John H. Ford
Director
Planning and Building Department
707.268.3738

From: Wilson, Mike <Mike.Wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Patrick Carr <nedlud432@gmail.com>
Cc: Ford, John <JFord@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Humboldt Wind Energy Project

Thank you for these thoughtful comments. I will make sure they are submitted to the official record.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Patrick Carr <nedlud432@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2019 3:04:41 PM
To: Wilson, Mike <Mike.Wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt Wind Energy Project

Supervisor Wilson,

I live in Arcata and I'm very concerned about climate change.

I'm a strong supporter of renewable energy and I'd like to be able to support the Humboldt Wind Energy project, but I can't. Climate change presents us with disaster unless we're able to develop carbon-free energy sources. Solar alone isn't enough in Humboldt. But the project's impacts on birds and bats are too great.

I lack technical biological expertise but I reviewed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's response to the DEIR. As you may know, CDFW has deemed the project site as one that is inappropriate for wind energy development due to unacceptable impacts on birds and bats, and without adequate avoidance or mitigation proposed to reduce impacts.

I hope that you will strongly consider the CDFW opinion. The project may have huge impacts on birds: at the DEIR's upper estimates, more than 30,000 could be killed by it. A local extinction of raptors is possible. The proposed $600 donation per injured or dead raptor won't do dead birds any good.

The project site is close to one of the largest state parks in California, Humboldt Redwoods. A large population of hoary bats travels through Humboldt Redwoods and the wind project site, and several other bat species are common.

Hoary bats are known to be in rapid decline from wind projects already in operation. The acoustic deterrence/potential curtailment plan described in the FEIR requires that project mortality exceed a nationwide estimated midpoint of mortality per megawatt — even though the project site is not typical compared to other wind projects: it's a population hot spot for hoary bats. But Terra-Gen also won't commit to using carcass-sniffing dogs, a strategy CDFW recommends to increase the accuracy of mortality counts. And the FEIR doesn't describe timelines for moving from the first step (acoustic deterrence) to a possible operational curtailment measure.

These are just a couple examples of the many weaknesses of the proposal as described in the FEIR in mitigating or avoiding impacts to birds and bats.

We need renewable energy — but the risk is too great that this project, as laid out, will cost us vital elements of our biological heritage.

Patrick Carr
704 Virginia Way,
Arcata CA 95521