# SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION No. 1

For Planning Commission Agenda of: November 7, 2019

#### Item No. D-1

Re:	Applicant:	Humboldt Wind
	Case Numbers:	CUP-18-002

Attached for the Planning Commission's consideration are the following comments:

- 1. Email From Bob Earl
- 2. Email from Jim Wiegand
- 3. Email from Helen Biermann Hui
- 4. Email from Joyce King
- 5. Email Jay Peltz
- 6. Email from Melanie Kasek
- 7. Email from Suzanne Atiyeh
- 8. Email from Lisa Pelletier
- 9. Email from Austin Allison
- 10. Email from Harriet Stevens
- 11. Email from Susan Rogers
- 12. Letter from Defenders of Wildlife submitted via email
- 13. Email from Stacy Becker
- 14. Email from Jim and Francene Rizza
- 15. Email from Jere Bob Bowden
- 16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Email from Jim Wiegand
- 17. Duplicated Email from Jim Wiegand
- 18. Email from Larry Soll
- 19. Email from Scott Hicks
- 20. Email from Bob Olofson
- 21. Email from Suzanne Atiyeh\_2
- 22. Email from Patricia A. Jones
- 23. Email from Rick Brennan
- 24. Email from Ramona Provisor
- 25. Email from Allyson Provisor
- 26. Email from Jack Kinnear
- 27. Email from Ernie DeGraff
- 28. Email from Craig R. Newman

Bob Earl
CEQAResponses
Fwd: Humboldt Wind Project
Saturday, November 2, 2019 7:14:08 AM

I am also a member of 350 Humboldt and want to agree 100% with what Mary is saying below. Lets get this built as to me it is one of the best alternatives to getting off of fossil fuels asap. We can't keep protecting every insect, bird, plant when so much more is at stake, all of us. Make this wind project happen and more! Bob Earl

#### Dear Commissioners

I'm writing to give my unequivocal support for the Humboldt Wind project. My name is Mary Sanger and I am a cofounder of 350 Humboldt, a climate action organization that is an affiliate of 350.org, an international climate action network started by Bill McKibbin. The 350 in the name refers to 350 parts per million, the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere which scientists tell us would be a safe level. As you probably know, we stand at over 400ppm and rising right now. We understand the science which says that human activity is the cause of the rise of green house gas emissions including CO2 and that the burning of fossil fuels is the main source. Scientists have been warning us about the problem of global warming and predicted that we would see more droughts, sea level rise and wildfires. These predictions are unfolding everywhere in the world and in our region as well with historic wildfires that are becoming annual events.

Our major goal as an organization is to stop our dependence on fossil fuels. In the arena of the generation of electricity, this leads us to be proponents of renewable energy including wind energy. If we are going to cut our emission in half by 2025 we have to switch from natural gas to renewables as expeditiously as possible. This is not to say "hastily" but with due consideration for all the impacts that a project would have and that has been the responsibility of the Planning Commission to do all the due diligence required to protect our Northcoast environment. Now that is completed and we look forward to seeing the results and to have this much needed project move forward. Thank you.

Cordially, Mary Sanger

Sent from my iPad

From:	<u>wiegand@awwwsome.com</u>
To:	PlanningBuilding
Cc:	newsroom@northcoastjournal.com; jrichmond@times-standard.com; lyndsey@khum.com; mskymkemp@gmail.com; news@lostcoastoutpost.com; editor@redwoodtimes.com; editor@humboldtindie.com; wakingdog@greenfuse.work; editor@ferndaleenterprise.us
Subject:	Comments for Nov 7 Planning Commission Meeting regarding the Humboldt Wind project
Date:	Monday, November 4, 2019 9:05:27 AM
Attachments:	imaae001.png
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	image005 ong

The County of Humboldt Planning Commission is accepting comments for their Nov. 7, 2019 meeting regarding the Humboldt Wind Project. Back in June I submitted 36 pages of comments about this project and the DEIR. If I were being paid to do so, I could have easily written over a thousand pages regarding this industry's fraudulent research and hidden impacts. Hopefully the Planning Commission has read over and understands my previous comments because I have proven with scientific facts, that the Humboldt DEIR has no credibility.

The destruction caused by these turbines is not incidental and the fake research created by this industry is also not incidental. It is deliberate. What you see in these two images is happening to America's eagles at wind farms 5-10 times a day. But the Interior Department, the wind industry and the industry's fake experts are all covering this up. Fake research is also hiding millions of wind energy bird fatalities each year with many of these fatalities occurring during their nocturnal migrations.





Does this Planning Commission know that due to increasing numbers of eagle carcasses being secretly shipped in from wind farms, the Denver Eagle Repository is planning on expanding for a second time. FYI, since 1995 the Denver Eagle Reposoitory has received over 57,000 eagle carcasses and has kept the origin of all these carcasses hidden. FedEx does the special shipping but they also can't talk about it. Will Humboldt Country be joining in on this fraud? Not if this Planning Commission makes an ethical decision or if this industry's fraudulent research is finally exposed in a legal action.

#### Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Religious Use of Feathers

A Proposed Rule by the Fish and Wildlife Service on 04/30/2019

(3) "National Eagle Repository: The Department should reform the Repository by increasing its funding and staffing, working more closely with tribes and other stakeholders to improve efficiency, and adopting policies that will expand the overall supply of feathers. This will enable the Repository to better serve all sincere religious believers who use eagle feathers in their religious exercise." Note that the draft regulatory language suggested by the petitioners specifically requests access to the Repository for all sincere religious believers. (See paragraph d. of the petitioned regulatory text, pp. 44-45 of the petition).



