

Comment letter pertaining to the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the ACV Airport Microgrid Project

April 18, 2018

Humboldt County Department of Public Works 1106 Second Street Eureka, California 95501

Re: ACV Airport Microgrid Project, Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

The proposed project is located in proximity to my residence at 1515 Airport Road (APN 511-082-006).

I received a letter from Public Works Deputy Director Hank Seeman announcing the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. Mr. Seeman also contacted me via telephone to discuss the project. I was also visited by someone associated with the project, asking about insolation at the project site. Mr. Seeman thought that person was likely from Schatz Energy Lab.

Mr. Seeman and I discussed potential noise and vibration impacts from pile-driving needed to install the system, and the removal of Monterey pines on the west of the project along Airport Road.

I am generally familiar with construction activities, and assume that pile-driving and other noise-generating construction activities would occur during daylight hours, and that project-related noise and vibration would be short-term for the duration of the project. Given the noise generated by aircraft using ACV and occasional large truck traffic along Airport Road, residential properties along Airport Road are currently subject to similar impacts, although probably not to the same intensity or duration.

The Monterey pines north of 1515 Airport Road are occupied by red-shouldered hawks. The hawks have nested successfully several times recently. Removal of the nesting trees would be an unavoidable impact. Removal of the trees outside the nesting season would avoid destruction of an active nest but the removal of the trees would remove the habitat, which would be a permanent adverse effect. The County should consider contacting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss potential mitigation regarding this impact.

Herbicide use is proposed as one method of weed management in the project area. If herbicides are used adjacent to residential property, residents should be notified several weeks in advance and the area posted to avoid unintentional contact by people with chemical sensitivities. Herbicides are occasionally used at the base of the airport security fence, so this would not a major change.

The IS/MND is well-written, and easy to read. Mr. Seeman should be commended for the personal contact and notification.

Thank you for opportunity to comment on proposal to adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Sincerely,

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McKinleyville, CA 95519

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