

### **09 Real East County Fire Safety Council**

**09-1** The County of San Diego acknowledges this introductory comment and notes that it expresses opposition to the Campo Wind Project with Boulder Brush Facilities (Project) but does not raise any issue concerning the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). No further response is required.

**09-2** This comment expresses support for alternatives to the Project. Specifically, the commenter suggests alternatives that are more efficient and have a smaller footprint, such as on-site power generation. In compliance with Section 15126.6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), four alternatives to the Project are proposed and described in Chapter 4 of the Draft EIR. As described in Chapter 4 of the Draft EIR, the County of San Diego selected a reasonable range of alternatives that would attain most of the basic objectives of the Project, would be feasible to implement, and would avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects of the Project. Additionally, a No Project Alternative has been analyzed in the Draft EIR as a requirement of CEQA. The County of San Diego does not have jurisdiction over the Campo Wind Facilities on the Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians Reservation. Thus, the alternatives in the Draft EIR focus on alternatives to the Boulder Brush Facilities, which include the Off-Reservation gen-tie line, the 500-kilovolt switchyard, the high-voltage substation, and access roads. Alternatives carried forward for consideration in the Draft EIR include Alternative 1, No Project Alternative; Alternative 2, No Boulder Brush Facilities on Private Lands Alternative; Alternative 3, Alternative Gen-Tie Route within Boulder Brush Boundary; and Alternative 4, Underground Gen-Tie within Boulder Brush Boundary Alternative.

For a detailed discussion on energy requirements and alternatives evaluated for the Campo Wind Facilities, please refer to Sections 2.3 and 5.5 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Project by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**09-3** This comment states that unless properties are bought out in the area, Project proximity to residences and health and comfort of nearby residences need to be taken into consideration. This comment does not address the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required. In regard to health concerns, please refer to Global Response GR-2, Public Health.

**09-4** This comment states that there are many reasons to be opposed to wind turbine projects in the backcountry. The comment further states it is a high wind area and that inverters for wind turbines can only handle so much power, so any power generated at over 70 miles per hour will be leaked into the ground to spare the inverter from being burned up. In response, turbines are designed to generate power in wind speeds up to

## Responses to Comments

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- approximately 56 miles per hour, known as the “cut-out speed.” Once the cut-out speed is achieved, the gears are disengaged and power is disconnected from the inverter. While blades will continue to rotate parallel to the wind (blades are fully feathered), the wind turbine will have ceased producing electricity. As there is no power generation occurring, there is no output being fed into the inverter; thus, the inverter is fully protected. The comment does not raise an issue with the adequacy of the environmental analysis, and no more specific response is required.
- O9-5** This comment states that solar would always be a better choice. The comment also cites general concerns about hazards and impacts associated with wind projects. The comment does not raise a specific issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained in the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- O9-6** This comment expresses concern related to turbine malfunction hazards, specifically those related to fire. Chapter 2.9, Wildfire, of the Draft EIR analyzes potential wildfire impacts associated with the Project. A Fire Protection Plan for the Campo Wind Facilities, which include the turbines, will be prepared to the satisfaction of the Campo Reservation Fire Protection District, ensuring compliance with applicable fire codes and wildfire-related regulations. Please also refer to Global Response GR-7, Wildfire.
- O9-7** This comment states that it is pointless to have a wind power project in the backcountry due to high winds and the occurrence of having to shut down the power due to fire safety hazards, which would result in the electricity produced during this time leaking into the ground. In response, if San Diego Gas & Electric were to shut down Sunrise Powerlink during a red flag event, even if wind speeds were not above 56 miles per hour (i.e., the turbines’ cut-out speed), a signal would be automatically sent directly to the Project’s control system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), which would shut down all generation from the turbines. San Diego Gas & Electric would also send direct communication to generators connected to Sunrise Powerlink, directing all generators to shut down. In this occurrence, the turbines would shut down; thus, there would be no power being generated or being collected from the turbines into the collection system or being transferred from the collection system to the gen-tie line.
- O9-8** The comment states that residents are in danger of a high-voltage line breaking if there is an exception for these systems to operate during shutdowns for fire hazard safety. Please refer to response to comment O9-7. Please refer to Chapter 2.9 and Global Response GR-7 for a detailed response regarding potential wildfire-related impacts.
- O9-9** The commenter requests issues related to costs of insurance and dropped insurance for homeowners in the area be considered. Please refer to Global Response GR-1 regarding socioeconomic impacts.