The Denver Eagle Repository can't keep up with the increasing numbers of eagle carcasses coming from an expanding wind industry.

For bird and bat species, a wind turbine invasion like the Humboldt wind project, truly is environmental disaster. Rigging research, rigging opinions, rigging votes and citing historical wind industry impact research, will not change this fact. Hopefully, Humboldt County officials will not accept the false information, false opinions or any the wind industry's contrived research cited in the Humboldt Wind DEIR.

Please keep in mind that with proper impact research, this planning commission would understand that per kWh, the destruction to bird species caused by turbines is at least 500-1000 times greater than from than any other energy source. There is also nothing "bird friendly" about this industry's wind turbines. But there are plenty of profit driven lies that say otherwise.

I would also like the members of the planning commission to ask themselves......Why on earth would an honest person or ethical industry ever call this industry's spinning monsters clean or green? These are corporate marketing words and the words "green" or "clean" do not make something good. Instead the Humboldt Planning Commission should think of the term "clean energy" just as you would "ethnic cleansing" because they are both horrible. One slaughters off people, the other slaughters off bird and raptor populations.

At the very least this Commission should demand that new and credible scientific research be conducted so the public can fully understand the impacts to expect from such a project.

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fish & Wildlife News

November 1997

About 95 percent of orders received at the repository are for whole eagles, with an average of about 1,000 people applying for the 800 to 900 available birds each year. Requests are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis by date of application.

Eagles turned in to the repository typically have died of natural causes or fatal encounters with power lines, windmills, vehicles, or illegal shooters or trappers. The repository does not accept poisoned birds because of the hazard they pose to human health.

The typical dead eagle stays only three to five days at the repository before it is shipped out to the next applicant on the list. This is just long enough for Wiist to expertly inspect it, note its condition, species and age, and bag and freeze it for shipping. In cases where some of the bird's feathers are missing or too damaged to use, Wiist painstakingly adds replacement parts from another bird to make it complete. He prides himself on making sure his Native American clients get a whole eagle.

Jim Wiegand - Wildlife Biologist Redding, CA



Thorough examination Dennis Wiist examines an electrocuted golden eagle at the National Eagle Repository. This bird was burned so badly it offered little in the way of salvageable feathers for use in meeting requests from Native Americans. Photo by Phil Million.



Helen Biermann Hui 3006 S St Eureka, CA 95501-4723 RECEIVED NOV 0 1 2019 (Humbel \* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_) Pla\_\_\_\_\_\_uebt

October 31, 2019

To the Humboldt County Planning Commission:

I am strongly in favor of the Humboldt Wind project. Our recent wildfires and resulting power outages underline the fact that climate change is real and we need to seek alternative sources of energy. Every ridge in Spain has a wind farm. The Europeans are way ahead of us on this one. I strongly urge you to vote for the Humboldt Wind Project.

Sincerely,

Heles Bremans Hei

Helen Biermann Hui 3006 S Street Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Commissioners

Re: upcoming hearings on the TerraGen Wind Project, please consider the following:

In addition to the climate crisis being addressed by this project, we are in a major biological crisis.

30% of all birds in the US and 60% of Earth's wild land animals have disappeared so far in the last 50 years,

Insects, the primary food source of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds, are disappearing at rates of 45-90% in the last 30 years

The five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest impacts in descending order: (1) changes in land use; (2) direct extermination and exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution and (5) invasive alien species.

Humboldt County is one of the low altitude areas of the country least likely to suffer from drought, heat, and fires, and therefore most likely to preserve a high level of biodiversity.

Protecting biodiversity may be Humboldt's highest potential contribution to the current environmental crises – a genetic refugia necessary to restoring the ecosystems we are rapidly losing.

We are finally responding to the engineering requirements for producing clean energy, but still dangerously undervaluing the needs of biological systems, with willingness to continue harm to life and habitat with this project.

For this project, as for any land use decision-making from here on, it seems essential to actively solicit advice and participation from a broad range of biologists and ecologists, the experts in what supports life on Earth - especially those whose work is not influenced by the political and economic forces fueling this crisis.

Thank you for your time.

Joyce King, McKinleyville

Planning Commission-- Terra Gen Humboldt County Wind Project

Dear Planning Commission, I am asking you to vote yes on the wind project. I am asking you to vote yes with no delays, no added studies, no restrictions, and for the full 155MW project.

My reasons:

You will be on the right side of history in voting yes. Climate change is here now: fires, floods, sea level rise, weather changes, destruction of animal species, death of the whale populations, reduced salmon industry as well as other fishing industries, and literally countless others. We have a golden opportunity to do our part to protect our part of the planet as well as all the other parts. If we do nothing, it will only get worse.

The project will improve Humboldt economics with \$2 million+ tax revenue, many new high paying jobs and the ripple effect of embracing green technology, with more green environmentally friendly business's hopefully wanting to relocate here.

The wind project will help Humboldt county when the next power outage from PGE when it happens. The Humboldt bay power plant will be reconfigured to work on its own, and the wind plant will supplement that energy during those times, whether it be from fire shut offs or other weather related events. I have talked to Warsilla (who built the plant) and they confirmed the HBPS can be easily and inexpensively reconfigured for black start/stand-alone operation.

The wind project will provide lower cost energy than anything else RCEA can buy, which will positively impact all of the rate payers of Humboldt by reducing our electric rates.

Some lies which the anti-wind people are saying:

Energy flows to the loads, which is out of Humboldt. False, the wind project produces at best about what Humboldt county uses, usually it will produce less, which means most if not all of the energy will actually stay here! The total energy produced from the wind project is only 50% of Humboldt demand.

