

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE FINAL SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REPORT AND APPROVING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PLN2017-00201,  
SAND HILL WIND PROJECT  
ADOPTED AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
HEARING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, SAND HILL WIND, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sustainable Power Group LLC, hereinafter referred to as sPower, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the AES Corporation and Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AES/AIMCO), filed an application for CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, PLN2017-00201 (“Project”) in November 2017, to decommission and remove 671 wind turbines or former wind turbine sites, to install up to 40 new turbines with a maximum production capacity of 144.5 megawatts (MW), using turbines rated between 2.3 and 3.8 MW (potentially up to 4.0 MW) per turbine, and to make improvements to related infrastructure, on fifteen parcels in a generally contiguous area designated in the A (Agriculture) and A-B-E (Agriculture, 160-acre minimum building site area) zone districts located on roughly 2,600 acres in total area in the eastern Altamont Hills or Mountain House area of Alameda County, generally described as north and south of Altamont Pass Road between two-thirds and two miles west of Grant Line Road, east and west of Mountain House Road between one-quarter and two miles north of Grant Line Road, west of the Delta-Mendota Canal one mile northwest of Mountain House Road, and west of Bethany Reservoir and southeast of the intersection of Christensen and Bruns Roads, as well as to recommence use of a pre-existing wind energy operations and maintenance facility on another, sixteenth parcel at 14740 Altamont Pass Road, altogether bearing the following Assessor's Parcel Numbers:

99B-7750-6-0; 99B-6325-1-4; 99B-6325-1-3; 99B-7375-1-7; 99B-7400-1-5; 99B-7300-1-5;  
99B-7050-4-6; 99B-7050-1-9; 99B-7050-4-1; 99B-7350-2-1; 99B-7350-2-5; 99B-7350-2-15;  
99B-7500-3-2; 99B-7500-3-1; 99B-7600-1-1; and 99B-7750-11-0.

**WHEREAS**, on November 12, 2014, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (EBZA) adopted Resolution Z-14-40 which certified the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Repowering Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR or PEIR) as in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that the Final Program EIR was presented to the Board, which has reviewed and considered the information in the Final Program EIR prior to adopting said Resolution, and that the Final Program EIR reflects the County’s independent judgment and analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject Project is part of the overall program to repower the entire Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) by replacing older generation turbines with newer, larger turbines that serve to improve turbine efficiency but also have the potential to substantially reduce avian mortality, especially for raptor species, consistent with the Final Program EIR certified in November 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the PEIR evaluated two repowering alternatives for a maximum capacity of either 417 megawatts (MW) or 450 MW of combined nameplate capacity of new turbines within the APWRA, in order to serve the objective of increasing the output of clean energy and meeting state energy portfolio goals, in recognition that the APWRA has been the site of privately-owned wind energy projects in operation since the 1980s, after the State of California designated the area for production of renewable energy, while further recognizing that within the APWRA the number of MWs generally has a direct and proportional relationship to the mortality of protected avian and bat species; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Adjustments previously approved in September 2003 the Diablo Winds repowering project that began operations in 2004 and represents 20.5 MW of capacity, based on a prior Program EIR for Repowering the APWRA certified in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, the existence of the Diablo Winds project represented a baseline condition for the 2014 PEIR and not a potential new project to be evaluated in the PEIR, because the PEIR was an evaluation of all current and future applications (submitted since the Notice of Preparation for the PEIR was circulated in 2010) for repowering a maximum of either 417 or 450 MW of combined new repowering development; and

**WHEREAS**, the PEIR further included two specific projects in its analysis which represented partial repowering of the APWRA, known as the Golden Hills (Planning application number PLN2014-00032, 88.4 MW) and Patterson Pass (PLN2012-00212, 19.8 MW) wind projects which together represented 108.2 MW of capacity, and which were approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustments at the time of the certification of the PEIR on November 12, 2014, and the PEIR was intended to provide for tiered review of other specific repowering projects that were anticipated to be proposed, consistent with the provisions for program EIRs in Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines using checklists to determine if such projects were adequately covered or anticipated in the PEIR; and

**WHEREAS**, the County initially reviewed the Project for the purposes of CEQA in the Sand Hill Wind Project *Environmental Analysis*, dated September 2018 that together with the *Implementation Checklist*, also dated September 2018 described the impacts of the current Project on the environment at a detailed project level and mitigation measures applicable to the project, previously identified generally in the PEIR, which would reduce each significant impact to the greatest extent possible or feasible, in most cases to a level that is less than significant but in other cases without reducing it to a less than significant level; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines provides direction as to the circumstances in which a subsequent EIR shall be prepared including when, based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record, the lead agency determines that substantial changes are proposed in the project or program described and addressed in a prior EIR, or changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, that together would involve new significant environmental effects or more severe significant effects than previously identified, such that major revisions of the prior EIR are required; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project has been reviewed in accordance with the provisions of CEQA and it was determined that while the Project's scope was described generally as part of the PEIR, the Project proposed individual turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3.6 or 3.8 MW, or potentially up to 4.0 MW if they become available, and therefore with 20 to 33 percent more MW yield per turbine than the 3.0 MW turbines used in the PEIR to estimate environmental impacts of a typical individual future repowering project, and physically increased dimensions of roughly 7% longer rotor blades, 9% additional total rotor diameter, and a resulting 20% expansion of rotor swept area, such that the potential or likely effect would be increased avian and bat mortality on a per turbine basis, which supports the County's decision to prepare a subsequent EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is proposed in the context of new information including additional monitoring reports from similar repowering projects in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and further information regarding bat mortality, that combined with the physically larger and greater MW output together support the County's decision to prepare a subsequent EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the Golden Hills project was approved in November 2014 for 88.4 MW and 52 turbines, it was constructed in 2015 with a capacity of approximately 85.9 MW (2.5 less MW and 48 turbines), and the Patterson Pass project, approved for up to 12 turbines with a capacity of 19.8 MW has not been constructed and is now an expired project; and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the PEIR was certified and on the basis of analyses using environmental checklists pursuant to CEQA (Section 15168), the Board of Zoning Adjustments approved three more repowering projects amounting to an additional 130.8 MW of capacity, including the Golden Hills North project (PLN2015-00157, 40.8 MW), the Summit Wind project (PLN2014-00056, 54 MW) and a prior version of the Sand Hill Wind project under different ownership for a different but overlapping set of parcels as currently proposed by sPower (PLN2015-00198, 36 MW); and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the Golden Hills North project was approved in November 2015 for 40.8 MW and 24 turbines, it was constructed in 2016 instead with a nameplate capacity of 46 MW (5.2 more MW and 20 turbines with a capacity of 2.3 MW each); and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the Summit Wind project was approved in January 2016 for 54 MW and up to 27 turbines, its owners began construction of 23 turbine sites and subsequently applied for a modified Conditional Use Permit (PLN2020-00007) to use 23 turbines rated with a capacity of 2.5 MW each such that capacity would be increased to 57.5 MW, and such application was approved on May 28, 2020 at a hearing before the EBZA, having found on the basis of an Affected Environment Analysis Update that such modification would not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects over those analyzed in the PEIR and CEQA Implementation Checklist used for the original project; and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the prior Sand Hill project was approved in May 2016 for 36 MW using up to twelve 2.5 to 3.0 MW turbines, its assets were acquired by sPower for the current project proposal and the prior project proposal is not expected to be implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Clara, which has jurisdiction over a single wind energy project site known as Rooney Ranch within the APWRA, approved in June 2019 the application of sPower for its repowering project of 25.1 MW of capacity on Rooney Ranch using an environmental checklist tiering from the PEIR in accord with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the changes in approved and constructed repowering projects as described hereinabove, the total number of MW currently in operation or approved for construction in the APWRA, including the Diablo Wind project (but excluding the prior Sand Hill project that the Project applicant and County considers having been replaced by the current Project), is 251.3 MW; and

**WHEREAS**, in the time since the Draft Sand Hill Wind Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) was completed, the County has received one additional repowering project application, the Mulqueeney Ranch Wind project (PLN2019-00226, of up to 36 turbines and a capacity of 80 MW), which is the subject of separate review under a new subsequent EIR prepared pursuant to CEQA; and

**WHEREAS**, combined with the proposed 144.5 MW proposed for the Sand Hill Wind Project, the total number of MW of currently operating, constructed approved and proposed repowered wind energy projects in the APWRA would amount to 479.3 MW; and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was issued on January 3, 2019, soliciting public input regarding the environmental analysis of the repowering Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSEIR was prepared and circulated for public comment between August 9, 2019 and October 4, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSEIR describes the effects of the Project on the environment at a detailed level, identifies mitigation measures applicable to the Project and previously identified in the PEIR which would reduce each significant impact to the greatest extent possible or feasible, in most cases to a level that is less than significant but in other cases without reducing it to a less than significant level, including adverse impacts on protected avian and bat species including golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, burrowing owl and other focal raptor species; and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DSEIR was prepared on August 9, 2019 and copies of the DSEIR provided to the state Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse (SCH) for distribution to state Responsible Agencies, and was also provided to or made available to other interested agencies, organizations and area property owners and residents to solicit comment on the DSEIR during a 45-day comment period ending on September 23, 2019 that was extended for another ten (10) days to October 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., and the DSEIR was made available at the offices of the Alameda County Planning Department at 224 West Winton Avenue, Hayward, California, 94544, at a Planning Department branch office at 3585 Greenville Road (Martinelli Center) Livermore, California, 94550, and made available on the Planning Department’s public website on August 29, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing to take verbal comment on the DSEIR was held on September 12, 2019, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at a meeting of the EBZA in the City of Pleasanton Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California, 94566, where one adjacent neighbor spoke in opposition to one turbine proposed in relatively close proximity to his property, and at which time the matter was tentatively continued to the 24th day of October, a meeting that was subsequently canceled and for which the matter was not placed on a new agenda until the notice of the current hearing was circulated; and

**WHEREAS**, nine letters of comment were received by the County through October 4, 2019, raising numerous substantial issues such as the cumulative impact analysis in the SEIR of Project effects on avian and bat species, the “micro-siting” of individual turbines using the work by Dr. Shawn Smallwood and by Estep Environmental, and including a request for revision of the DSEIR and its recirculation; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, the Final Subsequent EIR (FSEIR) document was prepared which includes the full text of the DSEIR, as revised by the lead agency in response to public comments or to otherwise improve the draft, all comments received on the DSEIR, a list of persons, organizations and agencies commenting on the DSEIR, and responses to each comment, and said FSEIR was provided on February 3, 2020 to interested agencies, organizations and persons who commented on the DSEIR, and made available on the County’s public website; and

**WHEREAS**, it satisfactorily appears from affidavits on file that proper notice of said public hearing was given in all respects as required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSEIR did not include any additional significant new information or identify any new significant environmental impacts, a substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact, or any other factors under CEQA Guidelines 15088.5 that would require recirculation of the SEIR; and

**WHEREAS**, a Final SEIR, containing public and agency comments on the Draft and responses to comments, was submitted to the EBZA together with draft resolutions and exhibits and staff analysis recommending the EBZA certify the Final SEIR and approve the Project in the form of the Smaller Turbine–Pre-Micro-Sited Layout Alternative, defined in the Final SEIR as the Environmentally Superior Alternative; and

**WHEREAS**, the EBZA held a public hearing on said application at the hour of 1:30 p.m. on the 13th day of February 2020, in the City of Pleasanton Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California, at which time the project proponent and stakeholders spoke in favor and in opposition to certification of the Final SEIR and approval of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the EBZA reviewed and considered the information in the Final SEIR prior to its action on Conditional Use Permit PLN2017-00201 and affirmed that the Final SEIR reflected the County’s independent judgment and analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 13, 2020 the EBZA made findings that the Final SEIR was in compliance with CEQA, that it had reviewed and considered the information in the Final Subsequent EIR, and that the Final Subsequent EIR reflects the County’s independent judgment and analysis and adopted Resolution Z-20-01 to certify the Final Subsequent EIR for the Sand Hill Wind Project, Conditional Use Permit PLN2017-00201; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Planning Department has prepared Written Findings of Significant Effects, as attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference , to provide a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding, supported by substantial evidence in the record, that changes or alterations have been required in or incorporated into the Project, including by identified mitigation measures which would avoid or substantially lessen some but not all identified significant environmental effects, and furthermore that certain mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the Final Program EIR are infeasible due to specified economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Section 15091(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Planning Department prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference, which is required to be implemented by the Permittee and by the County as a condition of approval of the Project and that are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures; and

