

AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT LOMPOC WIND ENERGY PROJECT

State Clearinghouse #2006071008 – September 5, 2008

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a proposed Final EIR has been prepared for the Lompoc Wind Energy Project (Case #06CUP-00000-00009; 06EIR-00000-00004). This proposed Final EIR discusses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and indicates measures which could eliminate or reduce these impacts. As a result of this project, significant effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: Aesthetic/Visual Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Fire Hazards and Emergency Services, Geology/Soils, Land Use, Noise, Paleontological Resources, Risk/Safety, Traffic/Circulation, and Water Resources. Implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce the environmental effects to less than significant, except for effects on Aesthetic/Visual Resources and Biological Resources, which would be significant and unavoidable.

This EIR is intended to serve as an informational document that informs the public, decision-makers and other interested agencies of the potential environmental consequences of the proposed project. The EIR will be reviewed by the decisionmakers in their consideration of the proposed project. While CEQA requires that major consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the County of Santa Barbara and other responsible public agencies are obligated to balance the environmental effects of the project with other public objectives, including economic and social factors, in determining whether and in what manner, the project should be approved.

A Draft EIR for the Lompoc Wind Energy Project was released for public review on July 17, 2007. An Environmental Hearing was held on August 30, 2007. The public review period closed on September 4, 2007. All comments received on the Draft EIR have been responded to in the Response to Comments section of the proposed Final EIR.¹ Where appropriate, changes have been made to the Draft EIR text in response to comments received, and have been incorporated into this proposed Final EIR.

County staff will prepare a staff report and forward it with the proposed Final EIR and staff recommendation to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will review the environmental document and the staff report and will conduct a public hearing. The hearing, scheduled for September 30, 2008, in Santa Maria, will be announced in a separate notice. Please contact John Day (805-568-2045; jday@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) for additional information. Final action on the project and certification of the EIR will be considered by the Planning Commission at the public hearing.

If a copy of the proposed Final EIR is not attached, a copy may be reviewed or a CD obtained at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara or 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria. The document is also available for review at the following public libraries: Lompoc (501 E. North Ave.), Santa Maria (420 S. Broadway), Vandenberg Village (3755 Constellation Rd.), Goleta Branch Library (500 N. Fairview Ave.), Santa Barbara (40 E. Anapamu St.), and UCSB Library. It will also be posted on the Energy Division website at: <http://www.countyofsb.org/energy/projects/LompWindEnergy.asp>.

Kevin Drude, Energy Specialist

¹ Pursuant to PRC 21092, public agencies that commented on the draft EIR are herewith provided a copy of the Final EIR or relevant portions and our response to agency comments.