



August 28, 2018

Humboldt County Planning Division
Attn: Cliff Johnson, Senior Planner
3015 H Street

RE: Comments to Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Project: Humboldt Wind Energy Project

Dear Mr. Johnson,

This letter is written to vehemently oppose the proposed Humboldt Wind Turbine Project for the Monument Ridge and Bear River Ridge in Humboldt County, California. I am writing to you as a local resident within 2 miles of the proposed project on Bear River Ridge Phase, local business owner, ancestral Humboldt County landowner since 1890's, and strong opponent to steel structures placed on scenic ridge tops in Humboldt County, CA.

It should also be noted that my academic background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of California, Davis (UCD) in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning. During my time at UCD, as an intern for the Department of Water Resources, I wrote and contributed to a handbook on renewable energy resources and projects in the State of California.

The Humboldt Wind Energy Project (HWE) is referred to as Monument Ridge; however, it is noted as Monument Ridge and Bear River Ridge on any topography map. The developer, by not being clear in



their legal descriptions, is acting subversively and thus is deceiving the public in the scope of the Humboldt Wind Energy Project. It will be herewith in the balance of this letter referred to as Bear River Ridge where HWEPP propose up to 25 wind turbines which most directly impacts my property on Monument Road; and it will be herewith in the balance of this letter referred to as Monument Ridge where HWEPP propose up to 35 wind turbines which will be visible from my property on Monument Road. Bear River Ridge with up to 25 wind turbines proposed is owned, to my knowledge, by the Russ family of Russ Ranches. Monument Ridge with up to 35 wind turbines proposed to the Northwest, East, and Northeast of Mt. Pierce (a radio receiver and transfer station) or also named Monument Peak is owned, to my knowledge, by the Humboldt Redwood Company.

Please find my recommended areas of inquiry and analysis as expressed in the following "Impacts" 1. through 12.

Humboldt Wind Energy Project Review and Comments on Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR

1. **Noise Impacts** – I am concerned with the close proximity of my property to not being able to sleep with the whoosh, whoosh, whoosh... From my property at 2330 Monument Road, Rio Dell, the road/vehicle noise can be heard from the Highway 101 at Metropolitan to the North and Stafford to the East depending on the stillness or wind direction. Stafford and Metropolitan are more than 2 miles away from my residence and business. Chapter 13 of the Humboldt County General Plan (updated October 23, 2017) addresses the Noise Element which will impact my property. In addition, the operating turbines generating infrasound, low-frequency noise and audible noise will have unknown impacts to human health.

2. **Shadow Impacts** – Due to the sheer size, the landscape and eco systems will be adversely affected by the shadows on the habitants of the prairie and ridge top of Bear River Ridge and the habitants of the typically forested ridge top of Monument Ridge.

3. **TV Reception, Cell Reception and Emergency Response Communication Impacts** – Since the Mt. Pierce Radio Facilities is within a ¼ mile of these wind turbines, the blades can have an adverse impact on the reception or transfer of very valuable communication for the local communities of the Eel River Valley which includes Rio Dell and Scotia. The Radio Facilities on Mt. Pierce (Monument Peak) need evaluation for possible impacts.

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4. "Flicker" from the Rotation of the Blades Impacts – This "flicker" needs to be addressed in regards to the wildlife habitats, local landowners, and communities of the Eel River Valley. My vineyard may be adversely affected by the "flicker" or strobe light reflection.
5. Traffic Impacts – TerraGen has proposed that they will utilize a road from Jordan Creek at Highway 101 which is owned and/or has easement access by the Humboldt Redwood Company; however, this is just explained to be used for the construction phase of the project. TerraGen will not upgrade, at this time, the access road of Monument Road that accesses the surface streets of Rio Dell. Monument Road is currently being used by research agencies, proposal review by local governmental agencies and proposal negotiations by TerraGen. It is my concern that Monument Road needs to be upgraded for this project to move forward. This is a very important part that the County Supervisors need to address as well as the County Planning Department since the County of Humboldt has not maintained the crumbling road for more than a decade. Although TerraGen says that they will utilize a road from Jordan Creek, this is not a 100% utilized road. Monument Road will be accessed before and after the proposed project is completed. Do not be fooled by TerraGen's claim to not utilizing Monument Road. Research vehicles, such as Stantec, currently access Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge by Monument Road at the time of writing this letter.
6. Scenic View Impacts – As an ancestral family member who has inhabited this Monument area since the 1890's, I am opposed to any gross deviation from the Humboldt County General Plan in Chapter 4 in regards to (4.5) Ag Resources and (4.6) Forest Resources. Permitting a "Conditional Use" to construct multiple 590 feet steel structures with huge cement footings on agricultural and TPZ zoned lands seems like an irresponsible change of land use and it grossly deviates from the Humboldt County General Plan last updated October 23, 2017. The change of scenic and/or aesthetic views will detrimentally and adversely affect my business which is Monument Mountain Vineyards (MMV) established 2011. The wind turbines, if erected, will have a significant harm and constitute an unreasonable interference for the use and enjoyment of my property which includes normal, everyday activities. Furthermore, any change to Humboldt County scenic ridgelines, will have long term impacts on the tourism industry that Humboldt County has benefited from since the demise of the logging and fishing industry.
7. Taxes Credits– I am in opposition to TerraGen taking advantage of the federal and state tax credits available until 2020. TerraGen can rape our rural County of Humboldt while allowing their investors to reap big money. TerraGen wants to build these large 590 feet turbines to recoup reduced tax credits to sell, file bankruptcy of the Humboldt Wind LLC, and walk away from these turbines left in place on

