

## Steve Taffolla

---

**From:** Laurie Squillaci, RN MSNc <desertroseranchanimalsanctuary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2011 7:32 PM  
**To:** ECOSUB; catulewind@blm.gov  
**Cc:** 'Steve Squillaci'

February 08, 2011

Iain Fisher  
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
C/O Dudek  
605 Third Street  
Encinitas, CA 92024

RE: East County Substation/Tule Wind/Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects

To whom it may concern,

My name is Steven Squillaci. I have lived in Jacumba for over 30 years. My wife and I are distressed over the proposed projects, listed above. Let us share our thoughts...

To start, wind turbines are unreliable. The breaks can fail; they can spin out of control, and can injure humans and wildlife. Icing or ice on the blades can fly off and also cause damage. Introduction of wind turbines and proposed electric lines can start fires. They would introduce a new ignition source in an already high fire-danger zone. The back country is not equipped or funded if such an event were to occur. A fire of this magnitude could burn all the way to the coast, carried by the Santa Ana winds, creating great destruction in its wake.

From personal experience, I have noticed that the wind turbines shadow flicker spooks horses which can cause serious bodily injury or death to the rider. There was no mention of this in the public safety section in the "DRAFT". This is horse country and Manzanita Horse Camp will be severely affected if these projects go through, along with private ranchers and pleasure riders. This area is also known for Big Horn Sheep. The shadow flicker can spook the sheep, subsequently, driving them out of this area. Keep in mind that they are endangered along with the Golden Eagles that had two fledglings in this area in 2010. As you can clearly see, the creation of wind turbines will have devastating effects on the natural habitat that currently surrounds us. Not only will it alter the existing landscape it will diminish the wilderness experience for residents and visitors to our area.

Wind turbines also are known to cause noise, vibrations, and even sleep disturbances. There are also potential health effects associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) which are very concerning.

The proposed projects will destroy hundreds of square miles of views and let's not forget about the construction-related impacts to air, noise, wildlife, recreation, cultural sites, water, and erosion due to trenching and boring. It will destroy sacred Native American land and oak trees that have stood the test of time. The required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety lighting, which would be placed atop the wind turbines, is also a visual concern. Clear starry nights in the back country will be a thing of the past as the lights from these projects overwhelm nature.

Visually, from where my property is located, I can see all 5 existing wind turbines in Mexico and 11 of the Campo wind turbines. If the Mexican wind turbines are built, we will see all of those as well. We will also see the proposed substations. This will cause a visual blight and have an aesthetic impact as wind turbines are extremely obtrusive, subsequently decreasing our property value. Property value could drop up to 40 percent based on current trends and literature on wind turbines in other parts of the country.

We feel that those you have hired to perform the environmental impact studies are biased, as they have a vested interest in seeing the projects through, which is concerning to us. It is a manmade disaster in the waiting. We request that you look at alternatives to the proposed projects above.

We request that you extend the 45 day public comment period past February 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 since the "DRAFT" was put out to the public on Christmas Eve, yet because of the holidays most concerned citizens were not notified of this until mid January.

Please send an acknowledgment of receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Squillaci

\*\*\*\*\*  
This footnote confirms that this email message has been scanned by  
PineApp Mail-SeCure for the presence of malicious code, vandals & computer viruses.  
\*\*\*\*\*