



Bear River Wind Power Project

EIR/EIS Public Scoping Meeting

February 2, 2010

Fortuna, CA

Meeting Program

- Arrival/Sign In/Meet and Greet
- Welcome and Meeting Outline/Logistics
- County Approval Process
- USFWS Review and Approval Process
- EIR/EIS Process
- Project Overview Presentation
- Question and Answer Session
- Adjourn



Introductions/Meeting Attendees

- Humboldt County
- USFWS
- AECOM (EIR/EIS Contractor)
- Shell WindEnergy Inc. (Project Applicant)
- Marty McClelland (Landowner Liaison)

Logistics

- Refreshments
- Restrooms
- Sign In Sheets
- Comment Forms
- Speaker Cards

A photograph of several white wind turbines on a grassy hillside under a clear blue sky. The turbines are positioned on the left side of the frame, with their towers and nacelles visible. The background shows rolling hills and a clear horizon.

County Permitting Process

- Conditional Use Permit Required.
 - Use that is conditionally permitted; or
 - Use not specifically enumerated that is similar to and compatible with the same uses permitted in the zone .
- Conditions
 - Assure compliance with special development regulations;
 - Minimize/mitigate adverse impact of the development upon other land;
 - Control development timing, duration of use;
 - Assure development will be maintained properly;
 - Designate location and nature of development

A photograph of several white wind turbines on a rolling hillside under a clear blue sky. The turbines are positioned on the left side of the frame, with their towers and nacelles visible. The background shows a vast landscape of rolling hills and a distant horizon.

County Permitting Process

- Project Review
 - Environmental Review
 - Conformance with Zoning/General Plan
 - Referrals to other agencies
 - Written report and findings
- Public Review
 - Notice
 - Public hearings before Planning Commission
 - Receive evidence regarding findings
 - Decisions can be appealed to Board of Supervisors

County Permitting Process

- Opportunities for Public Comment
 - EIR/EIS Scoping
 - Draft EIR/EIS
 - Public Hearings
- How to Comment/Participate
 - Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings
 - Website:
<http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/bear-river/default.asp>



County Permitting Process

Please submit written comments to:

John Miller, Senior Planner
Humboldt County Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

jpmiller@co.humboldt.ca.us

(707) 268-3781

USFWS Review And Approval Process

Why is the USFWS involved?

- Endangered Species Act Provides protection by the prohibition against “take” of listed species.
- The Marbled Murrelet which is listed as “Threatened” under the (ESA) potentially could be killed or harmed.



A photograph of a wind turbine on a hillside, with the turbine's tower and nacelle visible on the left side of the frame. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

USFWS Review And Approval Process

- Section 10 of Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Allows the FWS to issue permits for:
 - Scientific collecting
 - Experimental populations
 - Incidental take – in this case by approving a Habitat Conservation Plan

A photograph of a wind turbine in a field, with the turbine's tower and nacelle visible on the left side. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

USFWS Review And Approval Process

- HCP must describe the impact of the taking and the steps the applicant will take to minimize, mitigate, and monitor such impacts.
- Must include:
 - Impacts to listed species
 - Measures to monitor, minimize, and mitigate impacts
 - Alternatives considered
 - Funding mechanisms

A photograph of several white wind turbines in a field of rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The turbines are positioned on the left side of the frame, with their blades extending towards the center. The background shows a vast landscape of golden-brown hills stretching towards a distant horizon.

USFWS Review And Approval Process

This Scoping meeting is the 1st step in meeting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for the USFWS.