**WHEREAS**, further in compliance with Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines the Planning Department prepared a Statement of Overriding Considerations, attached hereto as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by this reference, which states specific reasons, supported by substantial evidence in the record, why the County would approve the Project although certain significant adverse environmental effects of the Project, including effects on avian wildlife species including golden eagle and other focal raptor species, would not be avoided or substantially lessened by the identified mitigation measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the EBZA determined that approval of the Project as conditioned herein, including the implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Exhibit B), would provide for all of the significant effects on the environment to have been eliminated or substantially lessened where feasible, as indicated in the Written Findings of Significant Effects (Exhibit A), and that there are certain significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable which are acceptable due to overriding concerns as indicated in the Statement of Overriding Considerations (Exhibit C); and

**WHEREAS**, the EBZA found that adoption of the programs, requirements, procedures, legal and financial commitments and all other specifications as set forth in the conditions of approval for the conditional use permit is necessary for the public health and safety and as a necessary prerequisite to ensure that the proposed decommissioning, construction and operation of the facilities are managed in such a way as to serve the goals and objectives of the Alameda County General Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the EBZA heard and considered all reports, recommendations and testimony as hereinabove set forth, including the required findings for approval of the subject Conditional Use Permit, including findings of public need, proper relation to other land uses and transportation and service facilities, adverse effects on health or safety of persons in the vicinity, and consistency with the specific intent clauses or performance standards of the A (Agriculture) zone district, and approved Resolution Z-20-02 to approve Conditional Use Permit PLN2017-00201; an

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2020 the Golden Gate Audubon Society and Audubon California appealed the decision to certify the Final SEIR, and approval of said Conditional Use Permit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors held a virtual hearing on the appeal on December 15, 2020, as a “Zoom” Webinar, at which time the applicant and the appellants or their representatives spoke in favor of the agreement to resolve the appeal, as indicated in their letter dated November 17, 2020 and executed on or before December 4, 2020; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Board certifies that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board certifies that it has been presented with all of the information described in the above recitals and has reviewed and considered this information and the Final Subsequent EIR prior to adopting this Resolution and considering approval of the Project.
3. The Board certifies that the Final Subsequent EIR reflects the County’s independent judgment and analysis and has been completed in compliance with CEQA.
4. Notice of the Board’s hearings on the Draft Subsequent EIR and Final Subsequent EIR have been given as required by law and the actions were conducted pursuant to the State Planning and Zoning Law, CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines and the County’s CEQA Guidelines.
5. The Board is the elected decision-making body of the local lead agency, and that the certification of the Final Subsequent EIR is the final decision of the County of Alameda.
6. All individuals, groups and agencies desiring to comment were given adequate opportunity to submit oral and written comments on the Final Subsequent EIR which met or exceeded the requirements of State Planning and Zoning Law and CEQA.

7. All comments submitted during the public review and comment period on the Draft Subsequent EIR were responded to adequately in the Final Subsequent EIR.
8. No new comments or information has been submitted during the hearing on the Final Program EIR that would substantially change the analysis or conclusions of the Final Subsequent EIR.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors finds:**

1. The use is required by the public need in that wind energy production in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) represents a major source of renewable energy that is currently under-utilized by aged, underperforming or defunct wind turbines with documented adverse effects on avian species. The proposed Project would replace existing turbines with more efficient turbines, with the potential to reduce avian impacts. The Project would generate and supply 100% emissions-free electricity to California, would support California's renewable energy goals, and would help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, a primary factor in global warming or climate change.
2. The use will be properly related to other land uses and transportation and service facilities in the vicinity in that as an existing wind farm, the Project site is well-suited from a planning and practical perspective for continued use as a windfarm. The Project parcels have been developed with wind power project uses for over 30 years and are located a substantial distance away from substantial residential, commercial and industrial uses. Existing supporting facilities will continue to be utilized to transmit the power generated to satisfy the electricity needs of California.
3. The use, if permitted, under all the circumstances and conditions of this particular case, will not materially affect adversely the health or safety of persons residing or working in the vicinity, or be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injuries to property or improvements in the neighborhood. The proposed Project would serve the goals and objectives of the Alameda County East County Area Plan and other County economic development and environmental objectives, would have limited impacts on County services and infrastructure, and as mitigated with the measures to be adopted under the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached herein as Exhibit B and the conditions of approval, would not negatively impact the surrounding community or environment. As the site is currently occupied by wind turbines and supporting facilities, once construction is complete and the wind turbines have been repowered, environmental conditions as they currently exist would be maintained, if not improved.

Furthermore: a) the subject turbines would be sited in a manner that reduces risks to avian and bat species and according to specified minimum setbacks to reduce any health, safety or aesthetic concerns to any residents in close proximity; b) proper maintenance and operation efforts would be in effect to ensure the safe operation of the turbines; c) fire prevention and security measures would be in place to protect the public and local property; d) construction activities will be conducted in a manner that reduces potential health, safety and environmental concerns; e) the proposed use would not substantially hinder the continued use of the Project sites and surrounding land for cattle grazing as the primary property use; f) any access roads improved for the proposed use would provide improved access to the grazing lands; g) land owners would benefit from the lease payments made by the applicant, which further supports grazing operations; and h) other improvements, such as roadways, railroads, electrical substations and landfills are not adversely affected by the presence of wind turbines and their associated infrastructure because the proposed Project would replace and/or continue to use existing facilities.

4. The use will not be contrary to the specific intent clauses or performance standards established for the District in which it is to be considered in that the proposed Project is located in the A (Agriculture) zoning district, which has as its stated intent: "to promote implementation of General Plan land use policies for agriculture and other nonurban uses; to conserve and protect existing agricultural uses; and to provide space for and encourage such uses in places where more intensive development is not desirable or necessary for the general welfare." The proposed Project would be consistent with this intent because the development of wind power projects is both allowed and encouraged in the APWRA by the East County Area Plan, the Project removes minimal land from agricultural production, and the use is appropriately located in non-urban areas and serves the public welfare.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the said application as shown by plans and materials labeled Application Exhibit "B" on file with the Alameda County Community Development Agency, Planning Department, 224 West Winton, Rm. 111, Hayward, CA, 94544, as conceptually modified by Sand Hill Revised Project, Exhibit "D" attached hereto and subject to the following revised conditions:

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

1. Approval. Approval of this Permit authorizes Sand Hill Wind, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sustainable Power Group LLC, hereinafter referred to as sPower, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the AES Corporation and Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AES/AIMCO)), to decommission and remove an estimated 671 existing or previously existing wind energy turbine sites and construct up to 16 new turbines with a maximum production capacity of 50 megawatts (MW), using turbines rated between 2.3 and 4.0 MW per turbine, on eleven parcels or parts of parcels, extending over roughly 2,400 acres in the vicinity of Altamont Pass Road up to two miles west of Grant Line Road, on both sides of Mountain House Road up to one mile north of Grant Line Road, on both sides of Bethany Reservoir, more broadly in the eastern Altamont Hills or Mountain House area of Alameda County, as well as use of a pre-existing wind energy operations and maintenance facility on another, twelfth parcel at 14740 Altamont Pass Road, altogether bearing the following Assessor Parcel Numbers:

99B-7750-6-0; 99B-6325-1-4; 99B-6325-1-3; 99B-7375-1-7; 99B-7400-1-5; 99B-7300-1-5;  
99B-7350-2-15; 99B-7350-2-5; 99B-7500-3-2; 99B-7500-3-1; 99B-7600-1-1; and 99B-7750-11.

Final siting of the sixteen turbine sites on the subject eleven parcels (i.e., excluding turbines on Parcel No. 99B-7750-11) as shown in Exhibit D shall be reviewed by the County's Wind Repowering /Avian Protection Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") as required by Condition 90 (Mitigation Measure MM BIO-11g), which may recommend to the Planning Director final siting in consideration of the micro-siting studies included in the Final SEIR. Additionally, the Permittee shall consult the TAC for input to determine whether the location of Turbines 8, 9, 17 and 40 as indicated on Exhibit D of the project can feasibly be adjusted by further micro-siting analyses in light of the CUP authorization of 16 new turbines only.

2. Compliance and Conditions. Permittee agrees to comply with all applicable regulations, rules and requirements of the County of Alameda and its Agencies, all subdivisions and departments of such agencies, and to comply with specific conditions of approval described herein by the representatives of said agencies, including but not limited to:
  - a. Community Development Agency, Planning Department



- b. Public Works Agency, Building Inspection Department
- c. Public Works Agency, Land Development Department
- d. Public Works Agency, Grading Division
- e. Fire Department
- f. County Sheriff
- g. Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Department

Failure to act in compliance with the conditions herein will be construed as a violation of Zoning and enforcement proceedings shall commence as provided for by Section 17.58 of the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance.

Permittee further agrees to comply with all applicable regulations, rules and requirements of the State of California and United States agencies, including but not limited to the following:

- h. California Public Utilities Commission
- i. California Energy Commission
- j. California State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- k. California State Water Quality and Control Board - San Francisco and Central Valley Regions
- l. Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- m. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- n. Federal Aviation Administration

3. Insurance: A Comprehensive General Liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 and in the form prescribed in the document "INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, ALAMEDA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, November 12, 2014," in addition to insurance requirements of other agencies listed in Condition 2 shall be provided to the County within 20 business days following approval of this Conditional Use Permit and provided again within 20 business days of each annual anniversary thereof.
4. Utility Tax Compliance. Within 60 days of this approval, the Permittee shall submit to the Alameda County Planning Department evidence of business registration with the Alameda County Business Tax Unit in the form of a valid business certificate to ensure compliance with the County's utility tax regulations.
5. Liability. By exercise of this Conditional Use Permit, the Permittee agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County of Alameda, its officers, employees, agents and servants for any and all liability caused by the negligence or wrongful act of the Permittee arising out of the exercise of this Conditional Use Permit, and to pay all claims, damages, judgments, legal costs, adjuster fees, and attorney fees related thereto.
6. Indemnification. The Permittee shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Alameda County and its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County of Alameda or its, agents, officers or employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul Conditional Use Permit, PLN2017-00201, the Subsequent EIR, the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the September 2018 *Sand Hill Wind Repowering Project Environmental Analysis and CEQA Checklist* that preceded the Subsequent EIR, the California Environmental Quality Act findings, determination of significant impacts, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), or any combination thereof. Such indemnification shall include, but not be limited to, an award of

costs and attorney's fees incurred by the County in its defense. The County shall promptly notify Permittee of any such challenge.

7. Planning Review and Permit Administration Costs. The Permittee shall be responsible for payment of all additional Planning Department and Public Works Agency staff and material costs for completing these agencies' reviews up to the time of this approval, including costs billed against the original application deposit, costs which exceeded the deposit and for a deposit of an additional \$2,000.00 for similar costs associated with administration and enforcement of the conditions herein, independently of Inspection Costs as required below (Condition 9). If all or any part of said cash deposit is depleted by such administration activities, the Permittee shall restore the balance of the deposit to the original \$2,000.00.

The Permittee shall compensate the County for expenditures to retain a biological and avian resource consultant necessary to monitor implementation of these conditions and the Project MMRP during Planning Department review of the building permit, during construction, not to exceed \$15,000 for the Project plus \$100.00 per proposed MW.

The Permittee shall compensate the County for expenditures to retain a County technical representative to the Technical Advisory Committee, as necessary to review monitoring reports and advise the County regarding implementation of these conditions and the Project MMRP during each year of post-construction monitoring as specified in Conditions 90, 91 and 92 (Mitigation Measures BIO-11g, BIO-14b and BIO-14c). Such compensation shall be paid annually in proportion to the installed or rated MW capacity of the facility (as a proportional percentage of all wind repowering projects, which may be prorated on a monthly basis), not to exceed \$15,000 for all repowering projects (adjusted annually for inflation).

8. Inspections and Cost Recovery. The Permittee shall allow staff of the Alameda County Planning Department, Alameda County Public Works Agency, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and any other responsible agency to conduct site inspections during construction and operation of the Project in order to ensure compliance with approved permits, plans, and conditions of approval. Inspections shall be conducted at the discretion of said agencies. Discovery of noncompliance may be cause for commencement of proceedings to revoke this Conditional Use Permit, and for payment of applicable bonds. Public Works Agency staff is also authorized to inspect structural and pavement conditions of County roads serving the construction site prior to and after construction to identify needed repairs and to assess cost recovery requirements.

The Permittee or its successors shall be responsible for payment of all reasonable costs associated with necessary inspections of the facility, including costs incurred by the Planning Department, the County Fire Department, the Building Inspection Division, the Public Works Agency or any other applicable Federal, State or County department or agency. Each County Agency shall have the authority to require deposits of \$4,000.00 prior to plan review, for plan review, inspections or other necessary costs. State and federal agencies shall be responsible for collecting established fees and related compensation where required by statute.

9. Bonds. Application for Building Permits to implement any portion of this Conditional Use Permit shall be accompanied by the following bonds:
  - a. A \$2,000.00 cash bond shall be deposited to be used in the investigation and evaluation of a noise complaint as provided in Condition 86 herein below. If all or any part of said cash

bond is depleted by such activities, the Permittee shall restore the balance of the bond to the original \$2,000.00.

