

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu St, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

December 9, 2008

Subject: Lompoc Windfarm; December 16, 2008 Meeting

LATE
DIST

Honored Supervisors:

My name is Chris Kleveland. I was born in Santa Barbara County, and have paid taxes here since 1965. I own property south of Lompoc that borders this project for approximately ½ mile along its eastern boundary.

I am a believer in and a user of alternative energy sources. Currently, I am replacing gasoline-powered water pumps with electric pumps powered by solar panels. Economically this does not make sense, but from an environmental standpoint, it is the right thing to do. They will be clean, quiet and unobtrusive.

I have been watching the progress of the Lompoc Windfarm project through the EIR process with interest, and have submitted my concerns regarding the impacts of the project to the Planning and Development Department in writing.

Unfortunately most of my concerns have been ignored or inadequately addressed in this final EIR. Because time is of the essence, I will not burden this meeting with detail, however I ask you to consider three key issues that are of importance:

A Huge Environmental Impact, and Not Just On Lompoc

This is a huge project. It is possibly the most important decision any Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has faced. The EIR has come under fire for omitting or underestimating negative environmental impacts of the project and for inadequately addressing mitigation. With many other wind energy projects currently in planning stages, this board will set the tone for development not only in the Lompoc Valley, but for all windy areas of the County. Keeping this in mind, it is of extreme importance to do it right the first time.

Windfarms Everywhere Require Increased, not Decreased, Setbacks

The request for variance to property line setbacks runs counter to and completely ignores conventions for increased windfarm setbacks established elsewhere in the United States and abroad. These special windfarm setbacks seek to minimize the very real negative impacts these machines have on the environment and neighboring properties. To be in keeping with these standards, the County should require *increased* setbacks rather than granting a variance to actually *decrease* them. It is not the county's responsibility to assure that windfarm profitability is maximized, but to assure that land uses are regulated appropriately and judiciously.

Gutting Ridgeline Protections Sets a Dangerous Precedent

The County should look long and hard at gutting Ridgeline Protections from its General Plan. Allowing such a massive deviation from these requirements will set a precedent for the entire County. Future ridgeline projects *of any kind*, whether they be in Lompoc, Montecito or above the Gaviota coast will become much more difficult to regulate and impossible to deny in court.

Thank you for your time,



Chris Kleveland
Santa Barbara, California