



Item #7: Opt-In Certification: Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01)

December 19, 2025, Business Meeting

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Opt-In Certification Quick Facts

- Certain clean energy development projects may choose this consolidated state option
- CEC is the CEQA lead agency



Geothermal



Solar photovoltaic or terrestrial wind



Energy storage systems



Stationary power plant using thermal energy



Specific manufacturing or assembly facilities for clean energy



Hydrogen production



CEC Roles and Responsibilities



Leading California to a 100% clean energy future for all



Protect people, wildlife and the environment



Evaluate each project on its own merits



Balance the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits against any unavoidable environmental risks



Fountain Wind Project Overview

- Unincorporated Shasta County
 - Mountainous, forest terrain
- Approximately 2,855 acres
- Up to 205 MW wind generation facility
- Associated infrastructure and facilities:
 - Electrical collector system
 - Overhead/underground fiber-optic lines
 - Switching station to connect to PG&E grid



Source: Stantec, Applicant Consultant. Fountain Wind Updated Project Description (TN 254794)



Timeline

Date	Project Milestones
January 11, 2023	Application Filed
October 30, 2023	Determination of Complete Application
November 3, 2023	Tribal Notification Inviting Consultation
November 28, 2023	Public Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting
March 28, 2024	CEC notified applicant that project was no longer subject to 270-day timeline due to unviable water source
March 25, 2025	Staff Assessment Filed
May 20, 2025	Staff Assessment Public Meeting
May 29, 2025	Staff Assessment Comment Deadline
November 19, 2025	Response to Comments and Executive Director's Recommendation Filed



Key Themes from Public Input

Total Comments: 700+

- **Wildfire Risk and Safety**
- **Biological Resources**
- **Forest Disturbance**
- **Cultural and Tribal Land Rights**
- **Visual Resources**
- **Community Benefits**





Summary of Staff Assessment: Potential Benefits

- Provide up to 205 MW of clean energy generation
- Support grid reliability and contribute to state energy goals
- Generate local economic activity, including jobs



Summary of Staff Assessment: Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Nearly 50 impacts in multiple environmental resource areas:

- Biological Resources
- Visual Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire
- Land Use
- Forestry Resources



Summary of Staff Assessment: Conclusions

- Project causes numerous significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment
- **Based on entire record, project impacts are not outweighed by benefits**



Staff Recommendation: Opt-In Certification Recommendation

Deny the Fountain Wind Project certification to construct and operate the facility due to project-specific factors.

- 1) Numerous significant and unavoidable environmental impacts
- 2) Findings that the particular circumstances of the Fountain Wind Project do not support a statement of overriding considerations for the environmental impacts



Staff Recommendation: County of Shasta Dispute Resolution Request

- Dispute Resolution Request regarding invoice reimbursements filed December 5, 2025
- Staff Recommendation
 - Maintain jurisdiction over the Fountain Wind Project until the Executive Director resolves the dispute consistent with California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1878.1.