



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

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Hearing Date: November 14, 2019

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: John H. Ford, Director of Planning and Building Department

Subject: **Humboldt Wind Energy Project Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit**
Record Number: PLN-13999-CUP

Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 102-132-004 et al.
Monument and Bear River Ridges, Scotia, Shively, and Bridgeville areas

The Humboldt Wind Energy Project is a continued public hearing from the November 7, 2019 Planning Commission hearing. At that hearing staff presented the project and gave an overview of the Final Environmental Impact Report. The Commission posed questions to staff and public testimony was received.

During public comment 39 individuals spoke regarding the project. Many posed questions regarding the project as well as expressing opposition or support and the reasons why. Additionally, written supplemental information was received from the public at and just prior to the hearing.

Several themes emerged with multiple commissioners and commenters asking questions or giving testimony on similar or related subjects. Generally, the main points raised during the hearing were:

- Concerns regarding Wiyot Tribe ancestral territory and the significant unavoidable impacts to the Bear River Ridge, ethnobotanical area, and the California condor, all of which have been identified as Tribal Cultural Resources.
- Impacts to the visual resources including changes to the beauty of Humboldt County and nighttime views due to the required FAA lighting.
- Carbon sequestration loss due to tree removal.
- Questions regarding if there is other feasible mitigation and what mitigation may have been rejected and the financials related to rejection of mitigation and alternatives.
- Fire danger including both potential fire from the gen-tie line and fire that would be generated from the turbines.
- Interest in off-shore wind or community solar as an alternative to this project.
- Biological resource concerns including questions related to the adequacy of surveys, nesting seasons, and impacts to raptors and other birds.
- Potential reduction in property values.
- Interest in the project's contribution to combating global climate change.

Many other comments were received as well, some of which can be answered by clarifying where to look in the Draft or Final EIR and others requiring staff to bring back additional

information. Staff is working on providing a written response to comments as discussed during the hearing. Responses to the comments will be available as a supplemental item prior to the hearing on November 14, 2019.

Also prior to the hearing on November 14, 2019, the draft resolutions for the project will be available.

At the November 14, 2019 hearing the following will be available for the Planning Commission's consideration:

1. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
2. Draft resolution to Certify the Environmental Impact Report, adopt the statement of overriding considerations, and the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.
3. Draft resolution approving the Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit with Conditions of Approval.

Please contact Steve Werner, Supervising Planner at 268-3726 if you have any questions about the continued public hearing item.