- b. A security bond or other acceptable instrument shall be recorded with the Director of Public Works to guarantee repair and restoration of roads serving the Project area that may be damaged in the course of construction of the Project, consistent with the requirements of the Transportation Control Plan as set forth in Condition 48 below.
  - c. A surety bond or other acceptable security instrument shall be recorded with the Director of Public Works to guarantee implementation of the restoration and reclamation plan as required by Conditions 11 and 12 below.
10. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. The Permittee shall implement all applicable mitigation measures identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) attached herein as Exhibit B, and as specified individually herein. These conditions of approval incorporate the individual mitigation measures and present them either in summarized form or by reference only, and in certain cases provide additional clarification and guidance on the manner, timing and responsibility for implementation of the mitigation measures. The incorporation of the mitigation measures into the conditions of approval (i.e., their replication and representation herein) is not intended to revise, modify or add to any mitigation measure, or add any new obligation to the Permittee under CEQA, but only to augment the understanding of how each mitigation measure shall be implemented. Each mitigation measure is presented within the applicable phase of Project development used herein, beginning with design, and continuing through permit applications, pre-construction tasks, obligations during construction, performance during operation, and for periodic review through the life of the permit.

These conditions of approval are intended to and shall be interpreted by reading Exhibit B and the enumerated conditions together, as a whole, in a manner that gives the maximum effect to both and, to the extent necessary, harmonizes them to avoid any inconsistencies or superfluous terms. If the Permittee, the County or other public agency responsible for implementation of a mitigation measure finds any discrepancy between Exhibit B and these conditions, Exhibit B shall be relied upon unless the conditions herein provide greater clarification of the time or performance or the manner of implementation of the MMRP, when determined to be necessary for the effective implementation of the MMRP. Any remaining questions of interpretation shall be resolved by the Planning Director.

11. Restoration and Reclamation Plan: Prior to issuance of building permits the Permittee shall submit for review and approval by the County Planning Director and the Director of Public Works, a reclamation plan for removal at the end of this permit term (or by major default by the Permittee as described below) of all wind turbines, foundations and ground equipment to a depth of three feet below finished grade. Roads and above-ground facilities installed pursuant to this permit shall also be removed unless the property owner has requested in writing as part of the reclamation plan that they be left in place, subject to approval of the Planning Director. The reclamation plan shall include provisions for:
- a. Removal of roads and staging areas within the subject property or properties not needed for maintenance and operations or for other allowed property uses by the property owner;
  - b. Re-grading and re-vegetation to return the subject property or properties to rangeland or pre-windfarm use conditions, with site-specific characteristics of topography, vegetation,

drainage and other unique environmental features, subject to approval of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife;

- c. Repair of County roadways from damage that may result from off-haul of materials, movement of oversized loading or heavy-haul vehicle, traffic management and a substantial increase in volume of vehicle trips;
- d. A transportation control plan for conveyance of oversize turbine components.

The reclamation plan shall include a cost estimate of labor and material costs, prepared by a licensed contractor to implement the proposed reclamation plan, and the Planning Director shall have the authority to request additional details of specific cost elements. The reclamation plan shall include a guarantee by the Permittee to carry out the reclamation plan upon determination by the Planning Director and Director of Public Works that the permitted wind farm operations have been abandoned or have produced less than 5 percent of the rated output of the wind farm in one year.

The Planning Director and Director of Public Works may instead make a determination that more than 50% of the turbines are in disrepair and there is no other demonstrated plan, satisfactory to the Planning Director, to restore the equipment to a productive operating condition. Under such circumstances the Planning Director may order the Permittee or property owners to execute the reclamation plan.

- 12. Restoration and Reclamation Bond. Prior to issuance of building permits, and based on County approval of the reclamation plan as above, the Permittee shall post a security in the form of a surety bond. The security shall remain with the County for the life of the Project, except upon replacement as provided below and upon replacement shall be adjusted for inflation using the appropriate construction price index, as determined by the Director of the Public Works Agency. In the event ownership of the turbines changes from the current Permittee to another person or entity, the new owner shall replace the surety bond of the original Permittee with a surety bond in the name of the new owner within 30 days of the change of ownership.
- 13. Changes to Power Purchase Agreements. Permittee agrees that, at least six (6) months prior to the expiration, renewal or extension of any Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) made by the Permittee, the Permittee shall inform the Planning Director of such changes and provide the County of Alameda and any Community Choice Aggregation joint powers authority or equivalent program (CCA) in which the County participates, a right of first offer to establish a PPA between the Permittee and the County or the CCA.
- 14. Ten Year Review. No more than ninety (90) calendar days after the tenth anniversary of the initial approval and within ninety (90) days of the subsequent twentieth anniversary, the Planning Director shall, after notice as provided for in the initial hearing and except as provided for under Conditions 85 and 99 below, set this matter for public hearing by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments for the purpose of reviewing and verifying compliance with the conditions of approval so as to validate the findings of this conditional use permit.
- 15. Post-Construction Monitoring Review. Upon completion of the post-construction avian fatality monitoring program required by Mitigation Measures 11g and if required, after implementation of adaptive management program review required by Mitigation Measures 11i, this matter may be set by the Planning Director for a public hearing, after notice as provided for in the initial hearing,

for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of avian protection plans, adaptive management measures, conservation or other strategies to improve or mitigate avian species safety concerns raised in the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). This review may allow the Planning Director to modify conditions previously imposed or add conditions directly related to the results of the post-construction avian fatality monitoring program (Mitigation Measures 11g) and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

16. Commencement Date. Pursuant to Section 17.52.050, building permits shall be obtained and construction activity commenced within 3 years of approval or this permit shall be of no force or effect.

### **PRIOR TO DESIGN SUBMITTAL**

17. Preconstruction Surveys for Special-Status Plant Species (MM BIO-1a). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1a in the MMRP, no more than 3 years prior to ground-disturbing repowering activities, and during the appropriate identification periods for special-status plants as specified in the MMRP and the PEIR, the Permittee shall have a qualified biologist (as determined by the Alameda County Planning Director) conduct field surveys to identify special-status plant species within and adjacent to the Project site. The Permittee shall submit a report documenting the survey results to the Planning Director for review and approval, meeting the requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-1a, prior to ground-disturbing activities and before issuance of building permits.
18. Preconstruction Surveys for Habitat for Special-Status Wildlife Species (MM BIO-3a). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-3a in the MMRP, no more than 3 years prior to ground-disturbing repowering activities, the Permittee shall have a qualified biologist (as determined by Alameda County) conduct field surveys within decommissioning, repowering, and restoration work areas and their immediate surroundings to determine the presence of habitat for special-status wildlife species. The Permittee shall submit a report documenting the survey results and meeting the requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-3a to the Planning Director for review and approval, prior to conducting any ground-disturbing repowering activities and before issuance of building permits.
19. Preconstruction Bat Roost Surveys (MM BIO-12a). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-12a in the MMRP, prior to any ground-disturbing activity the Permittee shall have a roost habitat assessment prepared by a qualified bat biologist to identify potential colonial roost sites of special-status and common bat species within 750 feet of the construction area. If suitable roost sites are to be removed or otherwise significantly affected by the proposed Project, the bat biologist will conduct targeted roost surveys of all identified sites that would be affected. Surveys shall conform to the protocols and guidelines set forth in Mitigation Measure BIO-12a in the MMRP, and a report shall be submitted to the Planning Director following such surveys as specified by Mitigation Measure BIO-12a of the MMRP and prior to issuance of building permits.
20. Avoid Loss of Historic Resources and Record if Necessary (MMs CUL-1a and -1b). As required by Mitigation Measure CUL-1a in the MMRP, the Permittee shall avoid historic resources in the design and layout of the Project wherever feasible. As required by Mitigation Measure CUL-1b,

if avoidance of resources in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-1a is determined to be infeasible, the significantly affected historic resource shall be recorded prior to site disturbance and before issuance of building permits, consistent with Mitigation Measure CUL-1b requirements.

21. Preconstruction Survey and Planning for Cultural Resources (MMs CUL-2a and CUL-2b). As required by Mitigation Measure CUL-2a in the MMRP, prior to ground-disturbing activities and issuance of the building permit, the Permittee shall have qualified personnel conduct an archaeological field survey of the Project area to determine whether significant cultural resources exist within the Project area. Documentation of the field survey results shall comply with Mitigation Measure CUL-2a.

As required by Mitigation Measure CUL-2b, if any significant resources are identified through the preconstruction survey, a treatment plan with measures that could include site avoidance, capping, or data recovery will be developed and implemented by the Permittee and approved by the Planning Director subject to applicable requirements.

22. Environmental Site Assessment to Identify Possible Site Contamination (MM HAZ-4). As required by mitigation measure HAZ-4 in the MMRP, the Permittee shall have a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) prepared for any Project area proposed for ground-disturbing activities and submit it to the Alameda County Health Services Agency – Environmental Health Department, as the authorized regulatory oversight agency. The Phase I ESA shall be in conformance with the minimum requirements described in Mitigation Measure HAZ-4 in the MMRP.

If the Phase I ESA indicates likely soil contamination a Phase II ESA shall be prepared by a qualified environmental professional under a work plan approved by the Environmental Health Director, including proposed soil sampling, remediation and disposal of contaminants if necessary. The Phase II ESA shall include the components outlined in Mitigation Measure HAZ-4, and shall be provided to the Planning Director and Environmental Health Director, the latter of which may require remediation of soil or groundwater or disposal of hazardous building materials subject to a work plan approved by the Environmental Health Director. Review of a work plan and Phase II ESA will require a deposit of \$6,000.00 (as of this approval date) with the County Health Services Agency – Environmental Health Department, and may require opening a Site Cleanup Program (SCP) file. Any contaminated soil identified on a Project site must be properly disposed of in accordance with the State Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) regulations in effect at the time the Phase II ESA is submitted to the Environmental Health Director.

23. Preconstruction Noise Studies (MM NOI-1). As required by Mitigation Measure NOI-1 in the MMRP, if any turbine is proposed to be located within 2,000 feet of a noise sensitive receptor, such as a residence, school, church or public recreational trail, the Permittee shall have a qualified acoustic engineering consultant prepare a report to evaluate the Project-specific noise impacts associated with operation of the proposed wind turbine(s). This evaluation shall conform to the requirements of mitigation measure NOI-1. If operation of the turbine(s) is predicted to result in noise level of 55 dBA (Ldn) or greater where noise is currently less than 55 dBA (Ldn) or result in a 5 decibel (dB) increase where noise is currently greater than 55 dBA (Ldn), the Permittee shall modify the Project to select new specific installation sites or turbine designs within the Project boundary to ensure that these performance standards will not be exceeded.

Other methods that can be used to ensure compliance with these performance standards include but are not limited to increasing the distance between proposed turbines and noise sensitive uses, or use of alternative turbine operational modes to reduce noise. Upon completion of the noise study, the Permittee shall submit a report to the Alameda County Planning Director demonstrating how the Project will comply with these performance standards. After review and approval of the report by the Planning Director, the Permittee shall incorporate measures as necessary into the Project design to ensure compliance with these performance standards.

24. Safety Setbacks. New wind turbines shall have a minimum setback from other land uses as stated below.
- a. From a parcel boundary on which a separate windfarm operation is proposed or approved: 1.1 times (or 110% of) the rotor length.
  - b. From a parcel boundary on which no windfarm operation is proposed or approved: 1.25 times (or 125% of) the total turbine height.
  - c. From a Dwelling Unit: three times (or 300% of) the total turbine height.
  - d. From a public road, interstate highway, public trail, commercial or residential zoning: 2.5 times (or 250% of) the total turbine height.
  - e. From a recreation area or property approved for an outdoor recreation use: 1.25 times (or 125% of) the total turbine height.
  - f. From a high-tension electrical transmission line: 2 times (or 200% of) the total turbine height.

The setbacks specified above shall be increased by one (1) percent of the total turbine height (to the top of the rotor blade at the 12:00 o'clock position) per ten (10) feet of elevation that the turbine's ground elevation is above the ground elevation of the affected parcel or use, specifically the nearest affected parcel boundary, recreation area or property, dwelling unit, road or highway right-of-way, trail, commercial or residential zone district boundary, or the center of a transmission or conductor line. The setback may be decreased by one (1) percent of such total turbine height per ten (10) feet of elevation that the turbine's ground elevation is below the ground elevation of affected parcels or uses.

