

MAR 4 2011

BACKCOUNTRY AGAINST DUMPS

P.O. BOX 1275, BOULEVARD, CA 91905

California Public Utilities Commission

March 3, 2011

Attn: Iain Fisher

BLM California Desert District Office

Attn: Greg Thomsen

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Attn: John Rydzik

c/o Dudek

605 Third Street

Encinitas, CA 92024

VIA Express Mail

RE: ECO Substation, Tule Wind, Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Project DEIR/EIS / submission for the record.

Dear Mr. Fisher, Mr. Thomsen and Mr. Rydzik,

Please find and accept into the record for this project, the enclosed copy of the yellow bulk mailer with meeting flyer for the community meeting held in Boulevard on January 19, 2011, and the enclosed CD / video of that meeting. The subject of that meeting was:

INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES,


ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS, & PROPERTY DEVALUATION

As you will see from the flyer and the video, BAD distributed the flyer and meeting announcement as a public service to the community. Speakers included Carmen Krogh with the Society for Wind Vigilance and Michael McCann of McCann Appraisal, LLC, Bill Powers of Powers Engineering, Dave Elliott, member of the Manzanita Band, and myself.

The bulk mailer went to all those who receive their mail through the Boulevard and Jacumba Post Offices, this includes many, if not a majority of local tribal members from several tribal nations. We had an excellent turnout that filled the equipment bay of our volunteer Boulevard Fire Station with a standing room only crowd with overflow outside. We had very positive feedback including that from several elected tribal executive council members who are already suffering adverse impacts from the existing 25 Kumeyaay Wind turbines, along with many of their friends and neighbors.

This is only a small part of the comments we will be submitting for the record on this massive and destructive project.

Regards,


Donna Tisdale, President

619-766-4170

DONNA TISDALE
BACKCOUNTRY AGAINST DUMPS
PO Box 1275
BOULEVARD, CA 91905

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 10
BOULEVARD, CA

RURAL RESIDENT
BOULEVARD, CA 91905

PLEASE READ ME AND COME TO THE COMMUNITY MEETING - WED. JAN. 19TH !!
**LEARN ABOUT MORE WIND TURBINE PROJECTS CLOSER TO HOMES - ADVERSE
HEALTH EFFECTS - PROPERTY VALUE IMPACTS - INCREASED FIRE RISK**

BIG-WIND ENERGY IS NOT FREE CLEAN OR GREEN

- ✓ Learn what SDG&E, Sempra, Iberdrola, Invenergy, Enel and their complicit cheerleaders, don't want you to know--like how turbines can cause harm.
- ✓ Learn how they are influencing decision makers to reduce turbine setbacks that are needed to protect public health and safety. (Smaller buffer zones =more turbines)
- ✓ Why are people and animals getting sick, and locals say that wildlife is disappearing around wind turbines, like the antelope around Willow Creek Wind farm?
- ✓ Why are some families abandoning their homes when wind turbines move in next door, and why do government agencies support industry over residents?
- ✓ Why do companies, *like Iberdrola*, oppose property value guarantee agreements *if* property values really *don't deflate* as they so misleadingly claim?
- ✓ Why do companies, *like Invenergy*, try to bribe impacted property owners with cash to shut up about *unacceptable* noise impacts, that make some people ill, and require gag orders for the *few* they do buy out?
- ✓ Why did one town councilman say his relationship with the wind company was like a relationship with the devil himself, and that their (Sheldon) wind farm was another example why industrial wind turbines don't belong anywhere near people?
- ✓ Why did SDG&E's Escondido substation explode in December? Can it happen here?

Join us at the community organized meeting & hear from those who know

7-9 PM, Wed. Jan 19, 2011 Boulevard Fire Station, 39919 Ribbonwood Road

Organized and co-hosted by the elected Boulevard Planning Group, Backcountry Against Dumps, The Protect Our Communities Foundation, the East County Community Action Coalition, and the Rural Economic Action League.

Seize the opportunity to learn the facts from those who have knowledge of, and experience with, industrial wind energy projects and their negative impacts on people's health, quality of life, and property values. Get information to use at upcoming public meetings to *discuss* Iberdrola's 200 MW Tule Wind project (134 turbines) in McCain Valley, with new power lines, substations, and access roads from Ribbonwood, across the Tule Creek 100-year flood plain, to McCain Valley Road; SDG&E's 60-acre ECO Substation near Jacumba with 13.3 miles of new 138 kV lines, and 2-acre Boulevard Substation, near Calxico Lodge; Sempra's 1,250 MW Energia Sierra Juarez (est. 625 turbines in Baja) projects that will transform our public lands, resources, quiet neighborhoods and stunning open views into subsidy and property - value sucking industrial energy zones with hundreds of massive turbines close to 500 feet tall (over 100 feet taller than the existing Kumeyaay turbines) and lots of new transmission lines criss-crossing our properties and neighborhoods, some using eminent domain. More turbine projects, with *more* 138 kV lines and new switchyards are planned in and around Boulevard with hundreds more planned near Jacumba and Ocotillo. We are not alone. Other communities around the nation and the globe are already dealing with the negative health and loss of property values from these projects.