They say its special untouched lands. False, its 120+ year old industrial grazing land.

They say that we should do solar instead. At the current rate of installation of solar panels, it will take over 200 years to produce what the wind project will do once installed. It's not solar or wind, its solar AND wind.

VOTE YES

Jay Peltz

25 year professional in the solar energy field.

20 years as an educator

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VOTE YES

Jay Peltz 25 year professional in the solar energy field. 20 years as an educator 24 countries worked in

From:	Melanie Kasek
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Terra Gen
Date:	Sunday, November 3, 2019 7:49:43 PM

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Terra Gen wind project. Destroying a sensitive land mass, killing trees which absorb and sequester carbon for power which will not at all benefit the people of Humboldt County doesn't make any sense.

Putting wind turbines offshore is a better idea if we were to benefit from the energy generated.

Can we instead put our effort into making the power plant in King Salmon able to generate clean energy for our county so we are not dependent on PG&E?

Melanie Kasek

Loleta

Sent from my iPad

It's time we backed away from gigantic industrial energy solutions, whether or not they call themselves green.

Terra-Gen is funding what amounts to a huge political campaign to convince us they will do no harm,

while birds who have no voice wait to see if they will be spared.

They won't. Thousands of birds still die yearly because of wind turbines.

Do we want to further their decline?

"Birds are disappearing from North America" <u>https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2019/09/19/birds-are-disappearing-from-north-america/amp/</u>

Most Sincerely,

Suzanne E. Atiyeh Docent - Trinidad Head Lighthouse, California Coastal National Monument Ambassador

S. E. A.

From:	Lisa Pelletier
То:	Hayes, Kathy; Madrone, Steve; Bohn, Rex; Fennell, Estelle; Bass, Virginia; Wilson, Mike; Planning Clerk
Subject:	Please vote NO on Terra Gen project
Date:	Sunday, November 3, 2019 3:42:29 PM

Dear Humboldt County Planning and Supervisor's Clerks, Supervisors, and Planners,

The proposed Terra Gen project is a bad idea all around! First of all, it is being pushed way too rapidly through the planning process before we --your constituents-- even have time to assess the final EIR, allowing only a few days before the Planning Commission hearing concerning this project. The Terra Gen project will \***not**\* help Humboldt County to achieve energy independence by way of isolating the energy for Humboldt County. This project is being pushed by an outside investment firm from San Diego with \***no**\* connection to the community. Energy Capitol Partners is \***not**\* invested in helping us achieve energy independence, but in maximizing their profits at our expense.

The Wiyot Tribal Council has also expressed grave concerns about the potential threat that the Terra Gen project poses to Tribal, cultural and environmental resources. Please consider the Tribal Council's unanimous decision: "The Wiyot Tribal Council voted unanimously to submit a 'No Project' response to the DEIR which would be the preferred option to limit both cumulative environmental impacts as well as impacts to tribal cultural resources in Wiyot and our neighboring Bear River Tribe's ancestral territories." The Wiyot Tribe have already committed to off-shore wind development with a similar megawatt project which will provide Humboldt County with a real opportunity to develop energy independence, with a fraction of the impacts of on-shore.

Finally, if you care about the impacts of climate change, **off-shore** wind generation is the right way to go, as it will preserve thousands of acres of carbon-trapping forestland, including old-growth redwoods. Save our precious environmental, cultural and Tribal resources by voting NO on the Terra Gen project. Thank you.

Sincerely, Lisa Pelletier Arcata, CA

From:	<u>Hey</u>
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Please support the Terra Gen wind project
Date:	Monday, November 4, 2019 3:13:02 AM

Hello members of the planning commission. You have a big decision ahead of you. I wanted to express my support for the wind project. Many people who are against it I fear are of NIMBY reasons, and dont realize that the pros outweigh the cons many times over. We have some of the best resources for wind in the entire country, and I truly believe Humboldt should be an exporter of our renewable energy resources and to power the county using renewable energy.

The earth is entering its sixth extinction event, and Humboldt looks like it may be a part of desertification, so we will lose many redwoods. The argument that a cultural viewshed would be lost is extremely short sighted, as we are already at risk of losing it. If we sit on our hands and do nothing, we will lose what is sacred to many.

In my opinion, every community on planet Earth needs to be doing more projects like Terra Gen, and we have a real opportunity to be a part of change, rather than to NIMBY(not in my backyard) ourselves out of something good again, and bicker while the world around us burns.

It is time for us to be bold. It is time for us to do the right thing. Please support projects like Terra Gen, because the future of our world really does depend on us lowering our carbon footprints as fast as possible. Rooftop solar cannot be the sole piece of the pie. We need wind energy. Humboldt county needs wind projects. Offshore, and onshore. RCEA, our local CCA has already agreed to buy the power. It would be at a discount, and Terra Gen would help pay millions of desperately needed tax dollars in Humboldt each year, instead of our power purchasing dollars leaving the county and state. We have very little to lose, and so much to gain.

Thanks for your time,

Austin Allison Eureka, CA 95501

From:	Harriet Stevens
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Terra Gen Windmill Project email #2
Date:	Monday, November 4, 2019 2:32:23 PM

**Just sent an email that started:** Let's be honest. The promoters of the Terra Gen Windmill Project want to make money and they want it fast. After I sent it I realized I hadn't included my name, so I am now.

Harriet Stevens (707) 764-3127 Rip Dell, Ca.

