

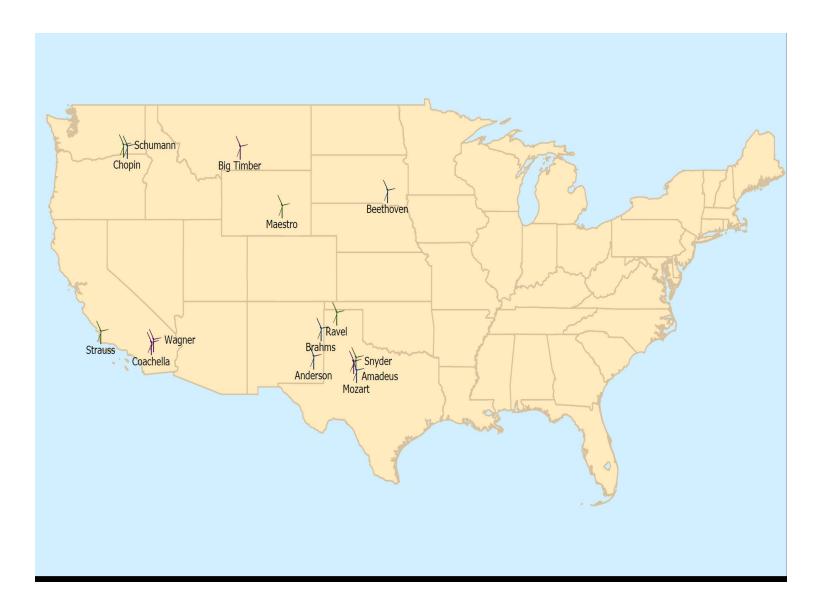
# Strauss Wind Energy Project

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** 

**January 28, 2020** 



#### BayWa r.e. Wind, LLC



- Established in 2001
- Based in Southern California
- 14 projects and over 2,000 MW either constructed or at various stages of development

### Nearly 20-Year Strauss Project History

- **March 2001** First meteorological tower installed confirming strong wind resources
- September 2002 First environmental and technical studies initiated
- July 2007 Draft EIR released for 65-turbine Lompoc Wind Energy Project (LWEP)
- September 2008 Planning Commission approves LWEP
- February 2009 Board of Supervisors denies appeal and unanimously approves LWEP. (Later upheld by both the District Court and Court of Appeals)
- July 2015 LWEP surrenders CUP and LUP

- December 2016 Strauss Wind submits Conditional Use Permit Application and continues all technical studies for the Strauss Wind Energy Project (SWEP)
- April 2019 SWEP Draft Supplemental EIR released
- November 2019 Planning Commission unanimously approves SWEP EIR and CUP
- February 2020 Expected SWEP Construction Start Date
- November 2020 Expected SWEP Commercial Operation Date

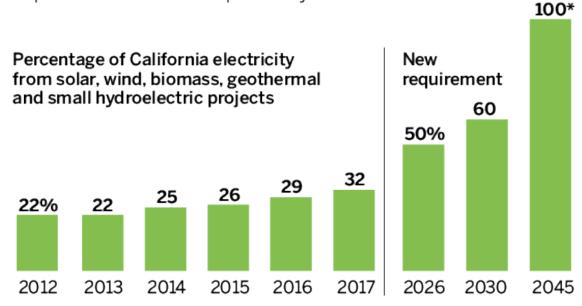
#### Strauss is Consistent with State and Local Renewable Energy Initiatives

#### **Actions in Santa Barbara County**

- 2009 Approval of "Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles"
- 2009 Unanimous Approval of the Lompoc Wind Energy Project
- 2014 Unanimous Approval of the 40 MW Cuyama Solar Project
- 2015 Approval of the Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) calling for approval of utility-scale renewable energy projects
- 2019 Partnership with Monterey Bay Clean Power
- 2019 Approval of County's Strategic Energy Plan (SEP)
- 2019 Unanimous Planning Commission Approval of SWEP

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH IN CALIFORNIA

California receives 32 percent of its electricity from solar, wind and other renewable sources. A new law signed Monday by Gov. Jerry Brown requires an increase to 100 percent by 2045.