Furthermore, the setbacks specified above, as adjusted according to turbine elevation above or below an affected parcel or use, may be reduced by 50% to an alternative minimum (i.e., to one-half the resulting setback), if a notarized agreement or a recorded easement from the affected property owner (except in the case of setbacks from a public road, interstate highway or transmission line) is approved by the Planning Director, with the following exceptions and conditions:

- i. The setback from a parcel on which no windfarm operation is proposed or approved may be reduced to no less than 1.1 times (or 110% of) the rotor length.
- ii. The setback from a recreation area or property approved for an outdoor recreation use shall not be reduced to less than 1.0 times (100% of) the total turbine height.
- iii. The setback from a public road, interstate highway, public trail, commercial or residential zoning, or high-tension transmission line shall only be reduced to such minimum with the submittal of a report by a qualified professional, to be approved by the Planning Director with substantial evidence that public safety will not be compromised, and property owner

agreement or easements shall be required only from private properties with commercial or residential zoning.

Adjustments based on the ground elevation of a turbine shall be limited to whole ten-foot increments, disregarding any smaller portion. Total turbine height shall always be measured from ground elevation to the top of the rotor at the 12:00 o'clock position (i.e., at the furthest upward reach of the rotor blade). For adjoining parcels under the same windfarm use permit, no setback is required. Knowledge of existing, proposed or approved windfarm use permits on adjacent parcels shall be based on the best available information at the time of the subject application. The Planning Director shall reserve the right to reject all or part of an alternative minimum setback based on substantial evidence that a wind turbine will have adverse noise, safety or visual impacts on a dwelling unit that have not been previously disclosed publicly, or that a required report requires additional information before such a minimum is approved.

25. Safety Setbacks for Meteorological Towers. New temporary and permanent meteorological towers (met towers) shall have a minimum setback from the exterior Project boundary, shown in the permit application, equal to the total height of the met tower plus 25 feet.
26. Undergrounding of Utility Lines. All electrical utility collection and distribution connection lines shall be installed underground, except as required by the utility company for final connections to major substations.
27. Site Development Review for Previously Undeveloped Ridgelines (MM AES-2a). Site Development Review pursuant to Section 17.54.230 et. seq. of the County Zoning Ordinance shall be required for new turbines proposed on a ridgeline or hilltop which has not previously been developed with commercial-scale wind turbines (over 25 kW rated capacity). Such Site Development Review shall not be approved unless the Planning Director determines that the visual effects will be substantially avoided by distance from public view points (e.g., over 2,000 feet), intervening terrain, screening landscaping, or compensatory improvements to equivalent and nearby (radius of 1 mile) scenic features, as approved by the Planning Director.
28. Analyze Shadow Flicker Distance and Mitigate Effects (MM AES-5). Where shadow flicker could result from the installation of wind turbines near residences (i.e., within 500 meters or about 1,600 feet in a broadly easterly or westerly direction, accounting for all seasons of the year), the Permittee shall prepare a graphic model and study to evaluate the potential for shadow flicker impacts on residences for review and acceptance by the Planning Director. No shadow flicker in excess of 30 minutes in a given day or 30 hours (net or total) in a given year will be permitted unless it has been mitigated subject to the approval of the Planning Director.

If any residence is nonetheless affected by shadow flicker within the 30-minute/30-hour thresholds, the Permittee shall implement one or more measures to avoid or minimize the effect, such as providing opaque window coverings, window awnings, landscape buffers or a combination of these features to reduce flicker to acceptable limits for the affected receptor, or shutting down the turbine during the period shadow flicker would occur. Such measures shall be undertaken in consultation with the owner of the affected residence, and may be confirmed by preparation of a shadow flicker study at the Permittee's expense. If the shadow flicker study indicates that any given turbine would result in shadow flicker exceeding the 30-minute/30-hour thresholds and the affected property owner is not amenable to window coverings, window awnings, or landscaping



and the turbine cannot be shut down during the period of shadow flicker, then the turbine operations would be set back or limited to avoid shadow flicker to the satisfaction of the affected owner of the residence.

29. Color Treatment. All wind turbines, blades, towers and structures shall be treated and maintained with a generally uniform off-white paint scheme in order to blend with the surroundings and minimize adverse visual effect. Exceptions may include experimental measures if recommended by the TAC and approved by the Planning Director to allow any turbine to be painted as a mitigation for bird collisions.
30. Lighting Guidelines. Lighting design for turbine tower entries, substations and permanent operations and maintenance buildings shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Director and included in the building permit application. New lighting shall be downward casting and shielded, utilizing motion detection systems if appropriate and shall not unnecessarily "wash out" into surrounding areas. Lenses and bulbs shall not protrude from light fixtures. Fixtures intended to be lit for long periods of time shall utilize low-pressure sodium lamps or devices with similar properties (i.e., long-lasting and energy efficient). Fixtures shall be mounted at the lowest feasible height. If industrial design standards or FAA safety protocols require lighting designs that conflict with the requirements of this condition, such standards and protocols shall take precedence subject to approval by the Planning Director and Building Official with respect to other applicable conditions and mitigation measures.

Lighting required by FAA shall be shrouded, directed upward, or utilize other technology to minimize lighting at ground level. If FAA safety protocols require lighting designs that conflict with the requirements of this condition, such protocols shall take precedence subject to approval by the Planning Director and Building Official with respect to other applicable conditions and mitigation measures.
31. Tower Access. Each wind turbine tower shall be fully enclosed with interior access controlled by the Permittee with security measures approved by the Building Official, and ladder or lift safety measures.
32. Operational Safety. Each turbine generator shall be equipped with both manual and automatic controls to limit the rotational speed of the blade within the design limits of the overall turbine. Generators shall be designed, installed and operated to prevent emissions of electromagnetic interference that are disruptive to adjacent land uses.
33. Meteorological Tower Design Standards. Temporary meteorological towers (met towers) shall be shown on site plans submitted for building permits, and may be guyed (supported by guy-wires) with colored avian marker balls or spirals at appropriate intervals. Met towers installed for operation of more than two years (24 months) shall be free-standing and not supported by guy-wires. Permanent or temporary met towers in excess of 200 feet (or 60 meters) shall be referred to the Federal Aviation Administration for consideration of lighting requirements and paint treatment (e.g., aviation orange). Lighting required by FAA shall be shrouded, directed upward, or utilize other technology to minimize lighting at ground level. If FAA safety protocols require lighting designs that conflict with the requirements of this condition, such protocols shall take precedence subject to approval by the Planning Director and Building Official with respect to other applicable conditions and mitigation measures.

34. Permanent Signage. Permittee shall provide signage on the entry gates to the subject property(ies) providing basic contact information for use in case of an emergency, including the name of the Project, names, titles, and phone numbers of individuals responsible for operations, non-emergency phone numbers, and the Planning Department general contact information. The turbine towers, rotors, cabinets, or mountings shall not be used for advertising.
35. Turbine and Infrastructure Design and Siting to Reduce Avian Mortality (MMs BIO-11b, BIO-11c and BIO-11d). As required by Mitigation Measures BIO-11b, BIO-11c and BIO-11d in the MMRP, the Permittee shall utilize a siting process and prepare a siting analysis, using analyses of landscape features and location-specific bird use and behavior data to determine the specific turbine site locations with the potential to reduce avian collision risk and fatalities and otherwise minimize potential impacts on bird and bat species. Proponents will utilize existing data as well as collect new site-specific data as part of the siting analysis. Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measure BIO-11b as set forth in the Project MMRP.
- Permittee shall use turbines with certain characteristics recognized to reduce the collision risk for avian species. Permittee shall implement the design-related measures set forth by Mitigation Measure BIO-11c as set forth in the Project MMRP. Permittee shall also apply specific measures outlined in Mitigation Measure 11d when designing and siting turbine-related infrastructure in order to reduce the risk of bird electrocution and collision.
- Upon determining that the information in the siting analysis is sufficiently detailed for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consideration and recommendations, the Planning Director shall schedule a meeting for TAC review of the Project's compliance with mitigation measures BIO-11a and BIO-11b.
36. Retrofit Existing Infrastructure to Minimize Risk to Raptors (MM BIO-11e). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11e, the Permittee shall have any existing power lines in its Project area, that are owned or operated by the Permittee and that are associated with electrocution of an eagle or other raptor retrofitted within 30 days of any recorded electrocution, or prior to the start of commercial operation, to make them raptor-safe according to Avian Power Line Interaction Committee guidelines. All other existing structures to remain in a Project area during repowering will be retrofitted, as feasible, according to specifications of Condition 35 and Mitigation Measure BIO-11c prior to repowered turbine operation.
37. Site Management to Discourage Prey for Raptors (MM BIO-11f). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11f in the MMRP, the Permittee shall prevent the use of rodenticides, allow rock piles only over 500 meters from any new turbine, and use gravel around turbine foundations, when designing and siting turbine-related infrastructure and other site improvements, and operating the wind turbines, in order to minimize opportunities for fossorial mammals to become established and thereby create a prey base that could become an attractant for raptors.
38. Turbine Siting and Selection to Minimize Potential Bat Mortality (BIO-14a). Permittee shall use the best information available to site turbines and to select from turbine models in such a manner as to reduce bat collision risk. The siting and selection process will take into account bat use of the area and landscape features known to increase collision risk (trees, edge habitats, riparian areas, water bodies, and wetlands). Measures include but are not limited to siting turbines the greatest distance feasible up to 500 meters (1,640 feet) from still or flowing bodies of water,

riparian habitat, known roosts, and tree stands. Permittee shall implement Measure BIO-14a as set forth in the Project MMRP.

39. Design of Circuit Breakers to Minimize Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) Leakage (MM GHG-2b). The Permittee shall ensure that any new circuit breaker installed at a substation has a guaranteed Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) leak rate of 0.5% by volume or less. The Permittee shall provide the Building Official with documentation of compliance, such as specification sheets, prior to installation of the circuit breaker. In addition, the Permittee shall monitor SF<sub>6</sub>-containing circuit breakers at the substation consistent with the California Air Resources Board's Scoping Plan Measure H-6 for the detection and repair of leaks.

### **CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

40. Building Permit Application Requirements (including MM GHG-2d). The Permittee shall apply for and obtain approval for separate building permits for the removal and demolition of existing turbines and associated facilities, and the construction of new turbines, and shall conform to the following requirements.
- a. Soils report and/or geological/geotechnical study will be required.
  - b. Comply with building codes and submittal requirements in effect at the time of submitting for building permits.
  - c. A California licensed architect or engineer shall be designated as the design professional responsible and in charge of the Project submittal. Submittal documents may be signed and sealed by multiple licensed architects or engineers.
  - d. The Permittee's designated California-licensed land surveyor shall be responsible for the property information filed with the Building Permit application.
  - e. The demolition and construction debris diversion plan shall comply with applicable policies of the Public Works Agency's Construction & Demolition Debris Management Program. In particular, the Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measure GHG-2d as set forth in the MMRP, to comply with the County's revised Green Building Ordinance regarding construction and demolition debris to achieve the following minimum standards: 1) 100% of inert waste and 50% wood/vegetative/scrap metal not including Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) and unsalvageable material will be put to other beneficial uses at landfills; and 2) 100% of inert materials (concrete and asphalt) will be recycled or put to beneficial reuse.
  - f. Plans filed for the Building Permit application shall obtain Zoning Approval (i.e., Planning Department approval for consistency determination that the plans are consistent with this permit), and shall be drawn to scale, indicating the location of each wind turbine, the location and function of all structures within 1,000 feet of any wind turbine, as well as all trailers and major ground equipment to be put in place for use during construction.
  - g. Evidence of a proposed interconnection agreement and any technical requirements and specifications required by the interconnection authority.
  - h. Evidence of filing a notice of proposed construction with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the required referral to the Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission.

41. Use of Recycled Content in New Building Materials (MM GHG-2c). The Permittee shall require the construction of all new substation and other permanent buildings to incorporate materials for which the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least 10% of the total value of the materials in the Project.
42. Fire Department Approval Requirements. Permittee shall contact the Alameda County Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, to obtain a fire clearance certificate. The Bureau may be reached by telephone at (510) 670-5853. The Permittee shall install a Knox Box at all entry gates, provide an emergency contact to the Department, and maintain a fire extinguisher in each ground equipment area. Water tanks meeting NFPA 1142 standards shall be provided at each construction staging area and shown on Building Permit application site plans. Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with Exhibit D, the Altamont Pass Windfarms Fire Requirements dated September 22, 2005 and as updated or revised herein.
43. Grading Permit Application and Geotechnical Investigation Requirements (MM GEO-1). Prior to any grading, ground-disturbing or construction activities on the Project site, the Permittee shall submit a preliminary grading plan and a site-specific geotechnical investigation to the County Grading Department. The geotechnical investigation/report shall be prepared by a qualified geotechnical firm in conformance with Chapter 15.36.320 and subsequent applicable sections of the Alameda County Grading Ordinance, for review by the County for the purpose of obtaining a grading permit in accordance with the provisions of the Grading Ordinance and the following requirements.
  - a. The site-specific geotechnical/geologic report shall be prepared by a licensed geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist with local expertise in geotechnical investigation and design, based on data collected from subsurface exploration, laboratory testing of samples, and surface mapping. The report shall contain all of the elements listed under the Alameda County Grading Ordinance Chapter 15.36.350, as required, and address the following and any additional issues as required by the Director of Public Works.
    - Potential for surface fault rupture related to known and suspected earthquake fault lines, such as the Greenville, Corral Hollow-Carnegie, and the Midway faults (as appropriate to each location).
    - Turbine foundation and power infrastructure siting limitations and recommendations based on the location of such faults relative to proposed site plans.
    - Potential for strong ground shaking, slope failure or unstable cut or fill slopes, presence of expansive soils, unusual terrain or geological characteristics, and appropriate design recommendations for the design of turbine foundation and power collection systems to accommodate such soil or geological conditions.
  - b. The geotechnical/geologic report may be subject to a professional review by the County's consulting geotechnical engineer/geologist. It shall be the Permittee's responsibility to provide sufficient funds to the County for this professional review service if required.
  - c. Permittee shall implement the design recommendations in the geotechnical report, including revised recommendations resulting from the professional review, if such a review is required.
  - d. No grading work will be allowed during the rainy season, from October 1 to April 30, except upon a clear demonstration, to the satisfaction of the Director of the Public Works Agency,

that at no stage of the work will there be any substantial risk of increased sediment discharge from the site.