From:	Harriet Stevens
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Terra Gen Windmill Project
Date:	Monday, November 4, 2019 2:08:38 PM

Let's be honest. The promoters of the Terra Gen Windmill Project want to make money and they want it fast. They are not concerned about the welfare of any part of Humboldt County. This is clear by their desire to push through this project as quickly as possible for the sake of their developer. The faster they can get this done, the faster they earn money. Because this is their apparent mindset at the beginning, I can't help but be seriously concerned about their integrity during the project or the consequences of it after it's completed.

I cannot express strongly enough how opposed I am to this proposed project. I live in Rio Dell, moved here in 1999 in a large part because of the surrounding rural views and peaceful atmosphere. Clearly I do not want to lose any part of the beauty and peace of this area for myself, but I also want to retain it for future residents. This project, if approved, will create an ecological, economic, and civic blight in Humboldt County in the following ways.

Ecologically this project has the potential to destroy timberlands, have immediate and future negative impacts on grading and erosion, disrupt geologic stability, cause or increase sediment discharges into the Eel River, and increase the risks of wildfires. The surrounding area of this project is also at risk from noise pollution and I have great worries about wildlife as well.

Rio Dell's water comes from the Eel River. This project has the potential of contaminating our water, and thus putting in danger the health of our residents and visitors.

Economically this project has the potential to cause the decrease of current property values, the decrease of county property tax revenue as property values drop, the decrease of available money for bond issues (schools, fire dept., etc.), cause the potential loss of new businesses opening or moving to Rio Dell, cause the possibility of existing businesses closing, and cause the loss of tax revenues for the City of Rio Dell and Humboldt County from the closing of these businesses.

Civic: Cities require revenue to function. Loss of revenue means the inability to hire or even pay existing city workers. Equipment for both Police and Fire needs to be bought and maintained as well as for other city departments. Streets need resurfacing, sewers need to be kept open, water quality needs to be monitored, and landscapes need regular attention. The deterioration of all these services results in possible crime rates going up and residents moving out.

Ultimately these windmills will need only a handful of employees to run. These few people and their families will not turn around the damage done by allowing Terra Gen to proceed with this project.

Please, for the sake of Rio Dell, Scotia, the surrounding immediate area and all of Humboldt County, turn down this proposal, completely.

To: Humboldt Wind Energy Planner, County of Humboldt Planning Dept.

From: Susan A. Rogers, Humboldt Co. Resident of 40 years

I am responding to the Terra-Gen proposed industrial wind energy project in Humboldt County

These are the top 10 reasons I oppose this wind energy project.

A project of this magnitude should not be in an in environmentally sensitive and seismically active area.

Increased fire danger and the dependence on PG&E's fire prone transmission lines.

The desecration and destruction of Wiyot cultural lands.

Destruction of one of the largest coastal prairies in Northern California.

Negative effects on birds and wildlife.

Negative effects of clearcutting a 25 mile swath all the way to the Bridgeville substation.

Negative effects of wind generator noise and lights that must be visible for 20 miles.

Too much negative environmental impact for the amount of gain.

Humboldt Co. not assured to benefit from power generated by these wind turbines.

Lack of acceptable plan to decommission the project that does not rely upon an agreement between an LLC and a Corporation. Humboldt Co. must be protected from bearing the costs of massive clean-up in the future.

Thank for your time and consideration.



National Headquarters 1130 17th Street, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20036-4604 | tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331 www.defenders.org

November 4, 2019

Submitted via email to <u>CEOAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us;</u> <u>swerner@co.humboldt.ca.us</u>

Steve Werner; Humboldt Wind Project Planner County of Humboldt Planning & Building Department, Planning Division 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501 Defenders of Wildlife National Headquarters 1130 17<sup>th</sup> St NW Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Final Environmental Impact Report for Humboldt Wind LLC, Humboldt Wind Energy Project

To the Humboldt County Planning Commission,

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) and our more than 1.8 million members and supporters, over 275,000 of which are in California, we would like to provide these written comments on the Humboldt Wind Energy Project and the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) as we will be unable to attend either hearing. We applaud the county for their efforts to support local, clean energy generation under a thoughtful approach that helps ensure that this development project advances responsibly and with proper consideration of natural resource impacts and community values. At Defenders of Wildlife, we firmly believe that renewable energy development projects like the Humboldt Wind Energy Project can yield "win-wins" for local communities if potential resource impacts are carefully considered and projects move forward under an explicit adaptive management program. These comments are specifically focused on Humboldt Wind Energy Project's potential impacts to bats and operational impacts and mitigation measures identified under IMPACT 3.5-18 and Mitigation Measures 3.15-18a-e in the FEIR.

Defenders has a long history of supporting clean, emissions-free renewable energy, while simultaneously working to ensure that these projects minimize impacts to wildlife and habitat. Defenders has become a leader on issues of bats and wind energy, working with researchers, state and federal agency staff, industry, and conservation organizations to elevate the importance of bats and wind energy coexistence. Finding solutions so that wind energy can be built out at the pace and scale needed to prevent catastrophic climate change while preventing population-level impacts to migratory bats is the top priority of Defenders' Renewable Energy Program. Humboldt County is fortunate to be home to large congregations of migratory bats. However, these migratory bat species are the most at risk of wind turbine fatalities – particularly the hoary bat where published studies have indicated potential rapid population declines across the country.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, it is important that the Humboldt Wind Energy Project be constructed and operated in a way that is consistent with supporting healthy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Frick W. F., E. F. Baerwald, J. F. Pollock, R. M. R. Barclay, J. A. Szymanski, T. J. Weller, A. L. Russell, S. C. Loeb, R. A. Medellin, and L. P. McGuire. 2017. Fatalities at Wind Turbines May Threaten Population Viability of a Migratory Bat. Biological Conservation 209:172–177; Rodhouse, T. J., R. M. Rodriguez, K. M. Banner, P. C. Ormsbee, J. Barnett and K.M. Irvine. 2109. Evidence of Region-Wide Bat Population Decline From Long-Term Monitoring and Bayesian Occupancy Models with Empirically Informed Priors. Ecology and Evolution.

populations of migratory bats – which provide significant ecological services and are an important part of healthy ecosystems.