<sup>\*&</sup>quot;Non-carbon" sources like nuclear and large dams also can provide up to 40 percent.

Source: California Energy Commission

BAYAREA NEWS GROUP

### **Project Benefits**

Over its 30 year life, the clean renewable energy produced by the Strauss Project will avoid the release of approximately 6,000,000 metric tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. The equivalent of:

- 14.7
  1969 Santa Barbara oil spill: 100,000 barrels
  2015 Refugio oil spill 3,400 barrels **BARRELS OF OIL**

- 1.3 Million
- 3 times more than all registered vehicles in Santa Barbara County

VEHICLES REMOVED FROM ROAD

- 3.3 Million TREES PLANTED
- **15,000 times more** trees than impacted by Strauss Project

#### Project Benefits

- Generate enough clean, renewable energy to power nearly 43,000 homes, or the equivalent of approximately 1/3 of all housing units in Santa Barbara County
- Generate an estimated \$40 million in tax revenue during its 30-year lifecycle, making it among the top ten tax contributors in Santa Barbara County
- Create approximately 150 well-paying construction jobs, which will include skilled union workers
- Create 5-7 permanent jobs once operational
- Increase revenue to local restaurants, hotels, and other services
- Increase local generation and grid resilience
- Provide supplemental income to landowners to support long-term agricultural operations

#### Expert Site Design and Analysis

By the Numbers...

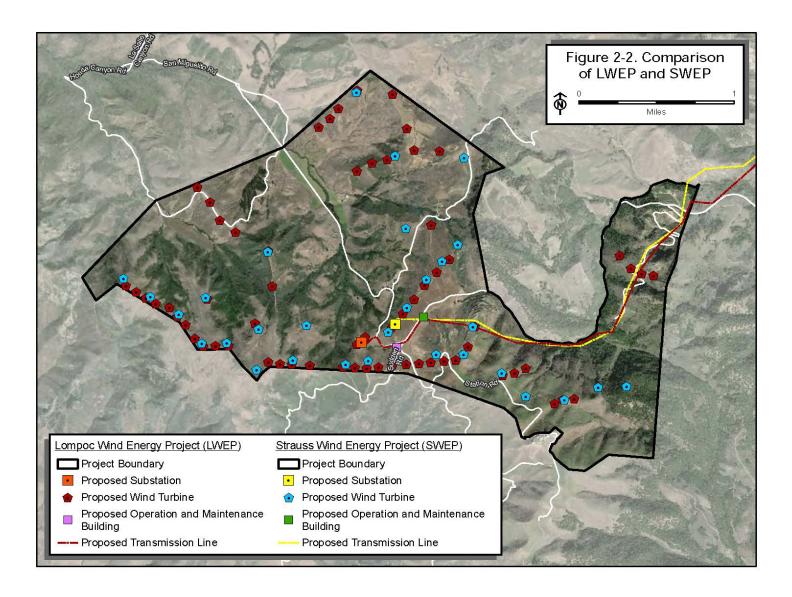
MORE 450 TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE WORKED ON THE PROJECT

MORE 3 0 0 TECHNICAL STUDIES AND REPORTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED

MORE 25,000 HOURS SPENT

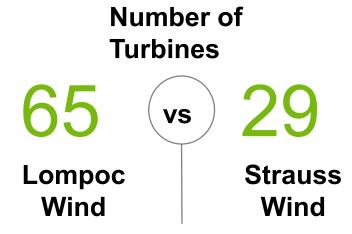
- Biological avian, bat, sensitive wildlife species and habitat, and plants
- Cultural & Archeological
- Noise
- Visual
- Wind Resources
- Turbine Analysis
- Civil and Electrical Engineering
- Geotechnical
- Hydrology and Groundwater
- Agriculture
- Waters & Wetlands
- Traffic
- Utility systems and Radar
- Fire and Emergency Services
- And Many More.....

