

ATTACHMENT 3

Response to comments pertaining to the Initial Study and Proposed
Mitigated Negative Declaration for the ACV Airport Microgrid Project



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CEQA Comment Evaluation

Project: ACV Airport Microgrid Project
Lead Agency: County of Humboldt
Department: Public Works
Review Period: March 30, 2018 – April 30, 2018
State Clearinghouse No: 2018032076
Date Prepared: May 2, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Public Works prepared an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the ACV Airport Microgrid Project at the California Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The public review period was March 30 through April 30, 2018. Public Works posted the document on the County website, made a copy available at the Public Works office, sent notification letters to adjacent property owners, and published a Notice of Intent in the Mad River Union. The State Clearinghouse distributed the document to state agencies.

COMMENTS

One comment letter (dated April 18, 2018) by Aida Parkinson (1515 Airport Road, McKinleyville) was received. Responses prepared by Public Works for the comments are provided below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

- **Comment No. 1: Noise and vibration.** The letter states the assumption that pile-driving and noise-generating construction activities would occur during daylight hours, and that project-related noise and vibration would be short-term.

Response to Comment No. 1: The assumption stated in the letter is correct, and consistent with Mitigation Measure NOISE-1.

- **Comment No. 2: Nesting habitat.** The letter notes that removal of the row of Monterey pine trees at the south end of the airport near Airport Road would remove nesting habitat for red-shouldered hawks. The letter recommends that Humboldt County consider contacting the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to discuss potential mitigation regarding this impact.

Response to Comment No. 2: The Initial Study stated that the row of Monterey pine trees may need to be removed, pending further evaluation. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 was developed to ensure that active nests are not impacted during implementation of the project. The analysis of environmental impacts in the Initial Study identified that nesting habitat would be impacted but determined that such impacts would not require mitigation to be less than significant. Because the California Department of Fish & Wildlife did not submit a comment letter during the review period, Public Works assumes that the analysis in the Initial Study is sufficient.

- **Comment No. 3: Herbicide use.** The letter notes that herbicide use is identified as one potential method of weed management in the project area. The letter states that residents should be given advance notice, and written notices should be posted, if herbicides are used adjacent to residential property.

Response to Comment No. 3: Herbicides are the least preferred method for weed management and would have limited use within the project area. In the event that other methods are not effective and use of herbicides becomes necessary, Public Works will consider the proximity to nearby residences and plan for appropriate notifications.

CONCLUSION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

After reviewing the comments on the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, Public Works believes that the environmental document has sufficiently addressed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project under CEQA. Public Works recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for this Project and direct staff to post a Notice of Determination with the Humboldt County Clerk/Recorder.