We do believe there is a responsible path forward for this project as described in the FEIR. Through our prior experience working with Terra-Gen, they have shown strong environmental stewardship at their projects and a strong track record of carrying through on their environmental commitments. For example, they are the first and only wind energy project developer to obtain a condor take permit under the Endangered Species Act.<sup>2</sup> Through this permit, they took on legal obligations to advance strong minimization measures for condors in the Tehachapi wind resource area and make financial contributions of \$100,000 a year in lead abatement projects to advance condor conservation. In addition, through their leadership, they have reduced risk at several other adjacent wind energy projects by their management and implementation of a geo-fence that alerts project operators to condor presence. They are also one of the first developers–out of only half a dozen or so, total–to obtain a golden eagle permit under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Because of this track record of environmental responsibility, we were encouraged to see a robust mitigation plan for hoary bat impacts. As summarized in the FEIR, the proposed development site is high risk for hoary bats. However, given the level of uncertainty related to the specific factors that attract these bats to the rotor swept area, this high risk does not necessarily mean there will be high impact, but it does mean that we should hedge this risk through a robust adaptive management program, should high levels of hoary bat fatalities materialize.

The mitigation plan presented in the FEIR (Mitigation Measures 3.18-18a-e) provides an important framework to ensure this project advances responsibly. We are strong supporters of the increased engagement and oversight of the TAC, which will now convene prior to operation, inform the design and levels of activity and fatality monitoring, and determine whether and what level of minimization is needed. When discussing this project with various stakeholders, including hoary bat experts, concerns were repeatedly raised that, if the project had high levels of hoary bat fatalities, one year of fatalities could have adverse impacts on the local hoary bat populations and the critical research being conducted on them in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.<sup>3</sup> Terra-Gen has addressed this concern by committing to provide the TAC with fatality data within the first year of monitoring (after the first high risk period) so that the TAC can determine whether Step I of the adaptive mitigation strategy should be implemented within the first year. Otherwise, the first year of fatality and activity monitoring will provide important data for future smart curtailment strategies, should curtailment be necessary.

Step III of the hoary bat mitigation measures (FEIR at 9-152, Revisions to the DEIR) outlines how smart curtailment would be implemented, using a cut-in speed of 5.0 m/s for up to two months (consecutive or aggregate). Previous use of NRG acoustic deterrents combined with a 5.0 m/s cut-in speed smart curtailment strategy led to a 70.9% decline in hoary bat fatalities at a site in Illinois (Mike Azeka, presentation at the American Wind Energy Association Siting and Environmental Compliance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note that a condor fatality has yet to be documented at any wind energy facility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Because of the sensitivity of the Forest Service research to impacts on the local hoary bat population as well as their expertise on hoary bats, we highly recommend that a representative from the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station be appointed to the TAC.

conference).<sup>4</sup> Although we hope to see similar levels of fatality reductions at Humboldt Wind from this combination, acoustic deterrents are not yet proven technology in Humboldt County's coniferous and deciduous woodlands. Therefore, when designing the smart curtailment program using the previous year(s) of bat fatality and activity data, the TAC should identify the highest risk times for hoary bats based on the fatality data and recommend a strategic, targeted curtailment regime to reach its objective. Note, the County and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority should consider themselves collaborative partners in these endeavors as Terra-Gen fulfills its commitments to provide the county with affordable, responsible, clean energy, as there is a possibility that additional measures beyond what is currently contemplated may be needed to keep hoary bat fatalities below 1.7 bats/MW/year (e.g., higher cut-in speeds or longer curtailment windows).

Finally, hoary bats currently lack federal protections and, as such, Terra-Gen is committing to actions that extend beyond what their competitors are doing in other markets. It is our hope that these actions will help lead the way for an industry-wide strategy for reducing fatalities nationwide. This project will contribute to overall hoary bat understanding and conservation by submitting its monitoring data to BatAMP and by testing deterrent technology in a new geography. Additionally, the results from the deterrent deployment should be made publicly available, so they can better enable other wind energy projects to follow in Terra-Gen's footsteps and make smart decisions about using acoustic deterrents in similar environments.

Defenders of Wildlife is firmly committed to supporting wildlife-responsible wind energy and we welcome the opportunity to work with Humboldt County, the TAC, and Terra-Gen in this endeavor. We are encouraged by Terra-Gen's willingness to reach out and integrate feedback from multiple stakeholders on hoary bat concerns in order to develop the adaptive mitigation plan presented in the FEIR and we look forward to the project generating bat-friendly wind energy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Joy Page Director, Renewable Energy & Wildlife Defenders of Wildlife jpage@defenders.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Azeka, M. 2019. Test of Acoustic Bat Deterrent with moderate blade feathering at Pilot Hill, Illinois. Presentation at American Wind Energy Association Wind Project Siting and Environmental Compliance Conference. March 26-28, 2019 Albuquerque, NM.

Dear Humboldt Wind Project Planner,

After months of information coming to us on the proposed Terra Gen wind energy project, I stand in solidarity with the Wiyot Tribe and regional environmental organizations: NO.

