

R3 Receive an update from the County Administrative Office on the activities and results from the ongoing "Stop Fountain Wind" community action media campaign.

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	March 11, 2025
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CATEGORY: Presentations3

SUBJECT: Receive an update from the County Administrative Office on the activities and results from the ongoing "Stop Fountain Wind" community action media campaign.

DEPARTMENT: County Administrative Office

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: David Maung, Public Information Officer, (530) 225-5561

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Stewart Buettell, Deputy County Executive Officer

<u>Vote Required?</u>	<u>General Fund Impact?</u>
No Vote	No Additional General Fund Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an update and presentation from the Public Information Officer on the activities and results from the ongoing "Stop Fountain Wind" community action media campaign.

DISCUSSION

The Fountain Wind Project (Project) is a wind energy generation facility proposed by Fountain Wind, LLC., on approximately 4,500 acres of private, leased land in the unincorporated area of Shasta County.

Following discussion during the October 17, 2023, Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, the Board unanimously voted to proceed with the development of a public media campaign by the Shasta County Public Information Officer. The purpose of this campaign would be to inform the public of the status of the Fountain Wind Project, and rally citizens to submit their opposition to the Fountain Wind Project via online docket log and letters to the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Board approved a budget of \$100,000 for the media campaign.

On June 22, 2021, the Shasta County Planning Commission unanimously denied the application for the conditional use permit necessary to build the Project. Fountain Wind, LLC., appealed the Planning Commission's decision to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, which also included modifications to the size of the Project. On October 26, 2021, (pursuant to Shasta County Code section 17.92.030), the Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted to uphold the Planning Commission's decision and deny the special use permit.

Subsequently, Assembly Bill (AB) 205 was signed into law on June 30, 2022, and purports to give the CEC extended siting authority over certain renewable energy facilities, including any "solar photovoltaic or terrestrial wind electrical generating power plant with a generating capacity of 50 megawatts or more and any facilities appurtenant thereto." For several reasons, the County disputes the authority and jurisdiction of the CEC to consider the Fountain Wind application and proposed project. Between January 3 and January 11, 2023, Fountain Wind, LLC., submitted an application under AB 205 with the CEC. The proposed Project is currently still under review and awaiting release of the Environmental Impact Report, despite being past the maximum 270-day review period established in AB 205, which expired on July 23, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to hear the presentation, defer it to a future date, or provide alternate direction to staff.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The County Administrative Office drafted this report.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional General Fund impact associated with receiving this presentation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: None