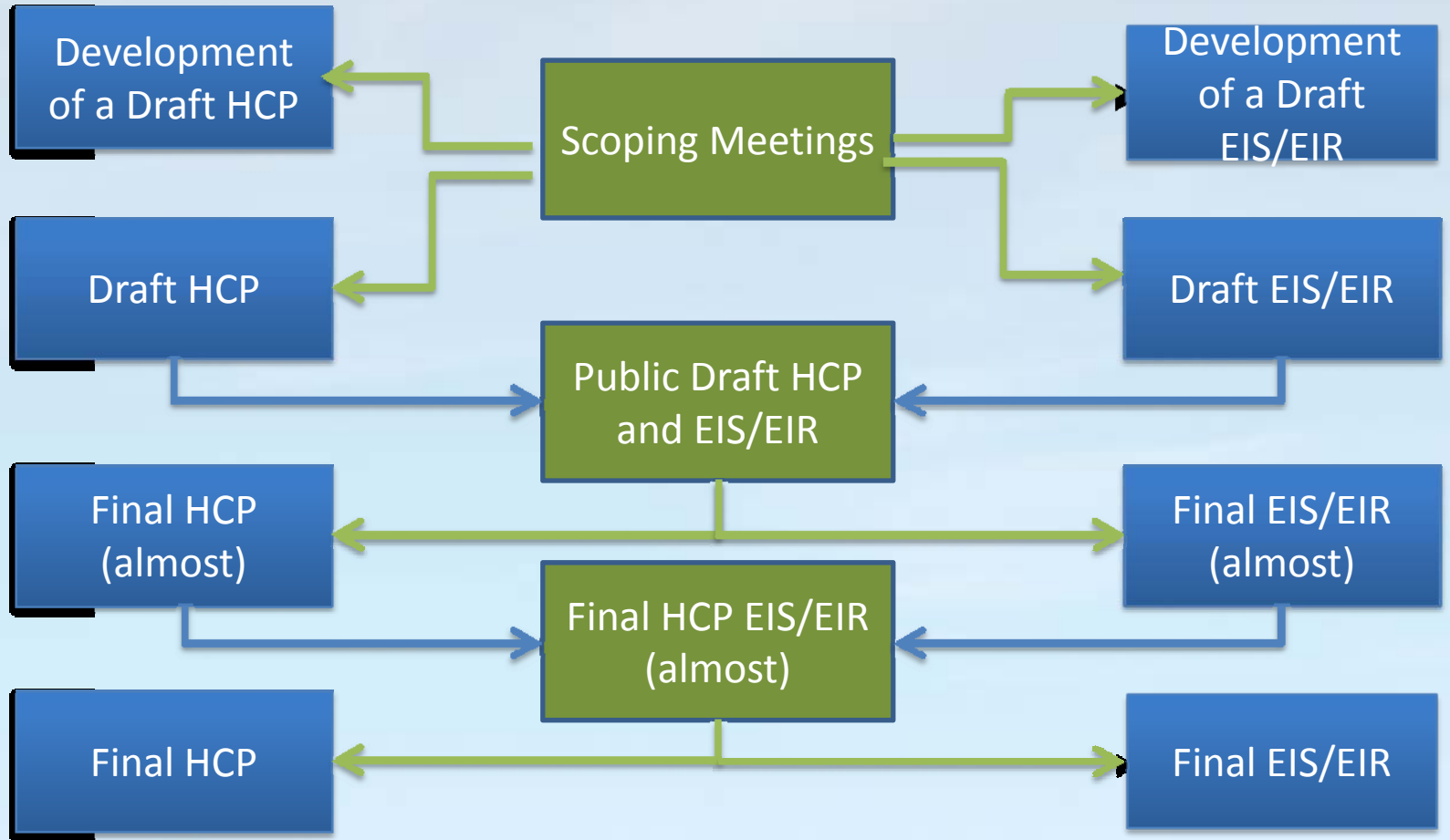
It is Required because the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to Shell Wind will be a Federal action.

The development of this Joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/EIR) is being prepared to meet the NEPA as well as state and local regulations.

USFWS Review And Approval Process

- Opportunities for Public Comment
 - at Public meetings
 - EIS/EIR Scoping
 - Public Release of the Draft EIS/EIR
 - Public Release of the Final EIS/EIR
 - Written comments or e-mails on the
 - Draft EIS/EIR
 - Final EIS/EIR
- Comment periods typically are 60 days

Process



USFWS Review And Approval Process

- How to Comment/Participate
 - Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings
 - Written Comments to USFWS, Humboldt County
 - In person with the USFWS Arcata Office Staff

For USFWS please submit comments to:

JB

USFWS

1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521

james_bond@fws.gov

(707) 822-7201

EIR/EIS Process

- Notice of Intent (USFWS)
 - Published in the Federal Register December 22, 2009
 - 60 day review period; closes February 22, 2010
- Notice Of Preparation (Humboldt County)
 - Filed with the State Clearinghouse January 19, 2010
 - 30 day review period; closes February 19, 2010
- Both notices are available on County website:
 - <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/bear-river/default.asp>

EIR/EIS Process

- EIR/EIS consultant team
 - AECOM
 - Mad River Biologists (biological resources)
 - W-trans (traffic)
 - Roscoe and Associates (cultural resources)
- Under Contract to Humboldt County
- MOU with the USFWS
- Coordination with applicant's HCP consultant
 - H.T. Harvey & Associates
- Coordination with applicant's landowner liaison
 - Marty McClelland



EIR/EIS Process

- EIR/EIS will analyze the full range of potential environmental impacts resulting from project implementation
- EIR/EIS will analyze alternatives to the proposed project
- Alternatives will be developed to be consistent with HCP Alternatives

A photograph of a wind turbine on a hillside, with the turbine's tower and nacelle visible on the left side of the frame. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

EIR/EIS Process

- Available information
 - Draft project descriptions and graphics
 - Draft HCP
 - Various technical studies (wetlands, plants, birds, bats, agricultural resources, transportation, geotechnical study etc.)
 - Humboldt County GIS data and General Plan
 - Other technical documents
- Additional information currently under development to inform the analysis

EIR/EIS Process

- Process to develop EIR/EIS
 - Project initiation and data review (complete)
 - Project description development (ongoing)
 - EIR/EIS outline (ongoing)
 - Scoping (ongoing)
 - Scoping report (at close of scoping period)
 - Develop administrative Drafts EIR/EIS
 - USFWS/County Review
 - Public Draft EIR/EIS
 - Final EIR/EIS

EIR/EIS Process

- EIR/EIS Content
 - Summary
 - Introduction/Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives (no project/no action; proposed project; two others)
 - Environmental Settings, Impacts and Mitigation Measures
 - » Full range of environmental issues
 - Growth Inducing Impacts
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Report Preparers
 - References

A photograph of a wind turbine on a hillside. The turbine is white and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background shows a clear blue sky and rolling hills in the distance. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Project Overview Presentation

- Shell WindEnergy Inc.

A photograph of a wind turbine on a hillside. The turbine is white and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background shows a clear blue sky and a landscape of rolling hills and a distant ocean. The text "Questions and Answers" is centered in the middle of the image in a dark blue serif font.

Questions and Answers

Thank you!