60 enormous turbines, roads, and human impact would "obliterate", per the Wiyot statement, "the Tsakiyuwit soundscape and the cultural landscape of the Wiyot and Humboldt County." How many regions can be proud of calling a land area intact for tribal cultural resources and ancestral territories? Where else in the world can we find this particular kind of wilderness, including rare species, for all humans to appreciate? As important, our region needs energy independence from the PG&E grid. Right now, most people in this area understand this need.

No project.

Stacy Becker, McKinleyville, CA, 95519.

Dear Planning Members,

We are writing this letter in opposition to the construction of the Terra-Gen wind proposal. We have lived in Humboldt County, residing in Fortuna, for over 45 years.

The beauty and the serenity of the area in unmatched. To build such on environmental monstrosity is contrary to the beliefs of many in this area.

The footprint of this endeavor is cause for concern; logging, road building, thousands of yards of concrete, and general havoc to the native plants and animals.

We suggest putting more emphasis on micro grids throughout the county.

In light of the recent power outages and concern for fire caused by power lines it seems logical to rethink this project.

We appreciate the idea of the use of alternative energy; but at what expense?

Sincerely, Jim and Francene Rizza

### 5 November 2019 TERRA-GEN WIND - EIR HEARINGS

#### Five questions:

#### 1.

Is Humboldt County not presently doing its share of combating climate change by growing and sustaining vast forests?

#### 2.

How can we justify clear-cutting a 25 mile swath of CO2-capturing woodlands?

### 3.

Given recent catastrophic fires caused by high winds and singular failures of infrastructure, how is it that we can think it reasonable to install a highly complicated industrial project in an extremely fire vulnerable location where winds are high and regular?

## 4.

Terra-Gen has said that all precautions have been taken to prevent possibilities of its wind turbines causing fires, but is it not known now by everyone that it takes only one small industrial failure or mistake - PGE's little sparks, for example - to create tragedy - tragedy of enormous scale and suffering?

#### 5.

Do we really believe that taking this risk is truly wise?

Respectfully,

Jere Bob Bowden

866 Arlington Avenue P.O. Box 1244 Ferndale, CA 95536

707-786-4434



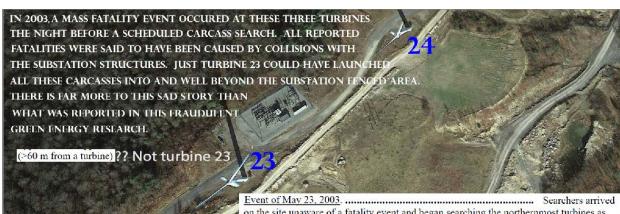
As I have laid out in my June 2019 comments, the wind industry's research is contrived to hide fatalities, is fraudulent and without question is nonscientific. This easy to understand comment illustrates this fact and gives the Planning Commission a peek into the imaginary world of wind energy impact research. The turbines at this site are about 400 feet tall and on a windy day, can easily launch small bird carcasses several hundred yards.

A nocturnal mass fatality event occurred at this wind farm. Turbines over sixty meters away or really 50-100 feet away? Not turbine 23. Weekly/biweekly research cancelled because a large number of fatalities were discovered? These turbines did not kill any of them? Did just 27 birds die around these turbines or did hundreds or even thousands die during their migrations along this wind farm's 44 ridgeline turbines? Whatever the truth is, this industry, the USFWS and this typical wind energy researcher will never tell you.

Wind industry garbage like this and even worse has been routinely put out to the public for decades. I had previously said I could write a 1000 pages of comments for this Planning Commission. Actually I can write page after page showing ineptness, absurdity, and a pattern of contrived nonscientific research for every wind industry mortality study conducted in the US after 1985.

Of the 69 total fatalities, 33 (47.8%) were found on May 23, 2003 at turbines number 22, 23, and 24, as well as the substation. This multiple fatality event was determined to have been caused by the combination of heavy fog and the presence of several sodium vapor lights at a substation located near turbine 23. Attraction by this type of lights has been reported repeatedly from sites in West Virginia and elsewhere. No multiple avian fatality events occurred at the site after the sodium vapor lights were extinguished.

Estimates of total avian fatalities were calculated excluding the fatalities from the May event.





Event of May 23, 2003. Searchers arrived on the site unaware of a fatality event and began searching the northernmost turbines as scheduled. Maintenance workers at the study site alerted searchers to the presence of a large number of carcasses near turbine 23. Searchers abandoned searching under scheduled turbines and, instead, recovered 27 freshly killed songbird and songbird-like species under turbines 22, 23, 24, and within the fenced substation adjacent to turbine 23 (Figure 6).

Weather conditions and the location and distance of carcasses found on May 23, 2003 suggest that the 27 songbirds and songbird-like species were attracted to the bright sodium vapor lights present at the substation. This hypothesis is supported by the presence of 3 carcasses within the substation fence (>60 m from a turbine) and the presence of two carcasses outside of the substation that were located >100 m from a turbine. It is nearly impossible that these individuals collided with a turbine, but rather it is believed that they collided with the structure of the substation itself. Location of bird

Curry & Kerlinger, LLC -2-14-04



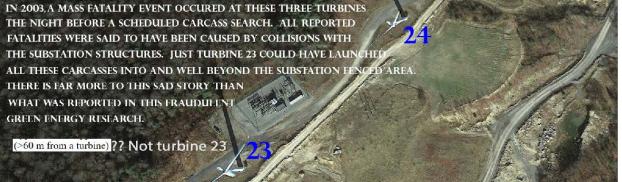




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Curry & Kerlinger, LLC -2-14-04





From:	Larry Soll
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	please vote no to Monument/Bear River Ridge wind project
Date:	Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:24:24 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please support the Wyot tribe and deny the Monument/Bear River Ridge wind project. I believe the cultural and environmental costs are too high and the benefits too low (very few jobs and no independence from the PGE grid.