These are adverse health effects we already know about--and that the wind industry argues:

- ✓ Wind turbines emit low frequency noise and infrasound which may be audible or inaudible. It is acknowledged that infrasound can induce annoyance, stress and sleep disturbance by disturbing people inside their homes through structural vibrations. Pets, livestock and wildlife are also affected.

- ✓ Humans must be protected from the adverse health effects of low frequency noise and infrasound exposure with minimum setbacks of 1.2-2 miles--*more in open terrain like ours where noise travels.*
- ✓ International research and media reports document people exposed to wind turbines reporting adverse health effect, including annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, headaches, difficulty concentrating, irritability, fatigue, dizziness or vertigo, tinnitus and the sensation of ear pain /pressure.
- ✓ Based on current understanding of how low frequency sound is processed in the ear, and on reports indicating that wind turbine noise causes greater annoyance than other sounds of similar level and affects the quality of life in sensitive individuals, there is an urgent need for more research directly addressing the physiologic consequences of long-term, low level infrasound exposures on humans.
- ✓ Adverse health effects associated with low frequency noise and infrasound can be avoided with authoritative regulations that ensure protection is engineered into the design of wind turbine projects.
- ✓ Members of the wind energy industry oppose addressing wind turbine low frequency noise and infrasound. For example the Canadian Wind Energy Association has lobbied against the introduction of protective guidance designed to address wind turbine low frequency noise and infrasound and companies working in San Diego County have lobbied for more access to land with fewer restrictions.
- ✓ Wind turbine shadow flicker can stretch thousands of feet at certain times of day. That flicker can trigger seizures and create additional adverse effects for people and animals.

These nearly 500 feet tall wind turbines can and do start fires, throw blades, and even collapse. Come to the Jan 19th community meeting and see the evidence.

You already know about the dirty tricks and bad actions by SDG&E and Sempra , above and beyond their Sunrise Powerlink scam...if you don't, here is a link to website that tracks them and provides an interesting litany with the sources: <http://truthsayer-esther.blogspot.com/p/schemes-between-cpuc-sempra-sdg.html>

Iberdrola has already received close to \$1 Billion in federal renewable energy grants *and they want more of our tax dollars (at least 30% of project costs) to build Tule Wind on PUBLIC land*--inside the Lark Canyon OHV Park, and *next to the Lark Canyon and Cottonwood Campgrounds in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management & Recreation Area*--our main tourist attraction and local recreation area for lots of folks. If not for the stimulus money, Iberdrola said it would have chosen to invest abroad instead of in the United States. *The stimulus money and state mandates for renewable energy are driving all these projects.*** Between direct cash payouts, federal loan guarantees, existing state tax credits and State Renewable Portfolio Standards policies, that assure premiums for renewable energy, wind developers get fat at the expense of tax and rate payers. ***Instead--that money should go to public and private property owners (like us)to install solar panels and small wind turbines to produce energy where it is needed and to eliminate unnecessary and expensive power lines like Sunrise Powerlink!*** Studies show that point of use generation, on new and existing structures, is the more cost-effective and least destructive way to go, *after* energy conservation through reduced consumption and weatherizing buildings.**

COME AND SPEAK OUT AT THE PUC/BLM/COUNTY MEETINGS FOR THE JOINT DRAFT EIR/EIS FOR TULE WIND , ECO SUBSTATION & ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ: Staff will be present for questions.

January 26, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Jacumba Highland Center 44681 Old Highway 80, Jacumba

February 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department 39223 Highway 94, Boulevard

The County will be holding separate hearings on the Major Use Permits for issues under County control.

TELL THE PUC, BLM, the County, and tribal leaders that we need minimum buffer zones of at least 1.5-2 miles, or more, to protect public health and safety. Make them listen to your legitimate concerns!

We know that Iberdrola (Spain), SDG&E, Sempra, Invenergy (Chicago), Enel (Italy), and other major developers, industry and business groups will show up in full force, along with their political toadies, boot lickers, and those few locals who are willing to sell their very souls *and your quality of life* for the almighty dollar--regardless of who gets hurt or what is lost forever. They want to profit through millions/billions of dollars in subsidies and energy credits funded by our tax dollars, and increased utility rates, for building these unnecessary projects and destroying our communities, lives, and property values. They will make sure that lots of letters *supporting* these destructive projects will be sent in--mostly by people who *do not live here, or expect to profit from our loss!!* ***It is up to you to counter the unwarranted project support letters and comments with your own real concerns and personal knowledge of the area.***

JOINT DEIR/DEIS DOCUMENT & MAPS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Jacumba Public Library, Campo-Morena Village Branch Library and on the CPUC website at:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/ECOSUB.htm>

