

## **For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 13, 2013:**

**Contact:** Donna Tisdale at 619-766-4170 or [tisdale.donna@gmail.com](mailto:tisdale.donna@gmail.com)

### **Iberdrola's 200MW Tule Wind project has been slapped with a federal complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief by two grassroots non-profits.**

Tule Wind turbines, close to 500' tall, were unlawfully approved for over 12,000 acres of previously protected public land in the ruggedly beautiful McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management and Recreation Area in Eastern San Diego County – next to public campgrounds and private residences in the predominantly low-income rural community of Boulevard, California—an area designated by Cal Fire as a VERY HIGH FIRE SEVERITY ZONE.



Photo of culturally significant Big Rock in McCain Valley was taken by Bill Parsons, a former Boulevard resident

**March 12<sup>th</sup> US District Court for Southern California:** The Protect Our Communities Foundation (based in Santa Ysabel) and Backcountry Against Dumps (based in Boulevard) filed the Tule Wind Complaint seeking declaratory and injunctive relief based on the following:

- ✓ Violation of National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze evidence of adverse impacts to public health and safety and wildlife related to turbine generated noise, low-frequency noise, infrasound, and electrical pollution (EMF/EMI); and failure to analyze less destructive distributed generation alternatives.
- ✓ Violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- ✓ Violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- ✓ Violation of Administrative Procedures Act

**Tule Wind has no Power Purchase Agreement and two outstanding permits** from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State Lands Commission needed for additional turbines. Iberdrola has been pushing hard!

**FOIA response documents disclose the BLM originally planned to select the NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE based on impacts to Golden Eagles.** BLM apparently caved under intense political pressure from Iberdrola Renewables, a well-connected subsidiary of the Spanish utility. Iberdrola has received over \$1.5 billion in US stimulus funds and is also a key player in the gutting of federal protections for Golden Eagles to allow 'take' permits for industrial wind projects.

**Boulevard area residents are already impacted by Infigen's existing 25 Kumeyaay Wind turbines that were approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2005 with no EIR and a Finding of No Significant Impact.** Turbine noise results in chronic sleep deprivation and stress related adverse health impacts.

**A current Health Impact Assessment is underway for Manzanita tribal members living near the Kumeyaay turbines, with 68% of those surveyed reporting chronic sleep disruption and emerging respiratory problems:** See attached Manzanita Power Quality report by Environmental Assay, Inc, documenting high levels of electrical pollution and interference recorded in tribal homes near the turbines, similar to homes near other turbine projects. Tule Wind turbines will further surround tribal and private residences and other sensitive resources, adding disproportionate and cumulative impacts.

**New peer-reviewed noise and health studies are validating complaints from wind turbine neighbors around the globe.** Some have abandoned homes and livestock operations that have been described as 'acoustically toxic' and 'virtual microwave ovens'. The wind industry and their supporters, including government agencies, routinely dismiss these and other valid complaints and real world damages as NIMBY 'myths'—but the tide is beginning to turn with the growing body of science-based evidence.

### **Additional info on Iberdrola's cash grabs & legal trouble with irate neighbors**

**Iberdrola has raked in at least \$1.5 billion in US stimulus funds.** Tule Wind LLC is desperate to qualify for Section 1603 30% cash grants, Production Tax Credits, and other vanishing lucrative incentives: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203710704577050412494713178.html>

**Iberdrola sued by 60 neighbors of their Hardscrabble Wind project in New York state** for negligence, professional negligence, misrepresentation of facts, adverse impacts to health and safety, livestock losses, well water impacts, lost property values and more: <http://www.windaction.org/documents/36433>

**Neighbors complain of noise from Iberdrola's new Hoosac Wind that went online in December 1012:** <http://www.iberkshires.com/story/43241/Hoosac-Wind-Neighbors-Complain-of-Turbine-Noise.html>

**August 2012 Iberdrola Buffalo Ridge Wind turbine fire:** <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2012/08/06/fire-in-the-sky-lightning-strike-sparks-buffalo-ridge-turbine-blaze/>

**May 2012 Iberdrola turbine fire near Grafton:** <http://www.windaction.org/videos/35039>

**Crash of turbine rotor with blades at Iberdrola's Rugby Wind project in North Dakota** blamed on bolt failure. Bolts were replaced in 6 other turbines [http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/rugby-wind-turbine-accident-pegged-to-bolt-failure/article\\_e90130b2-564f-11e0-a782-001cc4c03286.html](http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/rugby-wind-turbine-accident-pegged-to-bolt-failure/article_e90130b2-564f-11e0-a782-001cc4c03286.html)

**Iberdrola is shedding assets:** <http://www.law360.com/articles/403965/iberdrola-reaps-531m-in-wind-farm-sale-to-ge-led-group>

**Iberdrola accepted a \$1.155 million grant to keep their Portland HQ for at least 7 years-- after laying off 25 HQ workers, blaming expiring tax credits, declining demand, overloaded grid and cheap natural gas:** [http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/02/post\\_70.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/02/post_70.html)

**Iberdrola reportedly generated 3 times more energy in the US by burning hydrocarbons than with wind turbines:** <http://www.energytribune.com/11181/the-wind-lobby-is-powered-by-fossil-fuels>

Much more information is available. Any errors or omissions are unintentional.