Abetter proposal is that the Wiyot Tribe, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), and Humboldt County have already committed to off-shore wind development by 2025-2030 with a similar megawatt project, which would have a fraction of the impacts of on-shore, and provide us the potential opportunity to isolate the gen-tie in the Humboldt Bay Area and create islanded-storage, allowing our community to be free from dependence on the PG&E grid.

Decentralized power is in my opinion the answer for communities. Please do not let corporate power harm our community or ecosystem.

Thanks Larry Soll Trinidad CA

#### Dear Commission-

I do not envy you at this time. You have a controversial project to deliberate on. I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for your service.

The wind project has raised a lot of discussion, debate, arguing, and propaganda. Please do not take any of the propaganda into your decision. I do not have all the information to spew out a bunch of facts. I am not the only person in this position, however many people with the same knowledge as me are saying things and calling them facts. Should anyone want to argue the facts in this document, please make sure their arguments are backed up by citable facts.

You have an environmental impact report. I trust that you each studied it. Thank you. It is an enormous document and I know each of you have important things to do. This document contains facts. Should anyone want to argue the facts in this document, please make sure their arguments are backed up by citable facts.

You have the facts and I would like to share my opinions.

-We can not thrive in Humboldt County without change. While some people fear change, anything good that comes into our lives is change.

-Redwood Coast Energy Authority is a great entity and has done nothing but good for this community. They have agreed to purchase a certain amount of the energy from the wind project meaning the energy (or at least some of it) will stay local.

-We must step up our game in conservation. The county has worked on that by making curbside recycling available but we need to do more.

-Tax revenues are a good thing. Especially when we aren't raising taxes just getting our share of taxes already imposed. The wind project will bring in tax dollars.

These are just a few reasons I am in favor of the wind project. Please take this as the opinion of a regular working, tax paying, voting citizen. Please make sure that anything you are considering as fact is backed up by reputable research and not someone who is citing their opinions as fact.

Thank you,

Scott Hicks Third District Resident/Registered Voter Dear Planning Commission Members,

I'm writing in opposition to the Terra Gen wind project, not because I don't see the compelling need for stable, sustainable electricity in Humboldt County, but because I do, and it's clear to me that Terra Gen's proposal won't provide that.

This project is about profit, pure and simple, feeding whatever power it would produce into the same problem-plagued grid failing us right now.

And even were that not true, the environmental impact would be catastrophic and unconscionable, given the viable alternatives to massive wind turbines.

The big picture I'm seeing, and that is spelled out very clearly in well researched, well written books like "Brittle Power" my Amory and Hunter Lovins, is that huge electricity grids are inherently vulnerable and costly over the long haul. They can work well as long as conditions are favorable, but fail when conditions change, as we are seeing right now. And their current reliance on fossil fuels is a big contributor to global warming, and all the consequences that come with it.

The long term, environmentally and economically sound answer is networks of small scale solar and wind power production, using sustainable technologies at the home-by-home and neighborhood levels, and learning to use what power we do generate and collect far more efficiently, and moderately.

This isn't and easy solution, and I know you're under the gun from the public to fix all this right now.

My hope is that you'll be willing to say no to Terra Gen, and also make clear to the public that We, The People, need to do our share in fixing the problems, not just hammer our elected government to do it for us.

With respect and appreciation,

Bob Olofson

212 14th Street Eureka, CA 95501 rhuffolson@suddenlink.net (707)444-8764

# From: SUZANNE ATIVEH To: Planora Clock Subject: Gamets, puffins, kithwake: birds at risk in Scottish windfarm surge | Scotland | The Gaardian Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 8:53:59 PM

https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/2trl=https% 3A%2F%ZFwaw.theguardian.com%2Fulx-news%2F2017%2Fexodand-birds-at-risk-windfarms-gannets-kittiwakespuffins&amp:data=02%7C01%7Cplanningcleds%40cohumboldt.ca.us%7C68fa9c817c5649474a4008d762755459%7Cc00ae2b64fe844f198637b1adf4b27cb%7C0%7C1%7C637086128388818446&amp:sdata=LmjNA%2Fb15KmTTVXSI5hE4w0%2FbJMqBSdY13kJKG%2Bwoo%3D&amp:reserved=0

S. E. A.

From:	Patt Jones
To:	PlanningBuilding
Subject:	Terra-Gen Wind Project
Date:	Tuesday, November 5, 2019 8:18:38 PM

To: Humboldt Wind Energy Planner, County of Humboldt Planning Department From: Patricia A. Jones, Humboldt County Resident since 1983

I am writing this to protest the Terra-Gen proposed industrial wind energy project in Humboldt County. I am a fan of wind and solar energy and strongly urge the County to find and promote safer projects scaled for our community.

The main reasons I oppose this Terra-Gen wind energy project are the following, and are in no particular order:

1) Poor cost/benefit ratio. There is too much negative environmental impact for the amount of gain.

2) Increased fire risk and the dependence on PG&E's fire prone transmission lines.

3) Wind turbine towers are too tall for such a seismically active area.

4) Negative effects of wind generator noise and lights in close proximity to towns

5) Risks to California Condor and other protected wildlife

6) The desecration and destruction of Wiyot cultural lands

7) Humboldt County is not sufficiently protected from bearing decommissioning costs in the future

8) Power generated by this project goes to the broader grid, not benefiting the local population. We need power generation dedicated to our county.

