

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAMEPOST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500

November 13, 2003

Mr. Andrew Young
Alameda County Planning
224 West Winton
Hayward, CA 94544
Via Fax (510) 785-8793

Dear Mr. Young:

Conditional Use Permits
Various Applications in the Agricultural District
Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area
Alameda County

Department of Fish and Game (DFG) personnel have determined that the many actions which are a part of this project continue to have significant effects on a substantial number of protected resources in the Altamont Pass area. Since the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was completed for this project area approximately 20 years ago, information and legal status of species known to occur on the areas and the magnitude of impacts to biological resources in the area has been well documented. The operation of turbines and use of rodenticide associated with the operation of the wind turbines is causing mortality to State and Federally listed species, State species of special concern, and State fully protected species.

The County should postpone making a decision on the approval of these various applications until the new and significant information which is available has been considered. DFG has not had an opportunity to review this information in depth and would appreciate the opportunity to do so. Based on available information, it is already clear that actions could be taken to minimize impacts to special status species. The number of and specific information about documented bird strikes, incidental killing of a wide variety of animals as a result of poorly planned rodenticide application, as well as probable impacts to water quality and a number of fossorial animals abundant in the Altamont area, are significant impacts.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY

Gray Davis, Governor

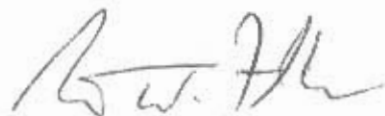
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We appreciate your consideration of our comments. DFG personnel are available to discuss our concerns. If you have questions regarding our comments, please call Ms. Janice Gan, Environmental Specialist, at (209) 835-6910; or Mr. Scott Wilson, Habitat Conservation Supervisor, at (707) 944-5584.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Floerke
Regional Manager
Central Coast Region

cc: Mr. Dan Buford
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Mr. Ed Wylie
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197