

10/17/2011

Solano County Resource Management

Dear Sir:

My wife, Jean Terry spoke to you early today and asked me to forward several studies on wind mills.

We are objecting to the counties negative declaration on this project.

The first study I'm attaching is the 2009 Wind Study Impact by the Appraisal Group One done on 9/9/2009. It was done in Wisconsin. They looked at several issues concerning large scale wind turbines.

The first issue they address is the real estate values. They did a comprehensive study of the effects of wind turbines on property values. They concluded that the wind turbines reduce property sales and values between 19-74%. Their average reduction was a -40%. This of course would be bad for the property owner but it would also be bad for the county as well. Reduced property values mean reduced property taxes and hence mean a loss of income for the county. Your negative declaration on project #U96-31-MR2 deals with neither of the loss of neighboring land values or property tax losses to the county. These are both significant issues that need to be addressed.

The second issue that this study addresses is that of noise and its health impacts. Solano County has addressed only part of the noise spectrum. The audible noise is the most obvious to most parties. The county general plan addresses this issue in some minor depth but with far less discussion than other counties in California.

The noise that the county staff does not address and what Solano county general plan makes no mention of is called LNF. These are known as noises are Low Noise Frequency. The attached paper talks about the Minnesota Department of Health study that found that turbines generate a broad spectrum of LNF's. These LNF's are not stopped by a house like some of the audible noises are. They are low frequency, from 1-20 Hz. They can be felt. The Minnesota Department of Health talks about that these can be mitigated by requiring a minimum set back from house of 1/2 mile. The International Community a 1500ft. distance setback for any turbine as a minimum. These low frequency noise cause health problems and have been associated with complaints from residents who live around wind turbines. There are studies and complaints all show similar complaints of dizziness, headaches, uselessness and high blood pressure. They are the same complaints as a proven ailment called VAD which is Vibroacoustic Disease. Please see pages 43-47 of the Wind Turbine Impact Report.

During my research on this project I looked at other wind projects in Solano County. Please note in the Solano County Montezuma II project that draft EIR recommended 6000 ft. set back from any turbine to any house. I assume that the consultant that wrote that was paid by the developer and hired for the

county's benefit and thus would be considered impartial. This distance was later reduced to 1000ft. if the developer got a waiver from the land owner who then would agree to a deed restriction place on his property stopping any possible noise complaints in the future. I assume that the developer paid the land owner to purchase an easement. The county seems to acknowledge that at the least there may be a problem with noise or with the property losing value in suggesting this language in the EIR.

The last issue is on blade throw and ice throw from the turbine. The California Wind Energy Collaboration Report CEC-500-2005 is mentioned in the Solano County Montezuma II project EIR. The EIR contains a letter from Cliff Graham dated 10/13/2010. Cliff Graham is from NexTera Energy Resources. He cites this report discussing the blade throw. He discusses that 80 meter / 262.4 ft. wind turbine could throw blades up to 565ft.

Please note that the proposed Superior Farms/Foundation wind turbine is 409 ft. off of our property and is 329ft tall. To some contrast of the height the Statue of Liberty is only 305ft. tall. In our talks with Foundation Windpower on 10/14/2010 their representative told us he had seen data discussing ice throw of up 700ft.

The above study also suggested a planning area set back of 3 times the height of the proposed wind turbine height. This same study is also discussed in the California Department of Energy documents. This project could be construed as a taking of several acres of our property by Solano County and Superior Farms. We could not build within a zone where we knew a blade throw or ice sling could exist.

This blade throws and ice sling are life hazard events that prudent planning and zoning are supposed to look at when considering projects. Blade throw and ice sling are known and discussed in various papers, science journals, the California Department of Energy Documents and EIR's filled within Solano County. They are known to the Solano County planning staff. The county cannot simply choose to ignore the information before it. Solano County cannot wave its responsibility to address these issues and declare by a negative declaration that all of these issues are not significant when taken individual or together as a cumulative impact. Solano County should not ignore the published information. To ignore the public information on safety concerns would not only put the public at risk but would put county at financial risk from future lawsuits in the event of an accident. When discussing life and safety issues it would seem that best practices dictate that the county should error on the side of safety. Your negative declaration documents do not address these issues in any way. This wind turbine is classified as a non-commercial turbine. The noncommercial classification seems to be a way the project developers and land owner are trying to get around the commercial wind classification. Superior Farms owns the land. They then lease the land to Foundation Windpower. Foundation Wind power the sell the power from the wind turbine to PGE and Superior farms. Superior Farms does not own the wind turbine or the power it generates. It purchases power from both PGE and Foundation Windpower. Foundation windpower sells power to Superior Farms and any excess to PGE. In light of this disclosure this classification by Solano County seems arbitrary when discussing life safety issues. The county staff told me that the classification is because that the project will not sell power to the power grid. They county staff further stated that they would place a deed restriction on the selling of any power generated to the grid. The Foundation Windpower group told us they will sell power to PGE on the grid and buy back

power from PGE under a net metering plan. The Negative declaration documents for the project do not mention this restriction or discuss the limiting how the electricity will be used or restricted by any deed covenant. It would appear to me that the county is trying to make the zoning fit the project instead of the project fit the zoning.

Your county staff has assured us that blades throws are rare and do not happen very often. My reading and various studies show somewhat of a different picture. They are shown in various studies to happen at a rate of 1 out 100 to 3 out 1000 for each of windmills. We legislate safety through various laws on incidents that happen with less occurrence than this.

We look forward to talking further with you and your staff to discuss this project and how best to protect our property rights and our health.

Sincerely

Ken Odom

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