

## **Response to Comment Letter I6**

### **Teresa and Andy DeGroot**

- I6-1** The commenters state “we are submitting these comments in opposition to any new wind or solar projects in the East County.” The commenters also state that these projects are not green energy machines and that they use fossil fuel and cause major problems for the residents in the area. In response, the County acknowledges the commenters opposition to new wind or solar projects in the East County. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- I6-2** The commenters state that the solar panels are not reliable, can require hundreds of tons of batteries which are toxic, and increase the temperature in the area they are placed. In response, please refer to Chapter 1, Project Description, of the Draft EIR which describes the battery energy storage system, and Section 2.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Section 2.6.3.3) of the Draft EIR which analyzes potential hazards associated with the batter energy storage system. The Draft EIR found that Proposed Project’s impacts related to hazardous materials would be less than significant. Lastly, related to the commenter’s statement about the solar panels increasing the temperature in the area, please refer to Global Response GR-2 Photovoltaic Heat Island Effects in the Final EIR.
- I6-3** The commenters state that the solar panels kill much of the wildlife both by their heat and the necessity to completely clear the land underneath them. In response, Section 2.3 Biological Resources of the Draft EIR analyzes the Proposed Project’s impacts to wildlife. With implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to wildlife and other biological resources would be mitigated to less than significant. In regard solar panels and heat generation, please refer to Global Response GR-2.
- I6-4** The commenters state that wind generators that are already in the area have required her to change things within her home to try to reduce the problems they present. The commenter also states the wind turbines have ruined their views, turbine lights and noise keep them awake, the turbines have oil running down their sides, they kill wildlife, cause fires, and destroy the landscape. In response, the Proposed Project is a solar energy generation and battery storage facility. The Project does not propose any wind turbines. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- I6-5** The commenters state that their energy in the area has only become less reliable and more expensive, and without electricity they have no water for their animals or in

## Volume II – Individual Responses to Comments

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case of fire, and they have had to purchase gasoline generators to supplement the electrical outages. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.

- I6-6** The commenters ask how long it will be before wind turbines are proven to disrupt wind patterns causing unforeseen collateral damage to the climate. They also state that residents claim health problems due to the wind generators, and they do not produce cheap clean energy as promised. In response, the Proposed Project does not propose any wind turbines. The comment does not raise an issue regarding the adequacy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.