- e. Any proposal for grading work associated with fire access roads must be reviewed and approved by the Alameda County Fire Department prior to issuance of a grading permit.
- f. The grading permit shall be subject to approval of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

44. Stormwater Control Plan. Permittee shall prepare a Stormwater Control Plan (SCP) in compliance with the technical requirements of Provisions C.3 and C.6 of the Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Municipal Regional Permit, or MRP) and the County Building and Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinances for the purpose of long-term (post-construction) stormwater control. The SCP shall be submitted to the Director of Public Works for approval prior to issuance of a County Stormwater Permit. The SCP shall include:

- a. Plan drawings showing the locations, sizing and Drainage Management Areas discharging to the proposed stormwater treatment system(s), the planned site design and source control measures, and any required hydromodification management (HM) facilities or devices.
- b. A preliminary written plan that describes the operation and maintenance (O&M) (including inspection) of all installed stormwater treatment systems and HM controls both during construction and following construction.
- c. A draft of a statement from the Permittee and property owner accepting long-term responsibility for the O&M of the installed stormwater treatment systems and HM controls, along with continuing upkeep of any required source control and site design measures, until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity.
- d. A draft of an agreement to include written conditions in any sales or lease agreements or deed for the Project that requires a buyer or lessee to assume long-term responsibility for the O&M of the installed stormwater treatment systems and HM controls, and the upkeep of the source control and site design measures, until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity.
- e. A signed statement from the Permittee and property owner(s) granting site access to all representatives of the County, local mosquito and vector control agency staff, and Water Board staff, for the sole purpose of performing O&M inspections of the installed stormwater protection systems (treatment systems, HM controls, source controls and site design measures).
- f. A written statement from the Permittee and property owner(s) and successors acknowledging that the County may conduct annual inspections of all installed stormwater protection systems and that the Permittee agrees to pay for those inspection costs on a time and materials basis.
- g. The plan shall specify that all new or modified drainage facilities shall be designed to ensure no net increase in stormwater discharge rates, flow velocities, or sediment transport would result from Project implementation.
- h. Discharges from these facilities shall be designed so as to avoid concentration of flow and subsequent downstream scouring or sedimentation in natural creek beds.

- i. Proposed roadways shall be designed so as to ensure that potential for slope failure and erosion is minimized.
- j. The Stormwater Control Plan shall be incorporated into all design drawings and specifications as appropriate, and shall meet the following standards:
  - i. The Permittee shall design and construct all storm drainage facilities in compliance with the County Public Works Design Standards.
  - ii. The Permittee shall prevent storm drainage from draining across driveway(s) or onto adjacent properties in a concentrated manner.
  - iii. The Permittee shall obtain a drainage permit under applicable County Ordinances for the installation of new drainage culverts.

A Stormwater Control Plan, Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) Number, Notice of Intent (NOI) and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be submitted to the Public Works Agency prior to issuance of the County Grading and Stormwater Permits.

45. NPDES Permit Requirements to Prevent Stormwater Pollution During Construction (MM WQ-1).

As required by Mitigation Measure WQ-1 in the MMRP, the Permittee shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP) authority of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for both the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Boards, before the onset of any construction activities for the purpose of preventing stormwater pollution during construction. The Permittee shall have a specific Project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer and ready for implementation prior to construction. This SWPPP shall be kept onsite during construction activity and provided upon request to representatives of the County and Water Board staffs.

Permittee shall apply for a County Stormwater Permit prior to the start of any construction; this application shall include proof of coverage under the CGP and a copy of the Project SWPPP. This SWPPP must provide for the implementation of pollutant discharge controls that utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) and technology to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and other discharges to the water quality standards of the CGP and the County Stormwater Permit. BMPs may consist of a wide variety of protective measures taken to reduce pollutants in stormwater and other nonpoint-source runoff, including but not limited to, the following practices:

- a. Installation of temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, and temporary revegetation or other ground cover) to control erosion and sedimentation from disturbed areas.
- b. Construction of dry detention basins (typically dry except after a major rainstorm, when it will temporarily fill with stormwater), designed to decrease runoff from the work site during storm events and to prevent flooding of the construction areas. Basin BMPs must include maintenance schedules for the periodic removal of sediments, excessive vegetation, and debris that may clog basin inlets and outlets.
- c. The application of covers or nontoxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more) that could contribute sediment to waterways.

- d. The enclosure and coverage of exposed stockpiles of dirt or other loose, granular construction materials that could contribute sediment to waterways.
- e. The control of run-on that could deposit sediment or other materials from areas adjacent to the work site.
- f. The assurance that no earth or organic material will be deposited or placed where it may be directly carried into a stream, marsh, slough, lagoon, or body of standing water.
- g. The application of controls that would preclude the following types of materials from being rinsed or washed into the County stormdrain system, the “waters of the United States,” or adjacent properties: concrete, concrete wash, solvents and adhesives, thinners, paints, fuels, sawdust, dirt, gasoline, asphalt and concrete saw slurry, and heavily chlorinated water.
- h. The establishment of grass or other vegetative cover on the construction site as soon as possible after disturbance.

The Permittee (and the selected contractor) shall select a combination of appropriate BMPs, consistent with the above and with the requirements of the CGP and the County Stormwater Permit, which is expected to minimize runoff and remove contaminants from stormwater discharges. The final selection of BMPs will be subject to approval by the County and by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board or the Central Valley Water Board.

The Permittee (and the selected contractor) shall verify that a Notice of Intent (NOI) has been filed with the appropriate State Water Board having jurisdiction, that the said Water Board has issued a Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) Number, that a project SWPPP has been prepared, and that a County Stormwater Permit has been issued before allowing construction to begin. The selected contractor shall perform regular inspections of the construction area, to verify that the BMPs specified in the SWPPP are properly implemented and maintained. The contractor will notify the appropriate Regional Water Board and the County immediately if there is a noncompliance issue. If necessary, the contractor shall require that additional BMPs be designed and implemented if those originally constructed do not achieve the identified performance standard of the CGP or the County Permit.

- 46. Roadway Encroachment Permit. Permittee shall apply to the Public Works Agency for separate roadway encroachment permits for temporary and permanent access and facilities. Improvement plans shall be prepared by a registered Civil Engineer for approval by the Director of Public Works, accompanied by the required review and inspection fees, as well as insurance and security deposits if required by the Public Works Agency.
- 47. Gate Entries. The Permittee shall provide designs to the Director of Public Works for roadway widening, pavement transitions, shoulder widening, necessary longitudinal and transverse drainage, and any driveway profile adjustments in conformance with County Roadway Standards. The new pavement section shall match, at a minimum, the full roadway section of each affected County roadway. No gates or fences shall be located within any County road right-of-way, and gates shall not swing out towards the public road.
- 48. Construction Traffic Control Plan (MM TRA-1). Prior to starting construction-related activities, the Permittee shall prepare and implement a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) as required by Mitigation Measure TRA-1 in the MMRP to reduce or eliminate impacts associated with the Project. The

TCP shall adhere to Alameda County and Caltrans requirements, and must be submitted for review and approval of the County Public Works Agency prior to implementation. The TCP shall include the elements listed in Mitigation Measure TRA-1 such as controlling the peak hours of construction worker commuting, truck access during peak hours, notification of contractors of local road weight and speed limits, etc.; however, the County and Caltrans may require additional elements to be identified during their review and approval of the TCP.

When lane/road closures occur during delivery of oversized loads, provide advance notice (no less than five working days) to the County Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) to ensure that alternative evacuation and emergency routes are designated to maintain service response times. The names and 24-hour contact numbers of the Project construction superintendent and foreman shall be included as part of the advance notification.

For oversized loads transported on County roads, if road closures are required, the Permittee shall comply with transportation permit requirements of Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, and the Public Works Agency for oversized loads. To implement a road closure, a request should be submitted to the Alameda County Public Works Agency, Road Division, at least two months before the planned closure. Copies of the road closure request should be provided to Caltrans and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. If determined to be necessary by the County Director of Public Works due to slow moving trucks, delivery of some or all large components or construction equipment may be restricted to night-time hours. Procedures include but are not limited to the following:

- i. Loads wider than the vehicle code limit of 8'-6" will require a Public Works Agency Oversize Move Permit (OMP), for which the Permittee shall provide a description of the largest vehicle/load combination (overall height, width, and length and axle loadings).
- ii. Notice of request for an OMP will be referred to the CHP, and based upon coordination between the PWA and CHP may provide the basis for a Repetitive OMP.
- iii. Prior to commencement of any construction activities, including grading and site preparation, Permittee shall give written notice to the Planning Director with a copy to the Director of Public Works of the commencement date, proposed access route and estimated duration in years of any construction activities.

The Transportation Control Plan shall also address the following requirements:

- a. Permittee shall submit video footage of pavements on County roads to be used for transport of major turbine components and construction equipment with the building permit or grading permit applications, and post a security bond to guarantee that the Permittee shall reconstruct any failed, cracked, or deteriorated portions of County road pavements that resulted from Project construction. The Permittee shall calculate the amount of the required security bond and submit the calculation to the County Director of Public Works for review and approval.
- b. The Permittee shall monitor roads during Project construction to identify any damage that requires immediate repair. Complete road repairs on local public roads as needed during construction to prevent excessive deterioration. This work may include construction of temporary roadway shoulders to support any necessary detour lanes.
- c. Repair or restore County road rights-of-way to original condition or better upon completion of the work.



- d. Emergency road repairs shall be completed at the Permittee's expense. Any potentially hazardous road segment must be flagged until the road is repaired.
  - e. Coordinate Project-related construction activities, including schedule, truck traffic, haul routes, and the delivery of oversized or overweight materials, with Alameda County, Caltrans, and affected cities to identify and minimize overlap with other area construction projects.
49. Watercourse Protection Ordinance. If any ground disturbing work is proposed within or near a watercourse, a watercourse encroachment permit or a grading permit shall be secured from the Public Works Agency in accordance with the Alameda County Watercourse Protection Ordinance. Watercourse setbacks shall be delineated on the exhibit plan per the provisions of Article V of the Watercourse Ordinance. The Ordinance establishes a setback of 20 feet from the top of the creek bank. However, for existing bank slopes at 2 horizontal to 1 vertical, or steeper, establish the setback by drawing a line on a cross-section at a 2 horizontal to 1 vertical slope from the toe of the existing bank to a point where it intercepts the ground surface and then add 20 feet. As provided by the Watercourse Protection Ordinance (Section 13.12.310, item G), the Director of Public Works shall make the determination as to setback limits and any permitted development within a setback.
50. Other Watercourse Requirements. The Permittee shall be responsible, prior to any work near or within a recognized watercourse, for securing other permits (e.g., Streambed Alteration Agreement) or other approvals required for work which is regulated by any other public agency (i.e., the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corp of Engineers, etc.).
51. Project-Specific Avian Protection Plan (BIO-11a). The Permittee shall prepare a Project-specific Avian Protection Plan (APP) as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11a in the MMRP to specify measures and protocols consistent with the program-level mitigation measures that address avian mortality. The Project-specific APP will include, at a minimum, the following components.
- a. Information and methods used to site turbines to minimize risk.
  - b. Documentation that appropriate turbine designs are being used.
  - c. Documentation that avian-safe practices are being implemented on Project infrastructure.
  - d. Methods used to discourage prey for raptors.
  - e. A detailed description of the postconstruction avian fatality monitoring methods to be used (consistent with the minimum requirements outlined in Mitigation Measure BIO-11g).
  - f. Methods used to compensate for the loss of raptors (consistent with the requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-11h).