#### Site Design Optimization



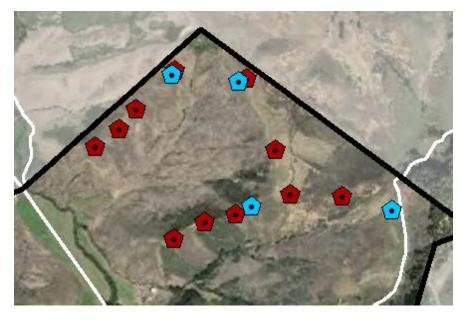
#### Goals:

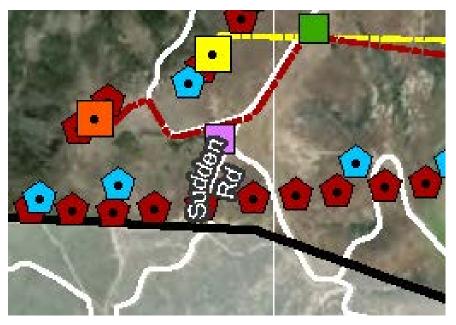
- Reduce Impacts to Maximum Extent Possible
- Balance Multiple Site Constraints
- Meet Project Objectives



#### Reduce Impacts and Balance Constraints

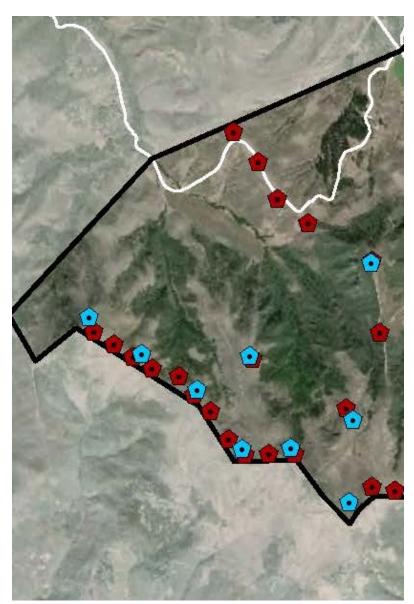
- Avian / Raptor Use
- Cultural Resources
- Gaviota Tarplant
- El Segundo Blue Butterfly
- Waters & Wetlands
- Native Grasslands
- Engineering
- Geotechnical

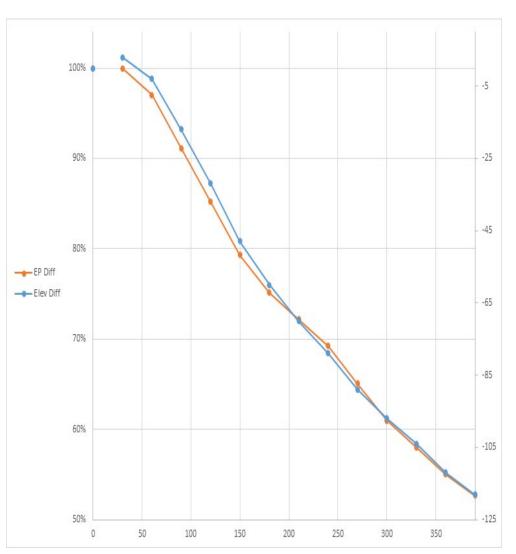




#### Reduce Impacts, Balance Constraints, and Meet Project Objectives

- Avian / Raptor Use
- Cultural Resources
- **Gaviota Tarplant**
- El Segundo Blue Butterfly
- Waters & Wetlands
- Native Grasslands
- Engineering
- Geotechnical





### Impacts to oak trees have been reduced by nearly 90%

| Diameter Range (in.) | Total | Percentage of Total Impacts |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1-5.9                | 107   | 48%                         |
| 6-11.9               | 36    | 16%                         |
| 12-17.9              | 34    | 16%                         |
| 18-23.9              | 20    | 8%                          |
| 24-29.9              | 12    | 5%                          |
| 30+                  | 16    | 7%                          |
|                      | 225   | 100%                        |

Of the nearly 10,000 oak trees identified during surveys, 225 trees are expected to be impacted or approximately 2%

Nearly half of the trees impacted have trunk diameters of less than 6"