9) Negative effects of clearcutting a 25 mile wide path to the Bridgeville substation

10) Negative impact on tourism - this eyesore will be visible and audible throughout the Eel River Valley and nearby areas.

Respectfully, Patricia A. Jones

From:	brennan50@suddenlink.net
To:	<u>CEQAResponses</u>
Subject:	Turbines
Date:	Wednesday, November 6, 2019 7:42:32 PM

I cannot imagine how totally anti-Humboldt wind turbines would be in our area. Take a look at the total bleakness of these 'farms' down south at the the Altamote pass. These gigantic turbines if not killing birds then making them drastically change their course and resting areas. All around them the ground is dead. Very ugly.

Last winter during the 'polar vortex towns who were dependent on wind almost froze to death because there was no wind just bone chilling cold.

I am not for wind but I am for natural gas. Chevron could easily supply the county of Humboldt with an invisible couple of oil derricks that create ecosystems on their pilings. County car could easily convert to natural gas. Let's live with a reliable source of energy that is right outside our windows.

No on Wind Turbines.

Rick Brennan

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my opinion about the Terra Gen project. I believe that the scope of the project is environmentally hazardous to our delicate ecosystem.

As I understand the potential power generated from this project is not specifically allocated for Humboldt County alone. With our resent PSPS outages, I think our county would do better creating power and an infrastructure that could help us be self sufficient. My concern is that this project will not help us gain independence from PG&E. Secondly, some of the land included in the proposal is sacred to the native Wiyot people. The Wiyot and other native tribes have already lost more than enough to the white mans development of Humboldt County. Lastly, I'd like to urge you to consider the impact for the wildlife and the birds. The potential loss of habitat could be irreversible. The building of this massive infrastructure will undoubtably effect the wildlands of Humboldt County.

Thanks, Allyson Provisor PO Box 296 Garberville 47 year resident of Humboldt County

From:	Slayer !!!
То:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Terra Gen Project
Date:	Wednesday, November 6, 2019 9:20:17 PM

I'd like to stand in solidarity with the Wiyot people and express my concern for the Terra Gen project. As much as I'd like to see our county create renewable energy, this project is not a good fit for us. Please do not allow this project to move forward.

Thank you, Ramona Provisor Lifetime resident of Humboldt County

From:	Jack Kinnear
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	NO to WIND FARM
Date:	Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:35:16 AM

Dear County Planners, Please add my name to the long list of people who oppose this wind farm project on Bear and Monument Ridges. I've read all the arguments for and read all the arguments against. Even before I knew the details, I felt funny about scarring those two ridges with the construction of this turbines. The turbines are huge. Those ridges are prominent, awe inspiring features of that gateway landscape that borders the mysterious Lost Coast region. The construction up there will do a lot of long term damage and I can't imagine how bad it will be for the streams below. I believe the short sighted value perceived from this fiasco farm will fall far short of it's intended benefits. To spoil that region is so short sighted. This county has long been managed by short sighted people greasing their own wheels. Despite the best efforts of our local politicians and out of town timber rapers, this geography still has unspoiled beauty and wide open vista and beauty that can be found in few other places in the USA. These qualities are the most valuable resource we have.

Respectfully,

Jack Kinnear Pine Hill, Humboldt 707-888-5107

From:	Craig Newman
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Monument Ridge Wind Generation
Date:	Thursday, November 7, 2019 10:09:57 AM

Please register my full support for this project as designed including reasonable additional mitigations for stated potential adverse impacts.

We will never attain moving away from dependence on fossil fuels unless we approve and implement reasonable power generation projects. As an experienced resources professional I am confident that this project can be implemented without significant adverse impacts to wild land or other identified resources.

Craig R. Newman Retired Registered Professional Forester

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>ernieorjudy</u>
To:	Planning Clerk
Subject:	Terra-Gen"s Proposed Wind Project
Date:	Thursday, November 7, 2019 10:58:13 AM
•	

To Planning Clerk, Humboldt Co. Planning Commission: Please insure that my comments below are given/sent to each Planning Commissioner. Thank you.

Dear Humboldt County Planning Commissioners: I am very concerned about the proposed Terra-Gen's Wind Generated electricity proposal. I feel the negative impacts greatly outweigh any energy produced by this proposal. The damage/alteration of the environment impacted by this proposal greatly outweighs any benefit proposed by this project. The impacts to the environment, including road building, erosion, negative impacts on streams and waterways, wildlife, and the scenic visual degradation in unacceptable. One thing not being talked about is the life of these monstrous windmills that would be erected for the project. They can't be removed and what is left after the stated 30 life of the project will be an eyesore on Monument and Bear River ridges. And also a hazard when they rust away and eventually fall down, creating a hazard to anyone that may be in harms way. Another factor to consider is that the electricity produced by Terra-Gen's proposal goes south into the grid, not to Humboldt Co. So we gain nothing from this proposal, but incur all the visual and environmental damage caused by this project. I would much rather see the Commission consider a proposal to make the changes needed to have the Fields Landing PG&E electric generation power plant be able to serve Humboldt Co. when PG&E turns off the power coming over large transmission lines from the Redding/Red Bluff area. Lost Coast Outpost has a post detailing how this can work. I urge you to read that help to make that proposal possible for Humboldt Co. So, my recommendation is for you commissioners to VOTE NO ON TERRA-GEN'S PROPOSAL!

Sincerely, Ernie DeGraff, Fortuna, CA