The Permittee shall prepare and submit a draft Project-specific APP to the County within 10 days of submitting the Building Permit application. The draft APP will be reviewed by the TAC for consistency and the inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures that are consistent with the PEIR and recommended for approval by the County. The Permittee must obtain approval from the Planning Director of the draft APP prior to commercial operation, and obtain recommendations from the TAC for preparation of the Final APP within six months of commercial operations. The Final APP shall be subject to approval by the Planning Director.

52. Stop Work Procedures for Encounters With Cultural Resources, Human Remains and Paleontological Resources During Ground-Disturbing Activities (MMs CUL-2d, CUL-3 and GEO-7c). Permittee shall ensure that construction specifications include a stop-work order if paleontological, prehistoric, or historic-era cultural resources, or human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities. Specific procedures are set forth in Conditions 68, 69 and 70.

### **PRIOR TO ISSUING BUILDING PERMIT**

53. Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to Avoid and Minimize Impacts on Special-Status Plant and Animal Species (MMs BIO-1b, BIO-5a and BIO-7a). The Permittee shall ensure that the following BMPs, in accordance with practices established in the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS), will be incorporated into the Project design and construction documents.
- a. Employees and contractors performing decommissioning, reclamation or construction activities will receive environmental sensitivity training. Training will include review of environmental laws, mitigation measures, permit conditions, and other requirements that must be followed by all personnel to reduce or avoid effects on special-status species during decommissioning, reclamation or construction activities.
  - b. Environmental tailboard trainings will take place on an as-needed basis in the field. These trainings will include a brief review of the biology of the covered species and guidelines that must be followed by all personnel to reduce or avoid negative effects on these species during decommissioning and reclamation activities. Directors, managers, superintendents, and the crew leaders will be responsible for ensuring that crewmembers comply with the guidelines.
  - c. Vehicles and equipment will be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas to the extent practicable.
  - d. Offroad vehicle travel will be avoided.
  - e. Material will be stockpiled only in areas that do not support special-status species or sensitive habitats.
  - f. Grading will be restricted to the minimum area necessary.
  - g. Prior to ground-disturbing activities in sensitive habitats, Project construction boundaries and access areas will be flagged and temporarily fenced during construction to reduce the potential for vehicles and equipment to stray into adjacent habitats. Vehicles or equipment will not be refueled within 100 feet of a wetland, stream, or other waterway unless a bermed and lined refueling area (i.e., a created berm made of sandbags or other removable material) is constructed.
  - h. Erosion control measures will be implemented to reduce sedimentation in nearby aquatic habitat when activities are the source of potential erosion. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting will not be used at the Project. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.
  - i. Significant earth moving-activities will not be conducted in riparian areas within 24 hours of predicted storms or after major storms (defined as 1-inch of rain or more).

Work sites for Project activities shall not allow: trash dumping, firearms, open fires (such as barbecues) not required by the activity, hunting, and pets.

54. Measures to Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate Impacts On Special-Status Wildlife Species (MMs BIO-3b, BIO-4a, BIO-5a, BIO-6, BIO-7a, BIO-8a, BIO-8b, BIO-9 and BIO-10a). The Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measures BIO-3b, BIO-4a, BIO-5a, BIO-6, BIO-7a, BIO-8a, BIO-9 and BIO-10a, as identified in the Project MMRP to address special-status invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, nesting birds and mammals, which are based on the EACCS and which have been modified and supplemented in the Project MMRP. The MMRP measures shall address the following species:
- a. Vernal pool branchiopods (invertebrates, including longhorn fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp)
  - b. Curved-footed hygrotus diving beetle
  - c. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle
  - d. California tiger salamander
  - e. Western spadefoot
  - f. California red-legged frog
  - g. Foothill yellow-legged frog
  - h. Western pond turtle
  - i. Blainville's horned lizard
  - j. Alameda whipsnake
  - k. San Joaquin coachwhip
  - l. Western burrowing owl
  - m. Tri-colored blackbird
  - n. Other non-special-status migratory birds
  - o. San Joaquin kit fox
  - p. American badger

Where impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, compensatory mitigation will be undertaken in accordance with mitigation ratios and requirements provided in the EACCS (Appendix C2 in the Final PEIR). In the event that an incidental take permit is obtained, compensatory mitigation will be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the permit in consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Implementation of some Mitigation Measures identified in the MMRP will require that the Permittee obtain incidental take permits from USFWS and CDFW (e.g., Alameda whipsnake) before construction begins. Additional conservation measures may be required in applicable Project permits (i.e., ESA incidental take permit).

55. Implement Best Available Control Technology for Heavy-Duty Vehicles (MM GHG-2a). The Permittee shall require existing trucks/trailers to be retrofitted with the best available technology and/or ARB-approved technology consistent with the ARB's *Truck and Bus Regulation* (California Air Resources Board 2011). The ARB Truck and Bus Regulation applies to all diesel-fueled trucks and buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 14,000 pounds. The Permittee shall comply with the specific requirements of Mitigation Measure GHG-2a as set forth in the MMRP to mitigate for potentially significant cumulative construction and operations and maintenance contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

### **PRIOR TO GROUND-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES**

56. Establish Activity Exclusion Zones for Special-Status Plant Species (BIO-1c). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1c in the MMRP, where pre-construction surveys determine that a special-status plant species is present in or adjacent to a Project area, the Permittee shall establish activity exclusion zones to avoid direct and indirect impacts of the Project on such species. No ground-disturbing activities shall take place within these designated activity exclusion zones, including construction of new facilities, construction staging, or other temporary work areas. Activity exclusion zones for special-status plant species will be established around each occupied habitat site, the boundaries of which will be clearly marked with standard orange plastic construction exclusion fencing or its equivalent. The establishment of activity exclusion zones will not be required if no construction-related disturbances will occur within 250 feet of the occupied habitat. The size of activity exclusion zones may be reduced through consultation with a qualified biologist and with concurrence from CDFW based on site-specific conditions.
57. Best Management Practices to Avoid and Minimize Effects on Special-Status Amphibians (MM BIO-5a). The Permittee shall implement BMPs and other appropriate measures consistent with Mitigation Measure BIO-5a in the Project MMRP to address special-status amphibians and shall ensure that, in accordance with measures developed for the EACCS, such BMPs are incorporated into the appropriate design and construction documents. Implementation of some of these measures will require that the Project proponent obtain incidental take permits from USFWS (e.g., California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander) and from CDFW (California tiger salamander only) before construction begins. Additional conservation measures or conditions of approval may be required in applicable Project permits (e.g., ESA or CESA incidental take authorization). Permittee shall comply with the specific requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-5a in the MMRP to mitigate for effects on amphibians, including, but not limited to limits on the season in which ground-disturbing activities may occur, installation of barrier fencing, identifying appropriate relocation areas and preparing a relocation plan.
- Permittee shall have a qualified biologist conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, grading). The biologist will survey the work area and all suitable habitats within 300 feet of the work area. If individuals (including adults, juveniles, larvae, or eggs) are found, work will not begin until USFWS and/or CDFW is contacted to determine if moving these life-stages is appropriate. If relocation is deemed necessary, it will be conducted in accordance with the relocation plan. Incidental take permits are required for relocation of California tiger salamander (USFWS and CDFW) and California red-legged frog (USFWS). Relocation of western spadefoot and foothill yellow-legged frog normally requires a letter from CDFW authorizing this activity; however, a biologist with a specific authorization (i.e., scientific collecting permit or MOU from CDFW) will be accepted for this purpose.
58. Preconstruction Surveys for Western Pond Turtle and Monitoring of Construction Activities (BIO-6). If determined as a result of pre-construction surveys pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, that suitable aquatic or upland habitat for western pond turtle is identified within proposed work areas, Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measure BIO-6 as set forth in the Project MMRP, consistent with measures developed for the EACCS, to ensure that the proposed Project does not have a significant impact on western pond turtle. The mitigation includes but is not limited to surveys conducted both one week before and immediately before (within 24 hours)

of work activity, use of a biological monitor if needed, and approval by CDFW for any required relocation of turtles.

59. Plan for Restoration of Disturbed Annual Grasslands (BIO-5c). Within 30 days prior to any ground disturbance, Permittee shall have a qualified biologist prepare a Grassland Restoration Plan in coordination with CDFW and subject to CDFW approval, to ensure that temporarily disturbed annual grasslands and areas planned for the removal of permanent roads and turbine pad areas are restored to pre-Project conditions. The Grassland Restoration Plan shall conform to the requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-5c in the MMRP.

The Grassland Restoration Plan shall include a requirement to monitor restoration areas annually (between March and October) for up to three years following the year of restoration. The restoration will be considered successful when the percent cover for restored areas is 70% absolute cover of the planted/seeded species compared to the percent absolute cover of nearby reference sites.

The Permittee shall provide evidence to the Planning Director that CDFW has reviewed and approved the Grassland Restoration Plan. Additionally, the Permittee shall provide annual monitoring reports to the County by January 31 for three years or until restoration is deemed successful by the CDFW, summarizing the monitoring results and any remedial measures implemented (if any are necessary) during the previous year.

60. Pre-Construction Worker-Awareness Training for Archaeological Resources (MM CUL-2c). The Permittee shall provide for training overseen by a qualified professional archaeologist prior to the initiation of any site preparation and/or the start of construction. The Permittee shall ensure that all construction workers receive adequate training, and to ensure that forepersons and field supervisors can recognize archaeological resources (e.g., areas of shellfish remains, chipped stone or groundstone, historic debris, building foundations, human bone) in the event that any are discovered during construction.

### **DURING CONSTRUCTION**

61. Implement Applicable BAAQMD Basic Construction Mitigation Measures (MM AQ-2a). The Permittee shall require all contractors to comply with the following requirements for all areas with active construction activities.
- a. All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) will be watered two times per day.
  - b. All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material offsite will be covered.
  - c. All visible mud or dirt tracked out onto adjacent public roads will be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
  - d. All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads will be limited to 15 mph.
  - e. All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved will be completed as soon as possible. Building pads will be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.

- f. Idling times will be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage will be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- g. All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator.
- h. Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact representing the Permittee regarding dust complaints. This person will respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District and County Building Official's phone numbers will also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

62. Implement Applicable BAAQMD's Additional Construction Mitigation Measures (MM AQ-2b). The Permittee shall require all contractors and subcontractors to comply with the following requirements for all areas with active construction activities.

- a. During construction activities, all exposed surfaces will be watered at a frequency adequate to meet and maintain fugitive dust control requirements of the relevant air quality management entities.
- b. All excavation, grading, and/or demolition activities will be suspended when average wind speeds exceed 20 mph, as measured at the Livermore Municipal Airport.
- c. Wind breaks (e.g., trees, fences) will be installed on the windward side(s) of actively disturbed areas of construction. Wind breaks should have at maximum 50% air porosity.
- d. Vegetative ground cover (e.g., fast-germinating native grass seed) will be planted in disturbed areas as soon as possible and watered appropriately until vegetation is established.
- e. The simultaneous occurrence of excavation, grading, and ground-disturbing construction activities on the same area at any one time will be limited.
- f. All trucks and equipment, including their tires, will be cleaned off prior to leaving the site or Project area.
- g. Site accesses to a distance of 100 feet from the paved road will be treated with a 6 to 12-inch compacted layer of wood chips, mulch, or gravel.
- h. Sandbags or other erosion control measures will be installed to prevent silt runoff to public roadways from sites with a slope greater than 1%.
- i. The idling time of diesel-powered construction equipment will be minimized to 2 minutes, and idling of equipment using other types of combustion engines shall comply with the Basic Construction Mitigation Measures set forth in Condition 61 or Mitigation Measure AQ-2a in the MMRP.
- j. The Permittee will develop a plan demonstrating that the offroad equipment (more than 50 horsepower) to be used in the construction Project (i.e., owned, leased, and subcontractor vehicles) would achieve a Project wide fleet-average 20% NOX reduction and 45% PM reduction compared to the most recent Air Resources Board (ARB)-defined fleet average.

Acceptable options for reducing emissions include the use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, add-on devices such as particulate filters, and/or other options as such become available.

