



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 11, 2014

To: Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) Scientific Review Committee (SRC)

From: Sandi Rivera, Assistant Deputy Director

Subject: 2014-15 Bird Year Monitoring Program

Alameda County is preparing for the transition to a repowered environment in the Altamont Pass and the anticipated removal of old-generation turbines in 2015.

As part of this transition, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has directed staff to reduce the budget for the Monitoring Program for the 2014-2015 bird year by approximately 50%. While the Monitoring Program is funded at \$588,851 for 2013-14, \$294,423 will be available for the Program in the 2014-15 year.

Alameda County will continue to contract with ICF International to provide continuity in support and experience for the last complete bird year of monitoring for old-generation turbine operations under the existing CUPs. ICF has advised that the reduction in funding would not allow for a sufficient sample size to warrant continued monitoring for an additional year.

Therefore, the Planning Director is seeking the advice and recommendations of the Scientific Review Committee on special studies or other scientific work that the Monitoring Team could conduct during the 2014-15 bird year that could best advance scientific understanding of avian mortality in the Altamont and potentially lead to reductions in avian fatalities.

Alameda County is asking the SRC, in conducting its discussions and developing its recommendations, to consider the following criteria as it weighs various options:

Criteria for Considering Study Options

1. Would the study or work help in assessing the impacts of repowering?
2. Would the study or work results be transferable from old-generation turbines to repowered turbines?
3. Would the single-year study option have the potential to generate sufficient data, qualitative evidence or insights to increase understanding of avian mortality or reduce avian mortality?
4. Would the single-year study option have the potential to generate sufficient data, qualitative evidence or insights?

Additional Questions for Consideration

A. Are there any particular species that are important to focus on, because:

- Research indicates the species may have mortality issues associated with repowered turbines
- The species is a priority species of concern for resource agencies
- Research on the species at old-generation turbines could shed particular light on avian mortality at repowered turbines

B. Are there any potential aspects of the 2014-15 bird year that should be taken into consideration in developing a study design to ensure results are relevant outside that year (i.e., drought, population cycle timing, etc.)