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leased land after the 10 year bond is depleted as proposed for the operation and maintenance per Rio Dell City Council Meeting 8/21/18. This abandonment would leave the “impact” of 60 eyesores on the ridge top of Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge which are visible throughout the Eel River Valley.

8. Property Value Impacts – The value of my property, that has been in my family since the 1890’s, will be adversely affected if the proposed Humboldt Wind Energy Project is allowed to be built. This will be a reduction in sales price for my land and winery valuation with wind turbines located within 2 miles of my property. The sheer height of these wind turbines at 590 feet is twice the height of the tallest redwood tree in Humboldt County. The ridge top of Bear River Ridge has not had redwood trees inhabit this high prairie. If the proposed wind turbines are built, it will forever change the landscape of our area which has both State and National Parks nearby; and it will forever be adversely changed with no or insufficient bonding in place for the removal of these steel structures when the wind turbines are deemed inoperative. In addition, the communities of Rio Dell and Scotia, will also be affected with low income housing potential due to the destruction of property values with the large steel structures looming over these small communities on Monument Ridge and Bear River Ridge in Humboldt County.

9. Wildlife Habitat Impacts – Since these steel structures are proposed for the ridge top of Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge, it will adversely affect the ridge top bird migration, migration during cloudy and foggy days, raptor inhabitation, and mammal activities. Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge are Coastal ridge tops with fluctuating fog and low lying clouds. Migrating birds will fly into wind turbines during migration with or without fog and cloud cover. Raptors will fly into wind turbines while they hunt on the high prairie with or without fog and cloud cover. And mammal inhabitants of Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge will be adversely affected by the noise, vibrations, and flickering that has never been a natural activity. These wildlife issues need to be addressed, as I believe, that there are no mitigations to solve these adverse impacts. Furthermore, it seems imperative to conduct a NEPA project review and “consultation” under the Endangered Species Act with public input.

10. Erosion Impacts – With 50 cement-truck loads of cement per turbine foundation, the potential for erosion in an area that has not been inhabited by multiple manmade structures will be adversely impacted with erosion. Please address the erosion issues in the remote ridge top areas of Humboldt County. The erosion issues include but are not limited to the following: Platform construction, road construction and maintenance, disposition of construction materials, truck traffic, erection access of wind turbines, work truck parking, road maintenance by gravel and water trucks to reduce dust and provide stability, timber harvesting for construction, timber reforestation, and any additional grading

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that the developer deems necessary for construction and transport of construction materials, workers, and vehicle traffic.

11. Size Impacts – These wind turbines are proposed to be 590 feet. This is over twice the size of the tallest redwood tree in Humboldt County. Why would Humboldt County allow steel structures to be placed on ridge tops that are not inhabited by any native redwood trees (Bear River Ridge) and ridge tops that are in a timber protected zone (Monument Ridge)? The Bear River Ridge is a unique and special prairie land eco system. These wind turbines are manmade structures that dwarf any structure currently built in Humboldt County. 590 foot wind turbine is equal to a 54 story tower or skyscraper. Please address as to why this is beneficial to place 25 – 54 story towers (a.k.a. wine turbines) on a visible prairie land ridge top of Bear River Ridge in Humboldt County? Please address as to why this is beneficial to place 35 – 54 story towers (a.k.a. wind turbines) on typically forested mountain tops in the realm of Humboldt Redwood Company on Monument Ridge in Humboldt County?

12. Humboldt Power Grid Impacts – According to the Director of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) per their Board Meeting on August 20, 2018, HWEP is a “power only” project (No “Power Purchase Agreement” – PPA) with no proposed upgrades to the power grid in Bridgeville that the HWEP’s power is proposed to be sent to for transfer to... (?). If and when this project produces power, there is no guarantee that the outdated power grid in Bridgeville will be able to handle and/or transfer this energy. In other words, this proposed power may not provide what they propose to provide. Their proposal is worded by “up to 60 wind turbines” and up to “40,000 homes” is not a solid proposal. Once these proposed wind turbines are built, the damage to our County of Humboldt is not reversible. This is a huge gamble and it is not what Humboldt County needs at this time or ever.