- k. Use low VOC (i.e., ROG) coatings beyond the local requirements (i.e., Regulation 8, Rule 3: Architectural Coatings).
  - l. All construction equipment, diesel trucks, and generators will be equipped with BACT for emission reductions of NOX and PM.
  - m. All construction equipment shall meet ARB's most recent certification standard for offroad heavy duty diesel engines.
63. Compliance with NPDES Storm Water Requirements (MM WQ-1). Permittee shall implement the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required by Condition 45 and as required by Mitigation Measure WQ-1 in the MMRP, maintain compliance with the other requirements of the CGP and the County C.6 Stormwater Permit (inspection, sampling, reporting, etc.) and construct the stormwater treatment system(s) per the Stormwater Control Plan (SCP). The SCP, SWPPP, and the CGP and County Stormwater Permit inspection, sampling and reporting documentation shall be kept onsite during construction activity and shall be made available upon request to representatives of the County and Water Board staff.
64. Prevent Introduction, Spread, and Establishment of Invasive Plant Species (MM BIO-2). The Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2 as set forth in the MMRP, in order to avoid and minimize the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative plant species, including the following BMPs, and the other requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-2.
- a. Construction vehicles and machinery including tires will be cleaned prior to entering the construction area. Cleaning stations will be established at the perimeter of the construction area along all construction routes.
  - b. Vehicles will be cleaned only at approved areas. No cleaning of vehicles will occur at job sites.
  - c. To discourage the introduction and establishment of invasive plant species, seed mixtures and straw used within natural vegetation will be either rice straw or weed-free straw.
65. Retain a Biological Monitor During Ground-Disturbing Activities in Environmentally-Sensitive Areas (BIO-1e). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1e, the Permittee shall have a qualified biologist (as determined by the Alameda County Planning Director) conduct periodic monitoring of decommissioning, repowering, and reclamation activities that occur adjacent to sensitive biological resources (e.g., special-status species, sensitive vegetation communities, wetlands, etc.). Monitoring shall occur during initial ground disturbance where sensitive biological resources are present and weekly thereafter or as determined by the County in coordination with a qualified biologist. The biologist will assist the crew, as needed, to comply with all Project implementation restrictions and guidelines. In addition, the biologist will be responsible for ensuring that the Permittee or its contractors maintain exclusion areas adjacent to sensitive biological resources, and for documenting compliance with all biological resources-related mitigation measures.

66. Protection of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Habitat (MM BIO-4a). Where pre-construction surveys completed pursuant to Condition 18 (Mitigation Measure BIO-3a) indicate valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat is present within proposed work areas or within 100 feet of these areas, the Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measure BIO-4a in the MMRP related to avoiding removal of elderberry shrubs, protecting elderberry shrubs/clusters near construction areas, providing buffer areas approved by USFWS, fencing and monitoring.

Biological inspection reports on the presence and protective actions taken regarding valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat will be provided to the Permittee, the County and USFWS.

67. Stop Work Procedures for Encounters With Hazardous Materials or Soil or Groundwater Contamination (MM HAZ-4). As required in part by Mitigation Measure HAZ-4 as set forth in the MMRP, the Permittee shall initiate stop-work procedures upon encounters with hazardous materials or soil or groundwater contamination during construction, demolition or reclamation activities, and implement appropriate health and safety procedures, including the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection, protective clothing, helmets and goggles). Any such discovery shall be reported immediately to the Alameda County Health Services Agency – Environmental Health Department, and complete procedures outlined in Mitigation Measure HAZ-4 in the MMRP and as described in Condition 22.
68. Stop Work Procedures for Encounters With Cultural Resources During Ground-Disturbing Activities (MM CUL-2d). As required by Mitigation Measure CUL-2d as set forth in the MMRP, the Permittee shall, in addition to providing construction specifications requiring stop-work procedures upon encounters with cultural resources during grading or other ground-disturbing activity (as required by Condition 52), the Permittee and any related contractor shall immediately halt all activity within 100 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Prehistoric materials might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or tool-making debris; culturally darkened soil (“midden”) containing heat-affected rocks and artifacts; stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones, or milling slabs); and battered-stone tools, such as hammerstones and pitted stones. Historic-period materials might include stone, concrete, or adobe footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse. If the find is determined to be potentially significant, the archaeologist, in consultation with the Native American representative (if appropriate), will develop a treatment plan that could include site avoidance, capping, or data recovery.
69. Stop Work Procedures for Encounters With Human Remains During Ground-Disturbing Activities (MM CUL-3). In addition to providing construction specifications requiring stop-work procedures upon encounters with cultural resources during grading or other ground-disturbing activity, the Permittee shall ensure the construction specifications include a stop-work order if human remains are discovered during construction or demolition. There will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site within a 100-foot radius of the location of such discovery, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains. The Alameda County Coroner will be notified and will make a determination as to whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his authority, he will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who will attempt to identify descendants of the deceased Native American. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached as to the disposition of the remains pursuant to this state law, then the landowner will re-inter the human remains and items



associated with Native American burials on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. A final report will be submitted to Alameda County. This report will contain a description of the mitigation program and its results, including a description of the monitoring and testing resources analysis methodology and conclusions and a description of the disposition/curation of the resources.

70. Procedures and Preparation for Encounters with Paleontological Resources During Major Excavation (MMs GEO-7a, GEO-7b and GEO-7c). As required by Mitigation Measures GEO-7a, GEO-7b and GEO-7c in the MMRP, the Permittee shall retain a qualified professional paleontologist to monitor activities with the potential to disturb sensitive paleontological resources, and to determine if, on the basis of data gathered during detailed project design, where monitoring by a paleontologist during ground-disturbing activities will require monitoring. The Permittee shall implement Mitigation Measures GEO-7a, GEO-7b and GEO-7c as set forth in the MMRP related to paleontological resources.

The Permittee will ensure that all construction workers receive adequate training provided by a qualified professional paleontologist, and to ensure that forepersons and field supervisors can recognize fossil materials in the event any are discovered during construction.

If substantial fossil remains (particularly vertebrate remains) are discovered during earth disturbing activities, activities within 100 feet of the find will stop immediately until a state-registered professional geologist or qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find and a qualified professional paleontologist can recommend appropriate treatment. Subsequent procedures are described in detail in the MMRP for Mitigation Measures GEO-7c.

71. Construction Signage. Permittee shall provide signage as required by the permitting authority (e.g. Fire Department, Building Department) including phone numbers of the facility operator for use in case of an emergency. The name of the Project and the names, titles, and phone numbers of individuals responsible for control of construction-related noise, dust, and traffic shall be maintained on all signage during construction. A 24-hour emergency number shall also be provided on all signage. The sign shall be kept up-to-date at all times.
72. Limit Construction to Daylight Hours (MM AES-1). As required by Mitigation Measure AES-1, major construction activities shall not be undertaken between sunset and sunrise or on weekends. Construction activity is specifically prohibited from using high-wattage lighting sources to illuminate work sites after sunset or before sunrise, with the exception of nighttime deliveries under the approved transportation control plan or other construction activities that require nighttime work for safety considerations. For the purpose of this condition and Mitigation Measure AES-1, major construction activities shall be defined as those which are visibly obtrusive from residences and public recreational trails, based on the finding of significant impacts in the PEIR.
73. Noise-Reduction Practices During Construction (MM NOI-2). The Permittee shall employ noise-reducing practices during decommissioning and new turbine construction so that resulting noise does not exceed Alameda County noise ordinance standards. Measures to limit noise may include the following:
- a. Prohibit noise-generating activities before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday, and before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.

- b. Locate equipment as far as practical from noise sensitive uses.
- c. Require that all construction equipment powered by gasoline or diesel engines have sound-control devices that are at least as effective as those originally provided by the manufacturer and that all equipment be operated and maintained to minimize noise generation.
- d. Use noise-reducing enclosures around noise-generating equipment where practicable.
- e. Implement other measures with demonstrated practicability in reducing equipment noise upon prior approval by the County.

In no case will the Permittee be allowed to use gasoline or diesel engines without muffled exhausts.

#### **PRIOR TO DATE OF COMMERCIAL OPERATION**

74. Remove Derelict Facilities and Restore Abandoned Roadways (MM AES-2b). As required by Mitigation Measure AES-2b as set forth in the MMRP, the Permittee shall clear the Project site of all derelict equipment, wind turbine components not required for the Project, and litter and debris from old turbine operations. Such litter and debris may include derelict turbines, obsolete anemometers, unused electrical poles and broken turbine blades. In addition, abandoned roads that are no longer in use on such parcels shall be restored and hydroseeded to reclaim the sites and remove visual traces from the viewscape, except in cases where state or federal resource agencies (i.e., USFWS and/or CDFW) recommend that the features be left in place for habitat purposes, or as specified by local landowners to facilitate continued ranching operations. All parcels with new turbines will be maintained in such a manner through the life of Project operations and until the parcels are reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

75. Compensate for Impacts on Special-Status Plant Species (BIO-1d). The Permittee shall avoid or minimize temporary and permanent impacts on special-status plants that occur on Project sites and will compensate for impacts on special-status plant species. All impacts on large-flowered fiddleneck, diamond-petaled California poppy, and caper-fruited tropidocarpum will be avoided, impacts on other special-status plant species will be avoided to the extent feasible, and any unavoidable impacts will be addressed through compensatory mitigation.

Where avoidance of impacts on a special-status plant species is infeasible, loss of individuals or occupied habitat of a special-status plant species occurrence will be compensated for through the acquisition, protection, and subsequent management in perpetuity (i.e., conservation easements) of other existing occurrences at a 2:1 ratio (occurrences impacted: occurrences preserved). The Permittee will provide detailed information to the County and CDFW on the location of the preserved occurrences, quality of the preserved habitat, feasibility of protecting and managing the areas in perpetuity, responsible parties, and other pertinent information. If suitable occurrences of a special-status plant species are not available for preservation, then the Project will be redesigned to remove features that would result in impacts on that species.

76. Conservation Measures to Compensate for Raptor and Avian Mortality (BIO-11h). The Permittee shall provide a plan for compensation for projected levels of mortality of raptors and other avian species including golden eagles, employing one or more of the options set forth in Mitigation Measure BIO-11h in the MMRP. The objective is to provide or improve habitat for raptors and avian species within the APWRA on a long-term basis, or in ten-year increments, to be adjusted

on the basis of avian monitoring results only every ten years or once within each ten-year period. An avian conservation strategy, to be outlined in the draft APP required by Mitigation Measure 11a, shall be implemented within one year of the commercial operations date (or of 75 percent of the turbine capacity if construction is staged), unless compliance with the conservation strategy includes complying with compensatory mitigation measures in an Eagle Take Permit (ETP) from the USFWS, in which case compensation shall be provided according to terms of the eagle permit. Strategic measures may include retrofitting of high-risk power poles or other electrical infrastructure, if required by an approved Eagle Conservation Plan under an eagle take permit from USFWS, contributions to raptor conservation and rehabilitation activities, acquisition of conservation easements within the APWRA, or other measures if supported by a Resource Equivalency Assessment (REA). If the ETP results in retrofitting of high-risk power poles outside of the APWRA, it will be accepted as compensatory mitigation only if required by an ETP from the USFWS, or if other compensatory mitigation measures causes a delay to the Project or results in a greater cost than would be incurred by high-risk power pole retrofits.

77. Compensate for Direct and Indirect Effects on Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (BIO-4b). If elderberry shrubs cannot be avoided and protected as outlined in Condition 54 (Mitigation Measure BIO-4a), the Permittee shall obtain an incidental take permit from USFWS and compensate for the loss of any elderberry shrubs. Surveys of elderberry shrubs to be transplanted will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to transplantation. Surveys will be conducted in accordance with the *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). Permittee shall comply with the specific requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-4b of the MMRP to mitigate for effects on valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

The Project proponent will be responsible for funding and providing monitoring reports to USFWS in each of the years in which a monitoring report is required. As specified in the *Conservation Guidelines*, the report will include information on timing and rate of irrigation, growth rates, and survival rates and mortality.

78. Compensate for Loss of Habitat for Special-Status Amphibians, Reptiles, Western Burrowing Owl, San Joaquin Kit Fox and American Badger (MMs BIO-5b, BIO-7b, BIO-9 and BIO-10b). Where impacts on aquatic and upland habitat for special-status amphibians, reptiles special-status and non-special-status tree/shrub- and ground-nesting birds and burrowing owls, cannot be avoided or minimized, Permittee shall provide compensatory mitigation in accordance with mitigation ratios and requirements developed under the EACCS (Appendix C). In the event that take authorization is required, compensatory mitigation will be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the authorization in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFW.

79. Compensate for the Loss of Alkali Meadow Habitat, Riparian Habitat, and Wetlands (MMs BIO-15, BIO-16 and BIO-18; if applicable). If alkali meadow habitat, riparian habitat or wetlands are filled or disturbed as part of the repowering Project, the Permittee shall compensate for the loss of this habitat to ensure no net loss of habitat functions and values. Compensation ratios will be based on site-specific information and determined through coordination with state and federal agencies (CDFW, USFWS, United States Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE). Unless specified otherwise by a resource agency, the compensation will be at a minimum 1:1 ratio (1 acre restored or created for every 1 acre filled) and may be a combination of onsite restoration/ creation, offsite restoration, and mitigation credits. A restoration and monitoring plan

will be developed and implemented. The plan will describe how alkali meadow habitat, riparian habitat or wetlands will be created and monitored.

