

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 9:13 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Hartmann, Joan
Subject: Public Comment D-1 Energy Roadmap September 11. 2018
Attachments: lom pocwindenergybatandbirdslaughter.jpg

Importance: High

Dear Chairman Williams,

I might not make it in time to the hearing due to a previous commitment.

Please receive this as the public comment from COLAB as to a project consideration that should be considered in the road map.

And, please don't forget the attachment as part of the record!

Thanks

Andy Caldwell
COLAB

Holy bird and bat slaughter!

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Here is your chance. Supervisor Das Williams. You want the South County to be off the grid as much as possible by having its own renewable power source, right? Well, Lompoc, aka "the armpit" per Salud Carbajal, has just the right project for the Gaviota coast, if you wouldn't mind moving the project just a little bit toward your neck of the woods, er, coastline.

It is no mystery that I am not a fan of the California Environmental Quality Act, better known as CEQA. CEQA, in no uncertain terms, is California's dream killer in oh so many ways. It not only requires endless analysis and review of any and all projects that have the slightest chance of having an environmental impact, it also welcomes endless litigation.

Now, to be clear, the concept of "environmental impacts" has morphed over the years. I have seen the county require mitigation because lichen on a boulder that needed to be moved was going to be disturbed. I have seen a single family home denied because people who lived on a hill high above the project just might be able to see it.

More precisely, we have seen numerous projects delayed for a decade or more, because the county, and the activists who love to major in the minors via the machinations of CEQA, wanted to study alternative locations for the project. Think the Naples housing project on the coast; it has been through the CEQA ringer going on some 40 years now. Or the Bacara Resort. Surely, the decision-makers figured, there must be a better location to build it than the one owned by the project applicant?

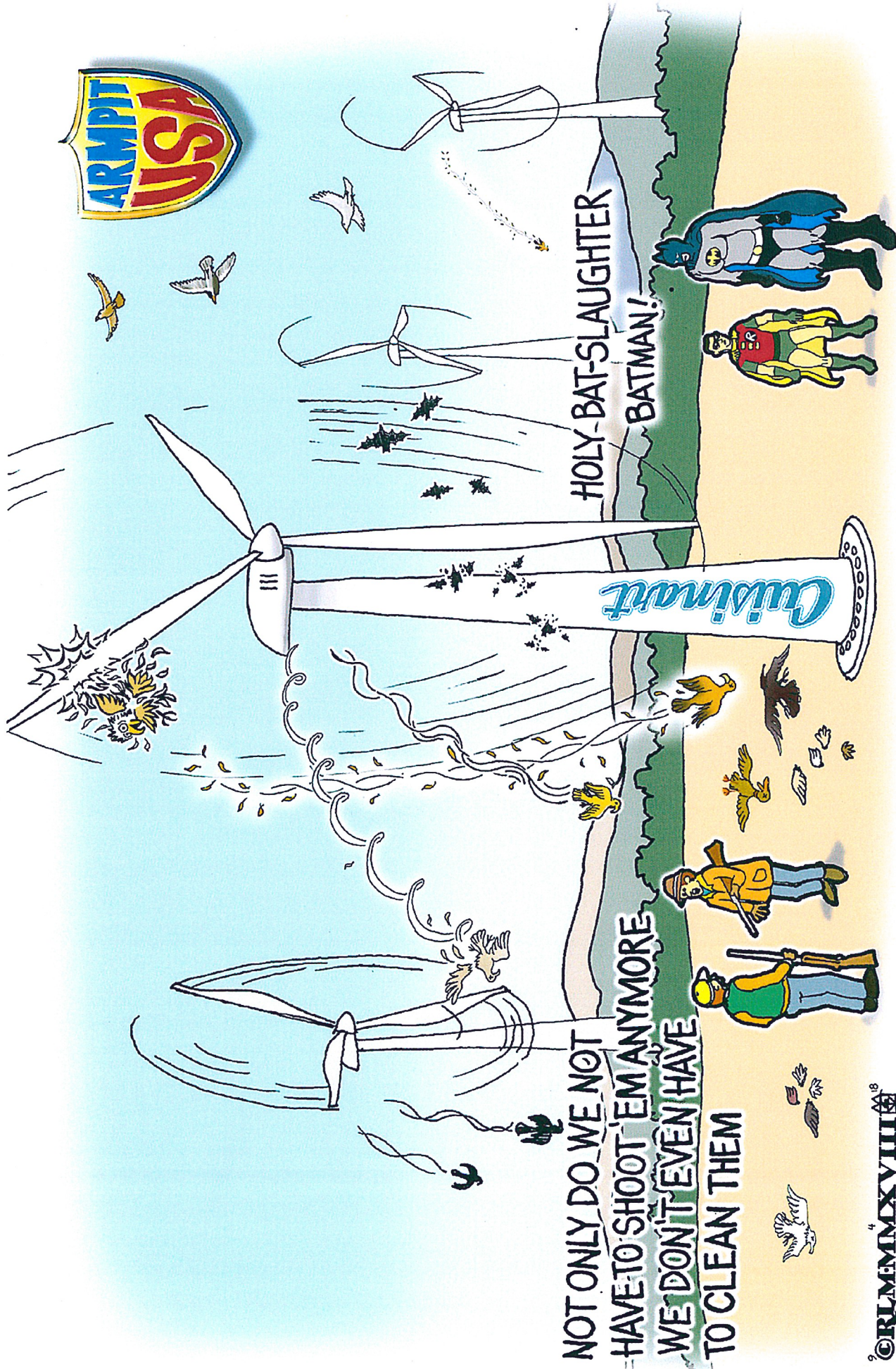
Well, folks, the wind doesn't only blow in Lompoc. It also blows along the Gaviota coast and on the Channel Islands. And, since the county is determined to create a local renewable energy project in the south county, why not move this project from Lompoc to the South Coast?

Moreover, due to the fact that Southern California Edison has put the south county on notice that it is planning on pulling the proverbial plug every time the wind starts to blow during a red-flag fire alert, the timing is perfect. In other words, why not build an energy source for the south county that will actually generate power when the wind is blowing, instead of having your power turned off every time you get a wind event due to the threat of fire? Sounds practical, doesn't it?

Of course, everything requires a tradeoff. Instead of looking at those relatively few offshore derricks that produce energy 24/7 and support innumerable teeming masses of sea life underneath the surface of the water (they function as reefs), why not feast your eyes on 30 500-foot wind towers looming over the coastline? No doubt this could be a big tourist draw. Birders could come here to watch endangered species meet their demise, a la San Francisco's Altamont Pass. That is, birds and bats falling from the sky like raindrops after meeting their fate via 30 giant Cuisinarts in the sky.

Isn't it ironic that oil companies get prosecuted or fined for accidental and incidental impacts to wildlife, but Mother Nature, by way of natural oil seeps, presents harm to sea life 24/7? What's worse? While oil leaks are rare and accidental, the wholesale slaughter of bats and birds by wind turbines is considered routine and unavoidable. This slaughter, sanctified on an altar of political correctness, is simply considered the cost of doing business. How could so many people blithely ignore the teeming ocean life supported by offshore oil platforms while justifying the vicious slaughter of birds and bats by wind turbines?

Andy Caldwell is the executive director of COLAB and host of The Andy Caldwell Radio Show, weekdays from 3-5 p.m., on News-Press AM 1290 and AM1440 KUHL.



NOT ONLY DO WE NOT
HAVE TO SHOOT 'EM ANYMORE
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE
TO CLEAN THEM

HOLY-BAT-SLAUGHTER
BATMAN!