1.750

**ORIGINAL STRAUSS PROPOSAL**  **607** 

**DRAFT EIR** 

225

**FINAL EIR** 



**REDUCTION IN IMPACT TO OAK TREES** 

#### Approximately 75% of oaks impacted are similar in size those below





## Gaviota tarplant impacts minimized and conservation maximized

- Over 1500 hours spent by qualified botanists inventorying approximately 3,000 acres
- Alternative work areas, pad locations, access roads, and design modifications were evaluated to minimize impacts
- As Strauss refined the project design in coordination with expert botanists, on-site conservation areas were established outside of impact areas
- Of the nearly 3,000 acre project site, 150 acres are impacted by the project, of which, less than 30 acres consist of occupied Gaviota tarplant habitat, or 1% of the total project site.
- All occupied habitat and occurrences of Gaviota tarplant outside of the grading footprint will be preserved in perpetuity subject to detailed long-term management and monitoring plan.

2,000 APPROX. TOTAL ACRES IN CONSERVATION

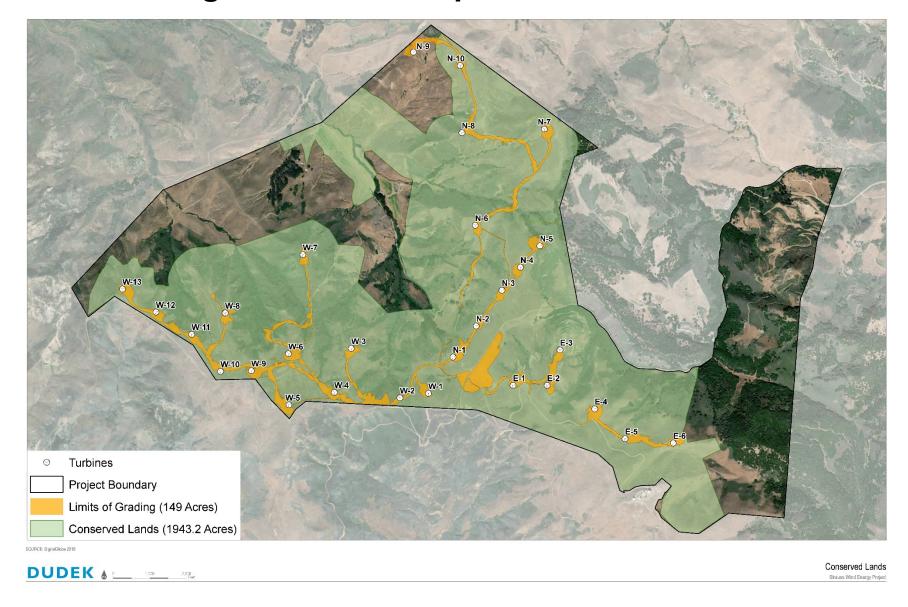
672

**ACRES OF GAVIOTA TARPLANT DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT CONSERVED** 

5,811,337

INDIVIDUAL GAVIOTA TARPLANT **PLANTS CONSERVED** 

# Commitment to long-term resource protection



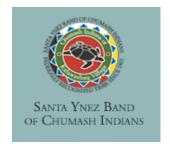
#### **Strauss Wind Project**

- Doubles the renewable energy production in the County
- Property sited
- Subject to 20 years of rigorous data collection and project design
- Minimizes impacts and balances constraints to maximum extent
- Adherence to rigorous mitigation and monitoring program
- Ensuring long-term preservation of resources and agricultural uses
- **Ready for Construction**

#### A few of the Strauss Supporters







Making Clean Local Energy Accessible Now





























SANTA BARBARA STANDING ROCK COALITION







































r.e.think energy 16



#### **Daniel Duke**

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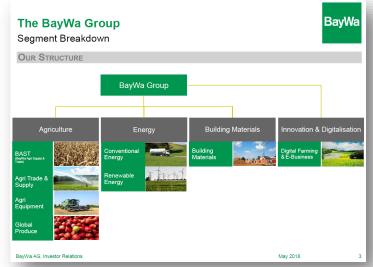
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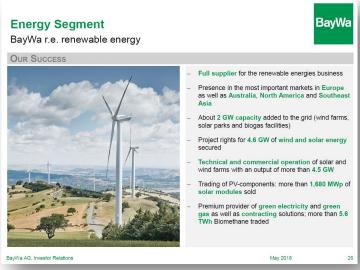
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#### **California Wind Resource Areas**

