

## **Appendix C**

### **HCCDSD Public Notice of Scoping Meetings**

Please publish once on Tuesday, January 19, 2009.

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS  
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and Public Scoping Meetings for the **Bear River Wind Power Project, Shell WindEnergy Inc (SWE)**., applicant. The proposed project would be located along Bear River Ridge in the northern Coast Ranges around Cape Mendocino in Humboldt County, California. Humboldt County will be the lead agency and will prepare an EIR for the project and the USFWS will be the lead agency for and EIS prepared for the same project. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on December 22, 2009.

**Public Scoping Meetings:** Two public scoping meetings will be held to help the lead agencies identify the potential environmental impacts that could result from the project. Meetings will be held at the following times and locations: **Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 7 pm to 9 pm at the Fortuna River Lodge (1800 Riverwalk Drive) Fortuna, CA;** and **Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 7 pm to 9 pm at the Eureka Wharfinger Building (1 Marina Way) Eureka, CA.** Written Comments should be submitted by February 18, 2010, at 5:00 p.m., and directed to the attention of John Miller, Senior Planner, County of Humboldt Community Development Services, Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka CA 95501. A copy of the Notice of Preparation and other project information is available at the same address, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or at <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/bear-river/default.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact John Miller at (707) 445-7541.

**Project Overview:** The proposed project includes up to 25 wind turbines with the capacity to generate a total of 50 megawatts of electricity. The wind turbines would be arranged in turbine "strings" within a 500-foot-wide corridor. The project area is used primarily for agriculture (i.e., cattle production) and timberland management, and contains several Williamson Act Agricultural Preserves. SWE has obtained long-term agreements (wind leases) with local landowners to develop the property. In addition to turbines, the project would include the following components:

- approximately 5 miles of newly constructed access roads, turbine string roads, and turnaround areas;
- up to three permanent meteorological towers and a site control and data acquisition system;
- a 34.5-kilovolt (kV) power collection system (almost entirely underground) to deliver turbine generated power to the project substation where it would be stepped up to the voltage required for the interconnection to the regional transmission system;
- an approximately 12-mile-long overhead transmission line that would transfer power from the substation to the PG&E regional transmission system in the city of Rio Dell;
- upgrades and improvements to transmission lines at various locations outside of the project area, including between Eureka and Rio Dell;
- an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, including a main building with offices/shop area, outdoor parking facilities/turnaround, outdoor lighting, and gated access with fencing located in the vicinity of the project area.

Operation of the wind farm has the potential to affect wildlife species subject to protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). SWE is preparing a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to provide for management of the project site over its lifetime in a manner that would minimize and mitigate the impacts of take of wildlife species that are listed under the ESA or that may be listed during the life of the project. After the HCP is completed, SWE is expected to submit it to the USFWS as part of an application for an incidental take permits.

**Probable Environmental Effects:** The proposed project has the potential to result in environmental impacts in the following areas: aesthetics; agricultural resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology, soils, and mineral and paleontological resources; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning;

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noise; population and housing; public services; recreation; transportation and traffic; and utilities and service systems. Each of these issue areas will be evaluated in the EIR, along with other issues required for consideration by CEQA. Because the EIR will be released jointly with an EIS, the document will include additional NEPA-specific analyses, such as discussion of environmental justice and socioeconomics.

The EIR will also include an evaluation of a range of alternatives intended to avoid or substantially reduce a significant environmental impact associated with the proposed project. Alternatives would be either designed differently or are located at a different site, while still meeting the overarching objective of the project. Specific alternatives are not fully defined at this time, and input received from comments on this NOP will assist the County and applicant in refining alternatives.