



Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

June 6, 2012

San Diego County
Department of Land Use and Planning
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123

Commissioners,

As the Chairman of the Manzanita of the Kumeyaay Nation, we respectfully request that you delay any decision regarding the proposed project entitled TULE WIND, which is under consideration for McCain Valley in the eastern part of our County, until we as a sovereign government conclude our current HEALTH IMPACT ASSESMENT (HIA) Study.

Our Manzanita citizens currently live in close proximity to a high voltage wind project operating adjacent to our residential reservation homelands.
We are experiencing an inordinate level of health challenges for our people.

In order to determine the nature of our health issues Manzanita has engaged in an academically valid research based study conducted by the NATIONAL LATINO RESEARCH CENTER, which is under the umbrella of CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS.

Through professional survey, screening, interviews, and medical record assessment our Health Impact Assessment study will isolate the various environmental factors that contribute to our adverse health issues, characterize health impacts, evaluate results compared to available standards and thresholds, distinguish inequitable impacts, consider cumulative the effects, forecast health effects, provide an economic valuation of negative impacts, and present recommendations for mitigation and alternatives.

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Our people are an ideal subject group for this type of study since we have resided in our current location for decades. This spans many years prior to the wind farm operation and the several years since commercial operation. Additionally, our medical records are centrally located with the Southern California Indian Health Clinic. Thus, our HIA will be the best available information to determine the actual health risks associated with living next to high voltage wind turbines, transmission lines, and infrastructure.

This comprehensive Manzanita-CSUSM health study will take approximately four to six months to complete. Any prior approval of the Tule Wind project will be placing our residents in an unreasonable and increased foreseeable health risk.

Although the application before your Commission by Tule is limited to transmission lines and a half dozen wind turbines, an approval by your Commission will provide the necessary avenue for the applicant to install wind turbines that will entrap Manzanita on our north and east borders. This combined with the existing commercially operational project along our southern border will create a cumulative effect that most likely tenders our residential reservation land uninhabitable. We have been on these lands for thousands of years and we the Kumeyaay are the original stewards of San Diego County.

We are asking you to allow our Health Impact Assessment Study to be completed prior to making any decision of the suitability of wind projects proposed to be developed in close proximity to residential housing. This will allow your Commission to have the most valid and current information to make a responsible decision on the ultimate fate of not only this, the Tule Wind project, but more importantly the health of our Manzanita elders, children, and families.

A short delay in making your decision weighted against the potential devastating impacts that may well produce real and lasting human suffering, result in loss of our quality of life, and even reduce the life span of our citizens is a small thing to ask given what is at stake.

We look forward to you doing the responsible thing by delaying any decision until the medical research is available in just a few months.

Respectfully,



Leroy J. Elliott, Tribal Chairman
The Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation