

Department of **Resource Management**

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NOTICE OF COMPLETION, AVAILABILITY, AND PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

SHILOH II WIND PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Solano, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Shiloh II Wind Project. The Shiloh II Project is proposed by Shiloh Wind Partners, LLC., and would be located on approximately 6,100 acres of combined private properties in the Montezuma Hills that are leased for wind power development. The Project requires a Use Permit (U-05-25) from Solano County.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzes the environmental effects of the Shiloh II Wind Project - which includes the following elements:

- Approximately 88 wind turbine generators, generating up to 176 Megawatts (MW) of electrical capacity, tower foundations, and pad mounted transformers;
- New Project access roads, power collection lines, up to three meteorological towers, and other related infrastructure;
- Expansion of the existing enXco V Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building and construction of a new substation for the Project.

The Shiloh II Project is located within the Collinsville-Montezuma Hills Wind Resource Area in southeast Solano County, south of Highway 12, north of Montezuma Hills Road, extending east from Shiloh Road to Azevedo Road, approximately 2.5 miles west of Rio Vista. Primary access to the Project area is from Shiloh Road, Little Honker Road, Birds Landing Road, and Currie Road, Anderson Road, Montezuma Hills Road, and Highway 12. The Project area is characterized by gently rolling hills used for dry farming, grazing, rural residences, and wind power. Existing agricultural and residential uses would continue while the Project is in operation. Other existing wind energy facilities in the Project vicinity include Shiloh I (PPM Energy), High Winds (FPL Energy), enXco V, and SMUD-Solano wind facilities.

The Draft EIR also analyzes the environmental effects of the separate but related PG&E Reconductoring Project being undertaken by PG&E, a third party, which is not a part of the Use Permit required by Solano County for the Shiloh II Wind Project. The Reconductoring Project involves the reconductoring of an approximately 11-mile segment of the existing PG&E Vaca Dixon-Contra Costa 230 Kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Project segment extends from the existing PG&E Birds Landing switchyard, crossing Solano, Sacramento, and Contra Costa counties, and terminates at the Contra Costa substation and Contra Costa power plant/switchyard in Contra Costa County. The reconductoring is needed to increase the carrying capacity of the existing transmission lines to serve the Shiloh II Project and other energy generation projects in the area.

The Draft EIR examines all of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Shiloh II Project and Reconductoring Project (as it relates to the Shiloh II Project), and alternatives and/or mitigation measures to reduce or avoid any significant impacts identified. For the Shiloh II Project, the Draft EIR concludes that there could be significant adverse environmental effects in the areas of aesthetics/visual resources, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geologic resources, hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, public services, safety, and transportation. Mitigation measures are identified to reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level, except for certain impacts related to aesthetics/visual, air quality, biological resources and cumulative, for which there is no effective mitigation. The significant impacts for the Shiloh II Project, as identified in the Draft EIR, for which there is no effective mitigation, include the following:

Air Quality - The Project would result in significant impacts to air quality during construction due to construction vehicle emissions of NOx and the generation of dust (PM10). Although there are no known construction projects that would occur simultaneously with the construction of this Project, the Project would contribute to significant and unavoidable cumulative air impacts by exceeding the NOx and PM10 criteria.

Biological Resources - The Project would result in low rates of mortality to protected avian species and therefore result in potentially significant impacts even with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Raptor species most likely to be affected by turbine operation are the American kestrels and Red-tailed hawks. The Golden eagle, a California species of special concern, is present on the Project site and could have a mortality rate of about one individual per year. The Project will also contribute to a significant cumulative impact to this species.

Aesthetic/Visual – The Project may alter the anticipated views from Highways 12 and 113 that contain distant views of the Shiloh II Wind Project. In addition, the Project could degrade the visual character of the landscape from public roads and for dispersed rural residential viewers. When considered with the other wind plant projects, the combined effects would increase the extent of significant adverse visual effects and, therefore, the Shiloh II Project would contribute to a significant cumulative visual impact.

Alternatives that would avoid or reduce these and any other potentially significant environmental impacts of the Shiloh II Project were selected. Alternatives also were selected on the basis of their feasibility. Factors also considered include engineering constraints, cost, access to existing infrastructure, and ease of installation.

For the Reconductoring Project, PG&E has incorporated impact avoidance and minimization measures into the Project plans, which effectively reduce all potential environmental effects of the Project to levels below the CEQA significance criteria. As a result, the Draft EIR concludes that there will be no significant adverse environmental effects for the Reconductoring Project, and no mitigation is necessary.

The permitting authority for the Reconductoring Project is within the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), other state agencies, and federal agencies. The Notice of Construction process for the Reconductoring Project has been completed and was based upon an exemption from the CPUC's formal permitting requirements under CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, B.1 (which exempts from CPUC permitting requirements "the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built."). It has been determined that the Reconductoring Project is therefore exempt from any further CPUC permitting process.

EIR Process and Comment Period

The Draft EIR is being published for a 45-day public review and comment period that begins on October 10, 2006 and ends on November 27, 2006. A Final EIR will be prepared to respond to comments received during the review period and will be presented at a date to be determined. The Planning Commission must certify the EIR as a complete, accurate, and objective analysis prior to taking action on the proposed Use Permit at the date to be determined. We welcome your views on the adequacy and completeness of the Draft EIR. If you represent a public agency, please provide information that is germane to your statutory responsibilities as they may be affected by this Project. Responsible and trustee agencies will need to use the EIR prepared by the County when considering approvals they may grant related to the Shiloh II and Reconductoring Projects. If you decide to challenge the action of the County in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at or prior to the final public hearing on the Project.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your comments must be received by the County prior to the close of the 45-day review period at **5:00 p.m. on November 27, 2006**. The Solano County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to review the Draft EIR and receive public comments at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006**, at the Solano County Board of Supervisors Board Room, County Administration Center, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, California. Please submit any requests for a copy of the Draft EIR and whether a paper copy or electronic copy (CD disk) is preferred, and your written comments to: Mr. Ken Solomon, Solano County Department of Resource Management, 675 Texas Street, Suite 5500, Fairfield, CA 94533. Please also provide the name, address and telephone number of a contact person with your response.

Copies of the Draft EIR can be reviewed and obtained at the Department of Resource Management, 675 Texas Street, Suite 5500, Fairfield. An additional copy can be reviewed at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield; Suisun City Library, 333 Sunset Street, Suite 280, Suisun; and the Rio Vista Library, 44 South Second Street, Rio Vista. A copy can also be viewed online at the following websites: www.solanocounty.com and https://www.shilohll.ene.com.