

December 7, 2012

Marin County Board of Supervisors

c/o Patrice Stancato Via Email: bos@marincounty.org

Re: Staff Report, Local Coastal Program Amendments (LCPA) Third Board Public Hearing -- Built Environment, Socioeconomic and remaining Natural Systems topics

Dear Marin County Board of Supervisors,

West Marin Sonoma Coastal Advocates (WMSCA) wishes to summarize our position opposing the installation of Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) in the Marin County Coastal Zone. Following is a synopsis of the points we have made at each community workshop and Local Coastal Program Amendment (LCPA) Planning Commission hearing (see attached letters for full statements):

1. In Marin's local Coastal Zone there are only marginal wind resources. This is based on information from the wind industry prepared maps for the California Energy Commission. These maps illustrate wind speeds at 30-, 50-, 70- and 100-meters.

2. Scenic values will be impacted by wind turbines visible on both sides of Highway One. Wind turbines 40-feet to the west side and 100-feet to the east side of Highway One will have visual impacts on Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the California State Parks system and the California Coastal Trail.

3. There are documented negative impacts to birds and bats, including California species of special concern, from collisions with meteorological towers and wind turbines.

4. Organic and traditional agriculture will suffer when nocturnal and diurnal insect predators are killed.

5. Marin County's WECS ordinance allows wind turbines of unlimited height immediately adjacent to the Coastal Zone boundary, potentially impacting the viewshed.

6. Industrial-scale wind turbines in the viewshed of residential areas substantially reduces property values.

7. Numerous adverse health effects (known collectively as "Wind Turbine Syndrome") resulting from living in close proximity to industrial-scale wind turbines have been documented worldwide.

8. The placement of industrial-scale wind turbines in the Coastal Zone will negatively impact the local community economy, including tourism.

9. Wind developers and manufacturers that produce, transport and install industrial-scale

wind turbines, and energy corporations that are dependent on government subsidies to develop wind energy, benefit economically from wind development at the expense of local communities.

10. Marin is the first coastal county to be challenged with industrial-scale wind turbine proposals within the Coastal Zone. The adoption of the LCPA included in the staff report of December 11, 2012 will impact the entire 1100-mile California Coastal Zone by setting a precedent to open up all coastal counties to industrial wind energy development. This defies the intent of the California Coastal Plan which is to preserve and protect agricultural and scenic resources.

11. We demand an Environmental Impact Report for the LCPA Update if it includes WECS.

Should the Board decide to adopt the Energy Section of the LCPA, the entire coast will be negatively impacted. We urge you to support Supervisor Steve Kinsey's public statement at the March 20, 2012 Board of Supervisors LCP Workshop #1, in which he said:

"I had been clear that we do not want industrial-scale wind energy in West Marin. There's no need for it, no demand for that scale and the transmission facilities to bring wind all the way back would be so significantly costly and disruptive that it isn't viable... Why not just make it a Wind Energy Free Zone?"

WMSCA wholeheartedly supports Supervisor Kinsey's position as stated above.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of WMSCA,

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Enclosures

Cc:
North Central Coast District Supervisor, California Coastal Commission