GET YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS IN BY FEBRUARY 16TH DEADLINE--YOUR LETTERS COULD HELP SUPPORT A FUTURE LAWSUIT TO BLOCK APPROVAL / CONSTRUCTION: The CPUC/BLM must receive written comments on the DEIR/DEIS by the close of the public review period (February 16, 2011). Written comments must be postmarked and received no later than February 16, 2011. Comments can be submitted via:

Mail: Iain Fisher, CPUC/Greg Thomsen, BLM, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

Email: ecosub@dudek.com (CPUC) OR catulewind@blm.gov (BLM)

Fax: (800) 371-8854 (to send a fax, press "2")

The BLM says they will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and that Native American Tribal consultations are being conducted in accordance with policy. The impacted project areas in McCain Valley, Jacumba, Bankhead Springs, Thing Valley, and elsewhere along the routes, contain significant cultural resources and Traditional Cultural Properties. The cumulative destructive impacts from multiple projects, including the Sunrise Powerlink, ECO Substation, Energia Sierra Juarez, Ocotillo Express Wind and IV Solar are significant. The BLM is currently being sued by several tribal groups for failure to protect these important and irreplaceable resources as required by law, common decency, and respect.

The joint Tule, ECO, ESJ DEIR/EIS quietly states that the Environmentally Superior Alternative, under the California Environmental Quality Act, is the NO PROJECT Alternative based on significant Class I impacts to Air Quality, Noise, Biological Resources, Visual Character, and Fire and Fuels Management. However, the PUC /BLM *preferred alternative* is a much reduced project with 72 turbines instead of 134, undergrounding of some power lines and slightly moving two substation locations. The impacts stay about the same. ***There are numerous other alternatives that are being carried forward, so if your property is not impacted with the current plan it could be impacted by another alternative that will not be announced until the Final EIR/EIS is released --just like the Sunrise Powerlink!***

Additional energy projects that will need new power lines to the new larger Boulevard Substation:

- **Invenery/SDG&E/Campo Nation** 160-300 MW (80-150 turbines) on Campo Reservation ridgelines
- **SDG&E/Manzanita Band** 57 MW (29 turbines) on Manzanita Reservation ridgelines
- **Enel Green Power** Jewel Valley Project 158 MW (79 turbines) and 10 MW solar on Lansing's Empire Ranch and Big Country Ranch. See project info at: www.jewelvalleyproject.com
- **Rough Acres Ranch** approximately 100 acre solar tracking project on McCain Valley Road (no details)
- **Concentrix Solar** tracking project in Jewel Valley (no details)
- **ECO Substation expansions:** Five 500 kV bays; Nine 239 kV bays; Nine 138 kV bays. The maximum amount of oil required for the transformers will be approximately 569,800 gallons.

MAR 04 2011

AN ESTIMATED 400 ADDITIONAL NEW WIND TURBINES ARE PLANNED
IN AND AROUND BOULEVARD - AND MANY MORE NEAR JACUMBA AND OCOTILLO

DON'T MISS THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION THE
EXPERTS ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN

INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES, HEALTH IMPACTS & PROPERTY DEVALUATION

LEARN THE FACTS THAT WIND ENERGY
DEVELOPERS WON'T TELL YOU

WHEN: 7 TO 9 PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

WHERE: BOULEVARD FIRE & RESCUE DEPT.
(33919 Ribbonwood Road just south of the Boulevard exit from I-8)

FEATURED PANELISTS

DONNA TISDALE: BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP, BACKCOUNTRY AGAINST DUMPS
Overview of multiple wind turbine/transmission projects & impacts.

BILL POWERS, P.E., POWERS ENGINEERING, ENERGY CONSULTANT

Energy expert with extensive knowledge and experience in energy generation, environmental engineering, air emissions control, regional energy planning, and distributed renewable energy generation.

CARMEN KROGH: PHARMACIST, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WIND VIGILANCE

The Society for Wind vigilance is an international federation of physicians, acousticians and other professionals who are concerned about health risks. Carmen is a retired pharmacist with 40 years experience in medicine. She is in touch, globally, with many people who report symptoms from industrial wind turbines sited near their homes.

MICHAEL MCCANN, CRA: MCCANN APPRAISAL, LLC

Mike has been exclusively engaged in real estate appraisal since 1980, and is the owner of McCann Appraisal, LLC. His experience includes real estate zoning evaluations, property value impact studies, analysis of utility scale wind turbine generating facilities and gas-fired electric generating plants, as well as evaluation of eminent domain real estate acquisitions for property owners and condemning authorities.

Questions? Call Donna
Tisdale at 619-766-4718

THIS COMMUNITY EDUCATION MEETING IS CO-HOSTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE
BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP, BACKCOUNTRY AGAINST DUMPS (BAD), THE PROTECT
OUR COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION (POC), THE EAST COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION
COALITION (ECCAC), AND THE RURAL ECONOMIC ACTION LEAGUE (REAL)