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This letter is written in the interest of myself, my family, and future generations that have an opportunity to inhabit this property. Based on my inherent interest, I write to make and explain scoping recommendations for any relevant EIR/EIS, any CEQA/NEPA, CESA/ESA and other public review processes. I recommend areas of inquiry and analysis that I deem necessary for environmental impact review. Based on public meetings and public presentations, I believe these issues to be relevant.

In addition, please find attached an enclosure of a "conceptual rendering" of wind turbines as viewed from my front yard of my home looking South toward Bear River Ridge and Monument Ridge. This "conceptual rendering" was completed based on 50 feet power poles located on Bear River Ridge past the fork on Monument Road. The "conceptual rendering" was made by a professional public relations division. The "conceptual" wind turbines are over 12 times the size of the power pole @ 590 feet.

Regards,

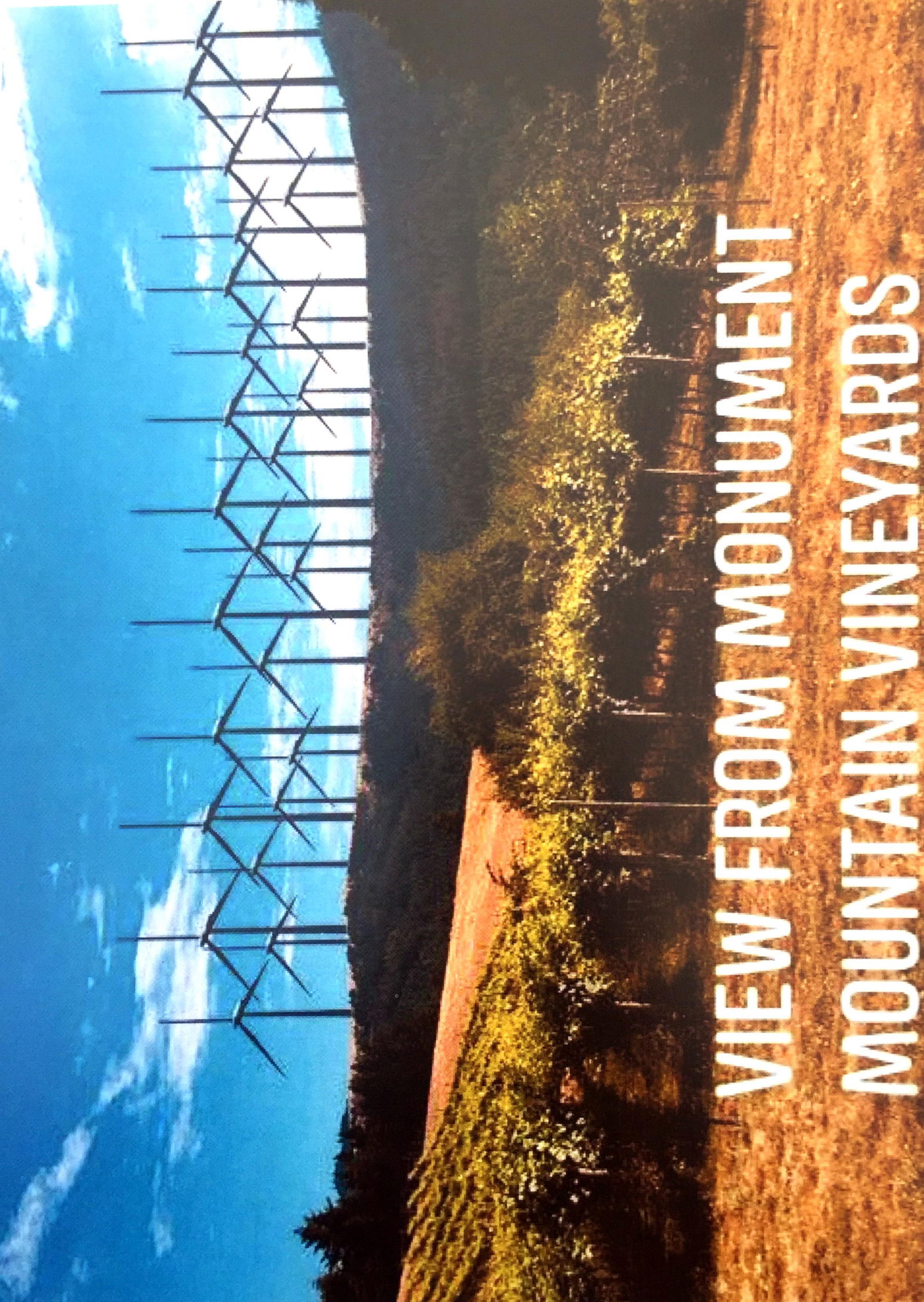
Carol Fritz Hoopes

Owner/Winemaker

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VIEW FROM MONUMENT MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS