

Scott Taschner

From: Joan Taylor <palmcanyon@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 6:05 PM
To: Benjamin Torres
Subject: Desert Hot Springs Wind Project, NOP comments

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Dear Mr Torres:

These comments are made on behalf of the Sierra Club.

First, thank you very much for responding to my request and emailing me the NOP notice for the SEIR re Desert Hot Springs Wind Repowering Project ("Project" hereinafter), since the NOP was not posted on the City website.

Second, the Sierra Club supports ramping up of renewable energy and the re-powering of older turbines in preference to developing new wind farms on undisturbed habitat. Generally, the terrestrial impacts (after the wide roads, etc are rehabilitated) are decreased. However, there will be different, and potentially increased, impacts to some avian species, and also to avian migration from modern turbines. That is a concern.

The San Gorgonio Pass is an avian migratory corridor, and the blades of the modern, much higher turbines spin at very high speeds at the tip. So, even though there will be fewer turbines, the potential for different and increased impacts to avian species and bats needs to be analyzed addressed in the SEIR.

In particular, this project appears to be on a hillside. The SEIR should fully address the greater avian impacts caused by turbines on ridge lines, and how these impacts can be avoided, minimized and mitigated.

Since there have been and will be a number of wind re-powering projects in the San Gorgonio Pass Wind Resource Area (SGP WRA), please address the cumulative impacts of this. The SEIR should also analyze the potential for coordinated monitoring and mitigation in the SGP WRA to better inform the design and operation of this and other projects — to ensure they are as environmentally benign as feasible, now and in the future.

Please confirm receipt of this email. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Joan Taylor, Chair
Calif/Nevada Desert Energy Committee
Sierra Club

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