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Jim Feenan

From: Jim Feenan
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Jim Feenan
Subject: FW: Proposed Approval of Four 197 foot tall Meteorological Towers in Morgan Valley and Road Vacation

AUG 24 2022

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPT

From: JAY BATES [<mailto:jaybates@astound.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Mary Darby, Director COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF LAKE
<PlanningCommission@lakecountyca.gov>
Cc: Eric Porter <Eric.Porter@lakecountyca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Approval of Four 197 foot tall Meteorological Towers in Morgan Valley and Road Vacation

Below is my response to the proposed action by the Lake County Planning Commission. It is obvious to me that you don't need to erect four towers to measure wind speeds at four different locations unless you are planning to put wind turbines at those exact locations. I think these towers are not just to measure wind speeds but are just a ploy to get all the roads, clearing, and ancillary facilities in place for their replacement with actual wind turbines without a thorough analysis of all the cumulative impacts. I have pointed out a number of potential environmental issue areas that have not been addressed and as far as I know no one as looked at in any depth. In my view the major issue is for towers 1-A, 2, and 3 which are proposed to be located in a very high fire risk zone. Wind speeds at elevation could easily be determined at one tower located at site 4 outside the high risk fire area. I am sure that if the proposed towers had been proposed on the adjacent Federal land the Bureau of Land Management most likely would not have approved them.

Thank for the map and Planning Report you sent me by email. I have looked at your planning report and map. I am concern about the proposed towers on the 473 acre parcel, namely proposed towers 1, 2, and 3. My major concern is that these towers are a prelude and a stalking horse for later large wind turbines to be proposed for the same location. It is likely to be a similar proposal as was recently denied by the Bureau of Land Management on Federal lands to the south for lack of information and analysis of environmental impacts. The land in the 473 acre parcel is similar to that for the so called "Condor Ridge" denied by BLM for very valid reasons under National Environmental Policy Act. We are also dealing with land that is not that different than land that was included in the recently approved National Monument. I am sure if there are any California condors at "Condor Ridge" I am sure if they are also to be found in the Morgan Valley area and the 473 acre parcel landscape. There are also a number of rare bats that live in the surrounding landscape that I have personally observed and that were studied after the Homestake Gold Mine was put into operation. The general area contains serpentine soils that are the unique home to many rare and endangered plants that have not been studied at all at that location. I have had knowledgeable plant people comment about the unique plants in the area located on the serpentine soils. It is not uncommon to find Indian artifacts in the Morgan Valley area as it was once the home of a substantial number of Native Americans who probably lived there year-round because of the many resources

they needed that were present. There are grinding holes in the rocks and I have found arrowheads on my private property.

There is a very real and ominous fire danger in the 473 acre parcel and surrounding landscape. During the last fire to burn over the area, there were flames reaching heights of 200 feet or more. In the 473 acre area, the chaparrals burns off regularly every ten years or so from natural and sometimes accidental human causes. To protect from fire and service any structures, such as meteorological or wind turbine towers, would require the removal of many acres of the natural chaparral vegetation. I have personally found rocks at 473 acre area that contain visible asbestos fibers. Asbestos is also found in the many serpentine soils in the area. Any denuding of those areas for fire free zones, roads and general construction will risk the release of asbestos fibers and dust into the atmosphere. At present, the roots of the chaparrals plants quickly re-sprout and hold the soil after a fire. That would not be the case, for denuding the landscape for construction and fire free protection areas.

Sincerely yours Jay E. Bates, Concerned Morgan Valley Land Owner for 56 years