

Becky Golden-Harrell

From: Morgans <smorgy@hughes.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 5:57 PM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: Tule Wind Project

Mr. Fisher,

As long time residents of Boulevard we would like to voice our objection to the various proposed wind turbine projects currently under consideration for the Boulevard area (Tule, Campo, Manzanita, Jordan).

Of primary concern at this time is the Tule Wind project.

Our home is located on the north end of Ribbonwood Road (north of the intersection of Opalocka Rd) and we take exception to the downplaying by Iberdrola of the negative visual, financial and possible health impacts that the placement of these turbines will have on the homes in our immediate area. Iberdrola has only sited a couple of homes on the east side of Ribbonwood Rd as being "directly impacted". There are many families on the west side of Ribbonwood Road who will be directly impacted by having their view shed ruined and be subjected to the nuisance factor and possible health risks created by the continuous noise from the turbines. The most dramatic view for these properties is looking east towards Tule Mountain. The "visual simulations" included in Iberdrola's Environmental Documents provide very distorted and carefully crafted depictions designed to minimize the visual impact of the turbines as viewed from Ribbonwood Road and no effort was made to provide such visual simulations as viewed from the many homes on the northern most end of the road.

Iberdrola has also commented that "their studies" show that there is no negative impact on home values as a result of the wind turbines. Other, **independent** studies show that this is totally false and that there are definite substantial reductions in property values in homes within 5 miles of wind turbines. The Tule Wind project will place turbines within a half mile of many homes on Ribbonwood Rd. Regardless of what the studies show, common sense would tell you that if the view from your property is a significant asset to the home's appeal and this view is permanently compromised by 500ft wind turbines it will make the property less appealing and therefore reduce it's value.

We are also very concerned about the potential health risks due to the noise emitted by the turbines. There are documented cases of people being driven from their homes because of the noise factor from nearby wind turbines. The lack of long term studies prevent a definitive statement on what the safe offset from homes would be but the close proximity of the Tule Wind project will definitely create a significant noise impact on families in our area.

The impacts on the view shed and potential health risks for the many families on the north end of Ribbonwood Road can be significantly mitigated by a reduction in the scope of the Tule Wind project. The elimination of 10 - 12 of the southern most proposed turbine sites and related transmission lines (based on the map in the draft EIR/EIS) would preserve the easterly view and provide a larger buffer from noise and potential health risks.

If Iberdrola (or any other company) is permitted to place wind turbines in areas that threaten property values and/or create conditions that make existing homes uninhabitable by the current residents due to health issues caused by the noise factor, there should be a legally binding insurance policy issued by these companies that protect the homeowners. If, as Iberdrola contends, there is little or no negative impact from these turbine's proximity to homes then they shouldn't have any issues with issuing a property value guarantee. So far Iberdrola has not been willing to consider such a guarantee.

We are opposed to all of the wind projects (Tule, Jordan, Campo, Manzanita) that threaten to permanently damage the quality of life for the residents in Boulevard however if the Tule Wind Project is allowed to proceed it seems that all reasonable efforts should be taken to minimize the negative impacts on the residents. The small reduction in the Tule Wind project as outlined above would be a responsible action to take in order to help protect the many families in the north Ribbonwood Road area. Iberdrola seems unwilling to compromise their planned project so we are looking towards

our government agencies (CPUC and BLM) to protect the families who will be permanently damaged by the Tule Wind Project.

Thank you,

Marie and Scott Morgan
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Boulevard, CA.

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