

I28 Brian Fallgren

I28-1 The comment provides a statement of opposition to the Campo Wind Project with Boulder Brush Facilities (Project). The comment also states that the County of San Diego (County) has no jurisdiction over facilities proposed on the Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians Reservation (Reservation) but does have jurisdiction over the Boulder Brush Facilities and therefore wields influence over the entire Project. The comment further states that the Project as a whole violates many County laws and regulations. The comment provides an introduction to the following comments in the letter. The comment does not provide any examples of violated County laws and regulations. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR); therefore, no further response is required.

I28-2 The comment states that the Project violates “many if not all” regulations relative to views, community character, noise, and light pollution. The comment also states that the Draft EIR notes there are other turbines in the area, but the Project’s turbines would dwarf the existing turbines by three times. The comment further states the Project would doom southeast San Diego County as an industrial zone.

As disclosed in Chapter 2.1, Aesthetics, and the Visual Resources Report (Appendix B) of the Draft EIR, the County subregional and community plans are not applicable to the Campo Wind Facilities and the Reservation, as the County has no land use jurisdiction over tribal lands. See Section 5.3.2.4, Threshold 4, of the Visual Resources Report. The Reservation is also not subject to County zoning requirements. However, in terms of visual character, views, and light pollution, the Draft EIR concluded that impacts associated with development and operation of the Campo Wind Facilities would be significant and unavoidable. Specifically, in the context of Threshold 1 (i.e., detract from or contrast with existing visual character) and with consideration to the height of proposed wind turbines, the Visual Resources Report states, “due to the anticipated size and scale disparity between proposed wind turbines in the central and southern portions of the Reservation and existing scattered development in these areas, Project wind turbines would substantially contrast with existing visual character.” See Section 7.1, Threshold 1, under the caption Campo Wind Facilities in the Visual Resources Report. The Draft EIR analyzes the portions of the Project within its land use jurisdiction regarding County regulations relative to views, community character, light, and noise impacts. No revisions to Chapter 2.1 nor the Visual Resources Report of the Draft EIR are required in response to this comment.

Responses to Comments

- I28-3** The comment states that the Draft EIR states the Boulder Brush Corridor is not currently designated as a wildlife corridor. The comment also states the Boulder Brush Facilities and Campo Wind Project are just miles east of the La Posta Large Mammal Corridor. The comment asks where these essential links between habitat will go as human impacts move eastward, except for the areas covered by this Draft EIR. Lastly, the comment notes that the Draft EIR states the loss of sensitive habitat within the Campo Corridor would remain significant. In response, the Project was not considered to interfere substantially with the movement of wildlife because many of the Project components (i.e., transmission lines, access roads, turbine strings) were considered to be permeable to wildlife movement. While Project construction may create some temporary constraints, most of the species occurring in the Project Area are relatively common and not typically constrained by human activities, provided there is enough unconstrained room to move in and around the Project Area. The Draft EIR concluded that such unconstrained room exists near the Project Site. Further, the Draft EIR adequately analyzes cumulative impacts to wildlife movement in Chapter 2.3, Section 2.3.4.4, which found that the impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.
- I28-4** The comment expresses a preference for decentralized power sources. The comment asks whether the wind turbines can ever be removed and at what cost to the environment and society. The County acknowledges the comment regarding decentralized power sources. In regard to wind turbine removal, decommissioning activities are described in Section 1.2.2.3 in Chapter 1, Project Description, Location, and Environmental Setting, of the Draft EIR and potential impacts of decommissioning activities are analyzed throughout the Draft EIR. In Section 1.2.2.3 of the Draft EIR, it is noted that the turbines would be refurbished and sold or recycled as scrap material. All material that could not be salvaged would be appropriately disposed of at an authorized site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Reclamation of the Campo Corridor following decommissioning would be based on the terms of the Campo Lease and may include regrading, replacement of topsoil, and revegetation.
- Disposal of the turbines is addressed in Chapter 3.1.9, Utilities and Service Systems, in the Draft EIR. In this Chapter, it was determined that decommissioning and disposal of the turbines would result in a less-than-significant impact to the environment. No revisions to the Final EIR are required as a result of this comment.
- I28-5** The comment expresses concern over military and border patrol helicopters and how the towers will affect County and state firefighting capabilities. Please refer to Global Response GR-9, Aviation.
- I28-6** The comment strongly urges that the Major Use Permit for the Boulder Brush Facility be denied. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis in the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.