

ATTACHMENT F

Letter from Applicant Concerning Project Alternatives



December 03, 2008

Mr. John Day, Energy Planner
Santa Barbara County Planning & Development
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Lompoc Wind Energy Project
Comments on the County's Project Alternatives

Dear Mr. Day:

Acciona Wind Energy USA LLC, the applicant for the above-mentioned project, would like to take the opportunity to comment on the feasibility of one of the County's Alternatives in the project's Environmental Impact Report (County EIR 06EIR-00000-00004, State Clearinghouse No. 2006071008), Section 5, Alternate Analysis, Parts 5.3.1.1 and 5.3.1.2 LWEF Alternatives 1 and 2. I am an atmospheric scientist with a Master's degree working as a Wind Resource Analyst for Acciona Energy NA. Acciona has 19 years of experience in wind farm development with over 6,000 MW designed and installed in 192 wind farms in ten countries. Our wind resource team has over 40 technicians and each project is reviewed by a Wind Resource Analyst with at least 5 years experience and then reviewed by a Senior Wind Resource Analyst with at least 15+ years experience.

The Lompoc Wind Energy Project is located in a complex coastal mountain terrain with steep slopes and limited available land that creates a unique situation for designing a wind farm. The best wind resource is found atop ridgelines and hilltops where the land/sea breeze is best captured. The ridge line extending from Tranquillon Mountain southeast to Sudden Peak represents a favored location for turbine placement due to the elevation and higher wind speeds.

The turbine layout depicted in the EIR (Figure 2-2) shows 65 turbines located along ridgelines and hilltops within the project boundary. The EIR identified thirteen (13) turbines that will be located along the Tranquillon Ridge that will have a visual impact to Jalama Beach and one (1) turbine in the eastern portion of the site that will have an impact to Miguelito County Park; the County classified both of these as Class I impacts. Sections 5.3.1.1 and 5.3.1.2 suggest that limiting the number of turbines in these two areas or relocating the turbines to another area of the site would reduce the visual impact to the Jalama Beach and Miguelito County Park. However, relocating these turbines off the ridgeline to another area of the project would not be possible due to either the steep slopes, most of which are greater than 50%, or the high ambient turbulence that would be encountered at the turbine due to top of the blade being above the ridgeline and the bottom of the blade below the ridgeline. The steep slope and high turbulence factor would likely inhibit the turbine manufacturer from certifying any other locations than where the turbines are



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currently located. Therefore it is not possible to relocate the turbines within the existing project boundary.

Removing the 14 turbines completely would hurt the economics of the project since those 14 turbines produce, on average, nearly one fifth (19%) more energy annually than all the other turbines on the site. In addition to the loss in energy output and revenue, eliminating these 14 turbines would reduce our overall turbine number from 65 turbines to 51 turbines, or, using a 1.5 MW machine which is our intention, the project's name plate capacity would be reduced from 97.5 MW to 76.5 MW. We currently have a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) for 82.5 MW. By eliminating these 14 turbines, it would make carrying out our PPA with PG&E impossible.

Finally, the elimination of these turbines, thereby making the PPA impossible, would prove project financing to be very difficult to obtain, if not wholly infeasible; especially now during this fiscal crises.

Acciona appreciates the County's desire to address and mitigate any and all Class I impacts but respectfully disagrees with the feasibility of above-mentioned Project Alternatives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Kurz", written in a cursive style.

Dan Kurz
Wind Resource Analyst