

Comment Letter Q

12/22/2011

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To Matthew Schnieder

I am writing in regards to POD 10-007. The following are areas of concern and are in reference to the Large wind turbines. The first concern is noise. The POD 10-007 states that there must be a post construction sound study and one every five years thereafter. The ordinance does not state what enforcement would take place if the large turbine is out of compliance it is also unclear if this applies to one turbine or the project as a whole. Grouping of wind turbines will create substantially more noise than one. Also of concern is the 20db increase allowance of the C rated sound level. A 3db increase in sound is double the level of noise as each decibel level increases logarithmically. A 20db increase would be a significant increase to existing sound levels and would not be intermittent such as a passing semi-tractor trailer. The noise would be continuous and would potentially affect humans and wildlife in the area adversely.

The second area of concern is the setback for large wind turbines which is 1.1. A 500 foot wind turbine would only require 550 feet setback. If the turbine falls the bed of the lay would only be 50 feet to the nearest setback without any calculations of debris fall out from force of fall another word if the turbine were lowered intentionally it would be 50 feet from setback. This does not seem reasonable if the turbine were to have a catastrophic failure. This also does not seem adequate if the turbine were to throw a prop due to failure. I currently do not know of the existence of any device that is one hundred percent immune to failure. Unless it does meet a 100% failure free standard the potential for injury or death at any percentage is unacceptable at current setbacks. This must be considered on the setbacks calculations.

The third area of concern is aviation. The ordinance states that turbine "shall not create an airport hazard or interfere with military or emergency services aviation operations, such as aerial firefighting." Since the large wind turbines would be placed in the fire prone areas of San Diego County as shown on San Diego County wind resource map this would create aerial obstructions for aerial firefighting resources and would force firefighters to alter suppression tactics and

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Q-1

Q-2

Q-3

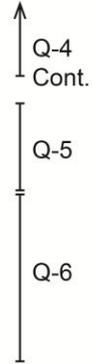
Q-4

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could potentially allow the fire to become larger. Also this would introduce another possible ignition source into these fire prone areas.

In conclusion I urge you to consider the above concerns and ensure due diligence has been obtained on all safety concerns that could potentially be detrimental to life and property. The County's purpose is to protect people and property rights and not to make decisions that would compromise these areas. I support the County's small wind turbine portion of the ordinance as this allows the citizens to reduce their energy consumption. The best solution to our energy problems is reduction, energy produced at point of need and overall smart usage of energy. The small wind turbine and with the combination of rooftop solar at residential and business would help us meet this need and also reduce the need for large industrial type projects which encroach on remaining and already stressed wildland and open spaces located in San Diego County. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to respond.

Mark Ostrander
Jacumba Resident



Response to Comment Letter Q

**Individual
Mark Ostrander
December 22, 2011**

- Q-1** The County appreciates the concerns expressed in this comment. If a post-construction noise study determined that a large wind turbine project was violating the noise regulations, the offending turbine(s) would be required to be brought into compliance with the applicable noise regulations or cease operations until the turbine(s) could comply with the applicable noise regulations. The post-construction study and requirements apply to each turbine in a given project. The County agrees that groups of turbines create more noise than one. The project as a whole must meet all the noise provisions stated in the Zoning Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance.
- Q-2** The County acknowledges and appreciates this comment. However, different weighting networks are utilized when measuring noise. The A-weighted network is better for measuring middle and higher frequency sound. The C-weighted network is better for measuring very high and low frequency sound. Because of the nature of the human ear, sound must be about 10 dBA greater than the background sound to be perceived as twice as loud as the background sound. In general, a 3 dBA change in community noise levels is perceivable. With respect to low frequency sound from wind turbines, if there is a measured difference of more than 20 db between the wind turbine low frequency sound (dBC) and background sound (dBA), there is a potential for the low frequency noise to be perceived.
- Q-3** The comment raises concerns related to the potential fall or catastrophic failure of a large turbine. . While this type of situation is not likely or foreseeable, a minimum setback of 1.1 times the turbine would keep the fall-area of a turbine on the project site. It should also be noted that future large wind turbine projects will have to provide additional setback distances to address low frequency noise provisions. Therefore, it is unlikely that any large turbine would be located only 1.1 times the tower height from a neighboring property line.
- Q-4** The County agrees with this comment. Under the discretionary review process for Major Use Permits, future large turbine projects will be required to prepare fire protection plans (FPPs) that address these issues at a project-specific level for the given site conditions. This process is discussed in DEIR Sections 2.6.2 and 2.6.3.7.
- Q-5** The County acknowledges the commenter's concerns for human safety and property rights. The information in this letter will be provided to decision makers for consideration.

Draft Responses to Comments

- Q-6** The County appreciates the commenter's support of the small wind turbine provisions and acknowledges the overall benefits of distributed renewable energy generation and reduced energy consumption.