Comment Letter II

II-5





San Diego County DEPT, OF PLANNING & LAND US January 24, 2012

Patrick Brown Matthew Schneider DPLU Project Managers 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B San Diego, CA 92123-1666

RE: Wind Energy Ordinance & General Plan Amendment DEIR; POD 10-007, LOG NO. 09-00-003; SCH NO. 2010091030 & Tule Wind General Plan Amendment

Dear Mr. Schneider. At our regular meeting held on Jan. 18, our Rural Economic Action League (REAL) group voted to go on record with the following positions: 1. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSED DRAFT EIR FOR THE WIND ENERGY II-1 ORDINANCE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT; THE REDUCED TURBINE PROJECT ALTERNATIVE; AND THE TULE WIND PLAN AMENDMENT 2. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT OF THE NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE AS BEING THE MOST II-2 PROTECTIVE OF RURAL COMMUNTIES, RESIDENTS, AND RESOURCES. 3. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP'S REQUEST FOR A COUNTY-WIDE MORATORIUM ON LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL W IND TURBINE PROJECTS AND THE INITIATION OF LEGITIMATE INDEPENDENDENT SCIENCE-BASED RESEARCH II-3 STUDIES TO DETERMINE SAFE SETBACKS1, IF ANY, FROM OPERATING LARGE WIND TURBINE PROJECTS CAN BE DETERMINED AS ADEQUATE TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY FROM PROJECT-RELATED EMISSIONS / IMPACT/EFFECTS Our position is based on but not limited to the following: · The County's General Plan and the Boulevard Community Plan was just approved in 11-4 August and should not be amended (as proposed)2 in a manner that reduces protections for rural communities, impacted property owners, and sensitive resources, in order to

large-scale industrial wind energy projects.

Large-scale wind turbine projects require an extensive land base³, and air space, in

facilitate and streamline the permitting of unnecessary, disruptive, and very expensive

addition to new power line and substation projects that represent an increased risk of

Response to Comment Letter II

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- II-1 The County acknowledges the commenter's opposition to the proposed project, the EIR, the General Plan Amendment, the reduced alternatives identified in the DEIR, and the proposed Tule General Plan Amendment. The information in this comment will be in the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision makers.
- **II-2** The County acknowledges the commenter's support for the No Project Alternative.
- II-3 The comment requests a moratorium for large wind turbine projects and the initiation of new studies to evaluate impacts from large wind turbines. This recommendation would conflict with the project objectives of the Wind Energy Ordinance. Nevertheless, the commenter can present this option to the County Board of Supervisors as a project alternative during the hearing process. In addition, this comment will be included in the Final EIR and staff report to the decision makers.
- II-4 The County acknowledges the commenter's opposition to the proposed General Plan Amendment. The information in this comment will be in the Final EIR

Explicit Cautionary Notice To Those Responsible for Wind Turbine Siting Decisions:
 http://www.brafoundation.com.au/r2Ne2D0xlmNhaW09MTN/myVlkiPSIcmM9MT000Tr1MiMy0A%3D%3D

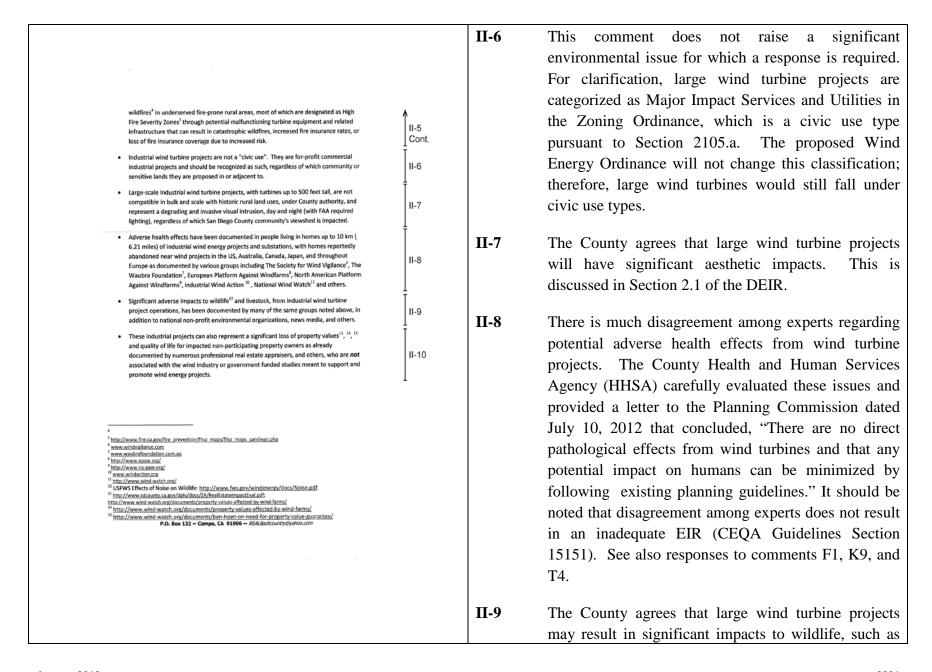
² http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/regulatory/docs/3800-11-001_CEQA_REVIEW_111116/3800-11-001-GPAR.pdf
³ Tule Wind 15.000 acres:

acres:
P.O. Box 132 ~ Campo, CA 91906 ~ REALBackcountry@yahoo.com

for review and consideration by the decision makers. II-5 Issues raised in this comment are not inconsistent with the existing content of the DEIR. Section 2.6.3.7 identifies potentially significant impacts associated with wildland fires for both large and small wind turbines. It should be noted, however, that issues related to fire insurance rates/coverage were not discussed in the DEIR since this topic is not related to environmental impacts. See CEQA Guidelines section 15131.

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birds and bats, and to agricultural resources. See DEIR Sections 2.4.7 and 2.2.7.
II-10 This comment raises concerns regarding property values. This topic was not evaluated in the DEIR since it is not related to environmental impacts. See CEQA Guidelines section 15131. However, this type of information can be presented to decision makers for their consideration during the hearing process for the project.

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