



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DATE: April 16, 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.: (Not available at the time of this transmittal)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO.: CEQ210007

PROJECT NO. AND NAME: Mountain View Wind Repower Project; WCS200003; CZ2000032; VAR210001

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Riverside County Planning Department
Contact Person: Jay Olivas, Project Planner
Telephone: (951) 955-6863
Email: jolivas@rivco.org

TRANSMITTAL DATE: April 16, 2021

ALL COMMENTS, IF ANY, MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN: May 17, 2021

Project Location: The Mountain View Wind Repower Project (Project) encompasses 139.1 acres on a 1,255.19-acre site, located in unincorporated Riverside County, primarily within the boundaries of the existing MVPP I & II wind energy facilities. Specifically, the project site is located within the County, north of the City of Palm Springs, in the northwestern portion of the Coachella Valley. A small portion of the underground electrical collection system and Mount Wind substation improvements are located within the City of Palm Springs. State Route 111 and the City of Palm Springs are located south of the project site, and Interstate 10 is located north of the project site (Figure 1). Of the 1,255.19 acres, 1,202.86 acres are located on private land and 52.34 acres are located on BLM land. The private land area also overlaps with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Conservation Plan, specifically 383.39 acres in the Whitewater Floodplain Conservation Area.

Project Description: The Project would repower the existing wind energy facilities with modern, higher capacity wind turbine generators (WTGs), and is anticipated to be operational by December 2022. The Riverside County Planning Department has reviewed the proposed Mountain View Wind Repower Project. Commercial WECS Permit No. 200003 proposes removal of 93 existing Mitsubishi 600-kilowatt (kW) WTGs and the subsequent installation of 16 Vestas 3.6 and 4.3 MW WTGs with a maximum height of 492 feet. Seven (7) existing Mitsubishi 600 kW WTGs would remain as part of the Project. In addition, two existing met towers would be removed and one new free-standing lattice met tower would be installed with a maximum height of 328 feet. The Project would be capable of producing approximately 229.90 gigawatt hours (GWh) of power per year for operational years 1 through 10. Beyond operational year 10, assuming decommissioning of the seven Mitsubishi 600 kW WTGs, the Project would produce approximately 215.90 GWh of power annually for the remainder of its operational life. Section 18.41.D.3(c) of Ordinance No. 348 allows the planning commission to reduce the established scenic setbacks to 1.25 times the total WECS 492' height, or 615 feet. The applicant has requested a setback reduction for two WTGs in the northeast portion of the project site to reduce the required scenic setback from 1,320 feet to 1,000 feet. Change of Zone No. 2000032 proposes to modify a 281.81-acre portion of an existing 600-acre parcel (APN 522-070-027) from Rural Residential (R-R) to Wind Energy (W-E). Variance Case No. 210001 proposes to reduce the five (5) times rotor diameter wind access setback for seven (7) existing WTGs and four (4) new WTGs. Five (5) times the rotor diameter for the existing and new WTGs would be 225 meters (738.19 feet) and 585 meters (1,919.29 feet), respectively. The applicant proposes reducing the five (5) time rotor diameter wind access setback for the 11 existing and new WTGs to a minimum of 110 meters (360.89 feet).

Public Comment Period: By this notice, the Riverside County Planning Department is announcing initiation of the 30-day comment period (April 16, 2021, to May 17, 2021). All written comments must be received by May 17, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. (end of the 30-day public review period).

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Riverside Office · 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor
P.O. Box 1409, Riverside, California 92502-1409
(951) 955-3200 · Fax (951) 955-1811

Desert Office · 77588 El Duna Ct Ste. H
Palm Desert, California 92211
(760) 863-8271 · Fax (760) 863-7555

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Location of Environmental Assessment (Initial Study)/Mitigated Negative Declaration Available for Public Review: The Riverside County Planning Department is currently recommending a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project with 30 day State Clearinghouse Review. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Technical Appendices are available in “Ongoing Projects” at <https://planning.rctlma.org/>. In accordance with Governor’s Executive Order N-80-20, public notices are not required to be made physically publicly available, but are required to be posted on the lead or responsible agency’s website for the same length of time that would be required for physical posting.

Submitting Public Comments: The Project name and number should be noted on all correspondence and the comments.

Written comments on the EA must be addressed to:

Riverside County Planning Department
Attention: Jay Olivas
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, California 92501

OR via email to jolivas@rivco.org (Subject line: “**CEQ210007 – MVPP EA Comments**”).

Public Hearing: The Project will be scheduled for Planning Commission Hearing in June 2021, but the exact date has not been determined at this time. A separate notice will be released prior to the hearing date.

Figure 1. Project Location