80. Evidence of Compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Prior to the date of commercial operation, the Permittee shall provide a copy of the FAA Determination of No Hazard to the Alameda County Planning Director for a hearing by the Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

81. Windfarm Fire Requirements. To provide a reasonable level of fire protection and safety for ongoing windfarm operations, the Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with the Altamont Pass Windfarms Fire Requirements dated September 22, 2005 adopted by Alameda County (ACFD) and which were reviewed and re-adopted on November 12, 2014. In addition, the Permittee shall make a reasonable attempt to maintain the telephone numbers of the inhabitants of all adjacent properties and give timely notification to same in the event of an on-site fire.
82. Safety Reporting. Permittee shall notify the County Building Official and Planning Director of any tower collapse, blade throw, fire, or injury to worker within five (5) days of any such occurrence.
83. Screen Surplus Parts and Materials (MM AES-2c). As required by Mitigation Measure AES-2c, the Permittee shall have surplus parts and materials that are kept onsite maintained in a neat and orderly fashion and screened from view, which may be accomplished by using a weatherproof camouflage material that can be draped over surplus parts and materials stockpiles. Draping materials shall be changed at least twice per year from green to brown and back again according to the season so that stockpiles are effectively camouflaged to match the predominant color of surrounding grass areas.
84. Site Maintenance. Litter and debris shall be contained in appropriate receptacles and shall be disposed of promptly. All construction trailers, construction materials and construction-related debris shall be removed following cessation of construction activity, or within 30 days of authorization of commercial operation.
85. Removal of Inoperative Equipment. Any inoperative windfarm or windfarm site that is determined to be substantially inoperative shall be restored or reclaimed consistent with the approved *Restoration and Reclamation Plan* (Condition 11), under the following procedures:
- a) The Planning Director and Director of Public Works shall make a determination that the permitted wind farm operations have been abandoned or have produced less than 5 percent of the rated output of the wind farm in one year, verified by the annual status reports and there is no demonstrated plan provided by the Permittee or property owner, satisfactory to the Planning Director, to restore the equipment to a productive operating condition.
  - b) The Planning Director and Director of Public Works may instead make a determination that more than 50% of the turbines are actively being removed or are in disrepair and there is no demonstrated plan, satisfactory to the Planning Director, to restore the equipment to a productive operating condition.

Upon determination by the Planning Director that either of the above criteria is present on the property, the Planning Director shall give notice to the property owner/wind operator of the following requirements:

- a. Within 30 days from the date of the notice by the Planning Director, the Permittee shall secure a building permit to inspect all inoperable or abandoned wind turbines; and
- b. The application for a building permit shall be accompanied by a cash performance deposit to restore the site subject to the approved *Restoration and Reclamation Plan*.

86. Noise Standards. In the event a reasonable complaint is received by the Environmental Health Director alleging the presence of sound levels from one or more wind turbines exceeding the levels described in the application, or exceeding 55 dBA (Ldn) as measured at the exterior of any dwelling unit:

- a. The Environmental Health Director shall report this matter to the Permittee and to the Planning Director and upon receipt of such report, this matter shall be brought to hearing pursuant to Section 17.54.030.
- b. Upon receipt of the report from the Environmental Health Director, the Planning Director shall require the Permittee to have a qualified firm furnish a site specific study with recommendations on the circumstances, if any, which would render the Project in conformance with all applicable noise conditions; the report shall also include a recommendation to the Planning Director who will make the final determination as to whether subsection (d) shall be imposed.
- c. For a minimum 30 day period from the date of notification from the Environmental Health Director, at the time and place as may be agreed upon by the parties involved, Permittee shall attempt in good faith to negotiate a resolution of this matter with the party making the allegation; the results of such negotiation shall be reported to the Planning Director in a timely manner.
- d. Following the review period as provided under subsection (c) and until the conclusion of the revocation procedures as provided by Section 17-54.030, one or more wind turbines authorized by this permit to be constructed or maintained that are in closest proximity to the dwelling or building site of the party making the allegation, may be required to be made inoperative.

The measurement standard for the A-weighted scale shall be adjusted by the Planning Director to allow any sound device that is installed on or around the turbine as a mitigation for bird collisions.

Methods for measuring and reporting acoustic emissions from wind turbines and wind-farms shall be equal to or exceed the minimum standards for precision described by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in its 61400 series – Standards and Technical Specifications – *IEC 61400-11: Acoustic Noise Measurement Techniques*.

The Planning Director, in consultation with the Alameda County Environmental Health Services, shall establish criterion for noise samples and measurement parameters such as the duration of data collection, time of day, wind speed, atmospheric conditions and direction as set forth in the Wyle Research Report.

87. Electromagnetic Interference. If it has been demonstrated to the Planning Director that the turbine is causing disruptive electromagnetic interference, the Permittee shall promptly mitigate the disruptive interference, which may include discontinued operation of one or more turbine.

#### **MONITORING AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEW**

88. Initial Status Report. Six months from the issuance of grading and/or building permits, the Permittee shall submit to the Planning Director a status report describing compliance with conditions of the permit.
89. Annual Status Report. Following commercial operation date (COD), and on each annual anniversary of said commencement, Permittee shall submit to the Planning Director a brief status report containing the following information: description and rated capacity of all equipment installed, relevant meteorological data collected, and actual MW electric power generated to date broken down into appropriate time categories.
90. Post-Construction Avian Fatality Monitoring (MM BIO-11g). As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11g as set forth in the MMRP, the Permittee shall provide for a postconstruction monitoring program to be conducted for the Project for a minimum of three (3) years beginning on the COD, or beginning upon commercial operation of 75 percent of the Project if construction is completed in phases. Monitoring shall be in conformance with the protocols and specifications of Mitigation Measure BIO-11g, including the formation of a technical advisory committee (TAC) to oversee the monitoring program and to advise the County on implementation of adaptive management measures.

As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11g, if the results of the first 3 years of monitoring indicate that baseline fatality rates (i.e., the fatality rates of non-repowered turbines as described in the PEIR) are exceeded, monitoring will continue (potentially in combination with Condition 94/Mitigation Measure BIO-11i) until the average annual fatality rate is determined to be below the baseline fatality rate for two (2) consecutive years.

An additional two (2) years of monitoring will be implemented on the tenth anniversary of the COD.

91. Post-Construction Bat Fatality Monitoring (MM BIO-14b). As required by Mitigation Measure 14b in the MMRP, the Permittee shall implement a scientifically defensible, post-construction bat fatality monitoring program that is consistent with the protocols and sample size established and recognized by bat biologists in the APWRA, to estimate actual bat fatalities and determine if additional mitigation is required. Such monitoring shall take place concurrent with the 3-year post-construction monitoring program required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11g, and shall incorporate bat-specific components and protocols as specified by Mitigation Measure 14b in the MMRP. If recommended by the TAC, such a monitoring program shall recommence for two (2) years beginning on the tenth anniversary of the COD.
92. Annual Monitoring Reports on Bat Use and Fatalities (MM BIO-14c). The Permittee shall have annual reports of bat use results and fatality monitoring prepared by a qualified biologist within 3 months of the end of the last day of each year's fatality monitoring as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-14b, and submit such reports to the TAC and Planning Director. Special-status bat species records will be reported to the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB).

93. Technical Advisory Committee (MM BIO-11g). The County shall convene a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to oversee the post-construction monitoring program as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11g and Condition 90 and to advise the County on adaptive management measures required by Mitigation Measure BIO-11i and Condition 94. The roles and responsibilities of the TAC membership shall be established by the Planning Director following consultation with the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (based on a public hearing to be held for such specific purpose on or before December 18, 2014). The TAC shall include representatives from the County (including one or more technical consultants, such as a biostatistician, an avian biologist, and a bat biologist), and wildlife agencies (CDFW, USFWS) and as determined following the above-mentioned consultation. The TAC will have a standing meeting, which shall be open to the public, every 6 months to review monitoring reports produced pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-11g and Condition 90. Formation and operation of the TAC shall otherwise be consistent with Mitigation Measure BIO-11g.

The TAC may be the same TAC as may be formed and meeting for the purpose of prior repowering projects, such as Golden Hills—Phase 1; no new TAC is either required or encouraged. An adjunct or auxiliary advisory committee for the TAC composed of landowners, special district representatives, environmental advocacy groups and other stakeholders shall be convened by the Planning Director to confer with the ‘core’ TAC members on an as-needed basis, particularly on issues of establishing conservation easements and providing for landscape-scale mitigation as required by Condition 76.

94. Implement an Avian Adaptive Management Program (MM BIO-11i). If fatality monitoring described in Mitigation Measure BIO-11g results in an estimate that exceeds the preconstruction baseline fatality estimates (i.e., estimates at the non-repowered turbines as described in the PEIR) for any focal species or species group (i.e., individual focal species, all focal species, all raptors, all non-raptors, all birds combined, e.g., 2.43 raptors per MW per year and 4.5 native non-raptors per MW per year), the Permittee shall prepare a Project-specific adaptive management plan within 2 months following the availability of the fatality monitoring results. The County shall review and approve such plan in consultation with the TAC and it shall be implemented within 2 months of such approval. Follow-up monitoring will be required to determine if specific measures shall be sustained, revised or replaced with other measures. Measures, as outlined in Mitigation Measure BIO-11i, include but are not limited to visual modifications, anti-perching measures, prey-reduction strategies, use of experimental technologies, turbine curtailment (including real-time curtailment), or cut-in speed adjustments based on a focused study of such a strategy.
95. Develop and Implement a Bat Adaptive Management Plan (MM BIO-14d). The Permittee shall develop adaptive management plans to reduce bat mortality, in concert with Mitigation Measure BIO-14b, using appropriate feasible measures, and using both currently available and emerging information. The goals of the adaptive management plans are to ensure that the best available science and emerging technologies are used to assess impacts on bats, and that impacts are minimized to the greatest extent possible while maintaining energy production. Specific bat-related measures shall conform to the guidelines set forth in Mitigation Measure BIO-14d in the MMRP, including identified adaptive management measures.
96. Injured Bat Rehabilitation Compensation (MM BIO-14e). Project proponent shall pay in full the cost of reasonable, licensed rehabilitation efforts for any injured bats taken to wildlife care facilities from the Project area.

97. Stormwater Control Plan: Permittee shall carry out the operation and maintenance (O&M) of all installed stormwater protective system(s) as directed in the approved Stormwater Control Plan (SCP) and in compliance with Provision C.3 of the Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (MRP) and with the terms and conditions of the County Stormwater Permit, as required by Condition 45.
98. Monitor Substation Circuit Breakers for SF<sub>6</sub> Leakage. (MM GHG-2b). Permittee shall provide for periodic monitoring and necessary repair of circuit breakers installed at substations to verify a sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) leak rate of 0.5% by volume or less consistent with the Air District's *Scoping Plan* Measure H-6 for the detection and repair of leaks.
99. Optional Review/Revocation/Revision. At any time during the term of this permit and after notice as provided for in the initial hearing, this matter may be set for rehearing if the Planning Director has made an initial determination based on substantial evidence that the use of the site for generation of electrical energy from wind turbine operations has ceased for a period of six months, or has produced less than 5 percent of the rated output of the wind farm in one year, and if therefore the permit should be revoked. In addition, pursuant to Section 17.54.030, the permit may be revoked if the permit has otherwise been exercised unlawfully or contrary to any condition or limitation of its issuance. As part of such rehearing, and/or reconsideration for the permit, the Board may determine that conditions previously imposed should be modified or new conditions should be added to assure continued affirmative findings for this permit. This reconsideration may include imposition of other requirements, treatments and measures to ensure public safety and applicable policies of the East County Area Plan. Any condition modified or added shall have the same force and effect as if originally imposed.
100. Transfer of Operations. Any entity that has acquired the facilities as authorized under this permit may maintain the benefits of the existing use permit provided that a letter of notification is submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Planning Department within six months after such transaction, and all conditions of approval for the subject facility are carried out by the new operator/Permittee.
101. Site Restoration. Permittee shall provide written notification to the Planning Director upon cessation of operations on the site by the Permittee. During operation of the Project, no abandoned turbine tower, rotor, ground or other equipment components shall be stored onsite outside designated storage areas. A wind turbine shall be deemed abandoned for the purposes of this Resolution if it has not produced electricity for one year or has produced less than 5 percent of the rated output of the wind farm in one year.
- If all operations have been terminated, the Permittee and/or property owner shall be required to remove all improvements authorized under this permit from the site and the property shall be returned within twelve months of cessation to a condition with no wind facilities, subject to the requirements of the County.
102. Termination. Said Conditional Use Permit shall terminate after 30 years, on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date of approval of this application, and shall remain revocable for cause in accordance with Section 17.54.030 of the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance. Permittee shall either remove the turbines and improvements approved herein in accordance with the approved reclamation plan or shall apply for new use conditional permits in accordance with Section 17.54.130 of the Zoning Ordinance.



THE FOREGOING was PASSED and ADOPTED by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda this 15th day of December, 2020, pursuant to the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
EXCUSED:  
ABSTAINED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
Anika Campbell-Belton, Clerk  
Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

By: DocuSigned by: *Heather Littlejohn*  
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Heather Littlejohn, Deputy County Counsel