

STATE CAPITOL
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Assembly California Legislature



BRIAN W. JONES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
10152 MISSION GORGE ROAD
SANTÉE, CA 92071-3812
(619) 441-2322
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September 20, 2011

President Michael R. Peevey
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Peevey,

I am writing to request that you deny the Tule Wind project, proposed by Iberdola Renewables, in the McCain Valley Resource Conservation and Recreation Area near Boulevard, CA. This area in the 77th California Assembly District attracts visitors who support local businesses and job creation.

The Tule Wind project would negatively affect a disproportionately rural and low-income community, populated in part by multiple Native American tribes, including the Manzanita, Campo, and Viejas Bands of the Kumeyaay Nation. Consequently, the entire community has expressed to me its overwhelming disapproval of this project, and cites the adverse environmental and economic impact that industrial wind turbines will have on this already fragile community.

The Tule Wind project would increase the risk of adverse health effects and reduce the quality of life through low-frequency noise, electrical pollution, visual intrusion, an overabundance of electrical infrastructure throughout the area, and potential drawdown of groundwater supplies during construction. Furthermore, the economic impact could be catastrophic, as many property values could decline an estimated 40%; such a dramatic decrease in value, and cumulative project impacts, could cause numerous properties to become abandoned, and a significant amount of equity built up by residents in the community could disappear virtually overnight.

The fact that these residents live in a rural area prone to wildfires creates additional economic consequences. Due to the higher risk of fire, many of these residents already pay a relatively high premium to insure their homes against any potential damage. With the installation of industrial wind turbines and related infrastructure comes added risk of electrical malfunction, which could trigger wildfires under certain conditions, and create firefighting impediments. As a

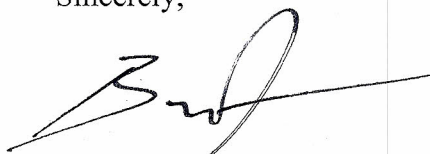
result, there is a high probability that fire insurance rates will grow even more costly, and many providers may cancel plans outright because of the extreme risk of fire damage and loss.

Currently, the project has not yet fulfilled a number of local requirements, including obtaining a Major Use Permit for constructing a new access road, an "accurate and thorough groundwater investigation," a revised fire plan, an encroachment permit for a transmission line, and other crucial project details. Before these other issues are resolved, we will be unable to fully measure the total impact that this project will have beyond the established estimates.

While I believe we must always be surveying all options dedicated toward expanding our energy production and independence, I feel that those involved must consider the interest of every community and should reject any projects that have an adverse impact on residents and tourists. The consequences of the Tule Wind project that I have listed above convince me that the externalized costs placed on the impacted residents by this project far outweigh any professed benefits; we cannot marginalize a low-income rural community in exchange for a minimal increase in energy production.

I appreciate your time spent reviewing these concerns regarding a critical issue for my constituents. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or to call my office at (916)-319-2077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian W. Jones
Assemblyman 77th District

cc: Jerry Brown, Governor of California
Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Jonathan Silver, Executive Director – Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program

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September 20, 2011

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to request that you deny a Major Use Permit for the Tule Wind project, proposed by Iberdola Renewables, in the McCain Valley Resource Conservation and Recreation Area near Boulevard, CA. This area in the 77th California Assembly District attracts visitors who support local businesses and job creation.

The Tule Wind project would negatively affect a disproportionately rural and low-income community, populated in part by multiple Native American tribes, including the Manzanita, Campo, and Viejas Bands of the Kumeyaay Nation. Consequently, the entire community has expressed to me its overwhelming disapproval of this project, and cites the adverse environmental and economic impact that industrial wind turbines will have on this already fragile community.

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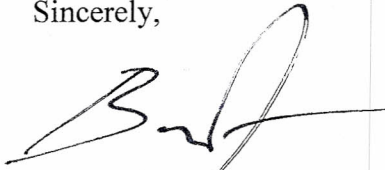
The fact that these residents live in a rural area prone to wildfires creates additional economic consequences. Due to the higher risk of fire, many of these residents already pay a relatively high premium to insure their homes against any potential damage. With the installation of industrial wind turbines and related infrastructure comes added risk of electrical malfunction, which could trigger wildfires under certain conditions, and create firefighting impediments. As a result, there is a high probability that fire insurance rates will grow even more costly, and many providers may cancel plans outright because of the extreme risk of fire damage and loss.

Currently, the project has not yet fulfilled a number of local requirements, including an "accurate and thorough groundwater investigation," a revised fire plan, an encroachment permit for a transmission line, and other crucial project details. Before these other issues are resolved, we will be unable to fully measure the total impact that this project will have beyond the established estimates.

While I believe we must always be surveying all options dedicated toward expanding our energy production and independence, I feel that those involved must consider the interest of every community and should reject any projects that have an adverse impact on residents and tourists. The consequences of the Tule Wind project that I have listed above convince me that the externalized costs placed on the impacted residents by this project far outweigh any professed benefits; we cannot marginalize a low-income rural community in exchange for a minimal increase in energy production.

I appreciate your time spent reviewing these concerns regarding a critical issue for my constituents. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or to call my office at (916)-319-2077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Jones", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Brian W. Jones
Assemblyman 77th District

cc: Eric Gibson, Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use