

March 2, 2011

Iain Fisher, CPUC
Greg Thompson, BLM
C/O DUDEK
605 Third Street
Encinitas, CA 92024

RE: SCH#2009121079 Joint NEPA/CEQA Joint DEIR/DEIS Public Comments for the East County Substation/Tule Wind. Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects

Dear Mr. Fisher and Mr. Thompson,

Development of the Tule Wind project will hasten the decline of the Golden Eagles. The Golden Eagle is an essential religious and spiritual symbol of the Kumeyaay people, which dates back to before recorded time. Over the past several decades the total population of the eagles in the region has been documented as significantly declining. The protection of the Golden Eagle as a primary cultural and religious symbol of the Kumeyaay Nation outweighs any potential benefits a wind project would provide. Additionally, no Avian Protection Plan is proposed or has been developed and made public in conjunction with the proposed project; however there is no acceptable mitigation that will eliminate the risk of loss of the Golden Eagles.

The Kumeyaay people once roamed from the ocean to the desert of Southern California and into Northern Baja California, Mexico. Due to the development of most of this region there are few Kumeyaay ancestral sites left undisturbed. McCain Valley and the Jacumba are the last of such critically important sites. The proposed draft EIR/EIS has no adequate provisions to avoid the Kumeyaay ancestral districts and no mitigation will be acceptable other than complete avoidance. Many of these locations contain cremation of human remains as well as ceremonial and religious tribal gathering sites that date back thousands of years. There is no way to replace these sites once they are gone. In addition, the proposed project have no plan in place to avoid the significant and sacred cultural, historic, religious, and archaeological Kumeyaay ancestral sites in the region and doesn't address the effects of the total desecration of this highly important and significant cultural landscape of the Kumeyaay People.

In summary, the proposed Tule Wind project will decimate the ancestral Kumeyaay sites in the last remaining Kumeyaay archaeological district and create an unacceptable risk for a significant decline in the local Golden Eagle population. As such the project should be rejected.

Sincerely,



Lio Estrada
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