

Table of Contents

BUENA VISTA WIND ENERGY PROJECT DRAFT EIR

1: INTRODUCTION

Draft Environmental Impact Report	1-1
Draft EIR Review Process.....	1-3
Organization of the EIR	1-6

2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Application	2-1
Project Location	2-1
Project Description	2-8
Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	2-11

3: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background	3-1
Project History	3-12
Detailed Project Description	3-19
Project Objectives	3-48
Project Application and Regulatory Requirements	3-49

4: LAND USE

Environmental Setting	4-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4-7
4.1 Dividing an Established Community.....	4-7
4.2 Consistency with Land Use Plan	4-7
4.3 Consistency with Zoning Requirements.....	4-9
4.4 Conflicts with Conservation Plan.....	4-10
4.5 Compatibility with Adjacent Windfarms.....	4-13
4.6 Land Use Compatibility During Construction	4-13

5: PUBLIC SAFETY

Environmental Setting	5-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures	5-7
5.1 Fire Hazards.....	5-8
5.2 Aviation Safety	5-10
5.3 Electromagnetic Interference.....	5-15

Table of Contents

6: NOISE

Environmental Setting..... 6-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures 6-9
 6.1 Noise Impacts from Wind Turbine Generator Operations 6-9
 6.2 Temporary Construction Noise..... 6-16

7: VISUAL RESOURCES

Environmental Setting..... 7-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures 7-5
 7.1 Scenic Vistas 7-5
 7.2 Scenic Routes..... 7-16
 7.3 Visual Character 7-18
 7.4 Light and Glare 7-19

8: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Environmental Setting..... 8-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures 8-37
 8.1 Alkali Meadow Habitat..... 8-38
 8.2 Special-Status Plants 8-39
 8.3 Stock Ponds and Seasonal and Perennial Drainages 8-40
 8.4 San Joaquin Kit Fox 8-41
 8.5 Annual Grassland/San Joaquin Kit Fox Habitat 8-44
 8.6 Burrowing Owl..... 8-47
 8.7 Avian Collision Mortality..... 8-48
 8.8 Indirect Avian Impacts..... 8-59
 8.9 Bat Collision Mortality 8-61
 8.10 Wetlands..... 8-62

9: ALTERNATIVES

Introduction 9-1
Alternatives to the Buena Vista Project..... 9-3
 9.1 Alternative #1 – No Project..... 9-4
 9.2 Alternative #2 –Partial Repowering and Retrofit 9-5
 9.3 Alternative #3 – Fifty Percent Repowering 9-7
 9.4 Alternative #4 – Alternative Project Locations..... 9-10
 9.5 Alternative #5 – Alternative Turbine Types..... 9-10
Alternatives Comparison..... 9-11

10: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Cumulative Impacts 10-1
Growth Inducing Impacts 10-9
Summary of Significant Effects..... 10-9
Economic Effects..... 10-10

11: REPORT PREPARERS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Report Preparers.....	11-1
Bibliography	11-2

LIST OF TABLES:

Table 2.1: Summary of Potentially Significant Impacts and Recommended Mitigation Measures.....	2-13
Table 3.1: APWRA Repowering Program Turbine Counts and Installed Capacity.....	3-7
Table 3.2: Project Properties and Turbines	3-42
Table 6.1: Surrounding Area Noise Levels.....	6-2
Table 6.2: Existing and Projected (November 2003 Project) Turbine-only Noise Levels at Discrete Receptors.....	6-12
Table 6.3: Total CNEL Values for Existing and Future Conditions under the November 2003 Project	6-14
Table 8.1: Wildlife Species Observed in the APWRA	8-13
Table 8-2: Location of Potential San Joaquin Kit Fox Burrows.....	8-17
Table 8-3: Annual Grassland Habitat Developed/Disturbed	8-45
Table 8-4: Regional and Overall Raptor Fatality Rates	8-50
Table 8-5: Regional and Overall Bird Fatality Rates.....	8-51
Table 8-6: Annual Mortality Projections of Select Species, Unadjusted and Adjusted for Recorded Flight Heights in the APWRA and Planned Heights of Turbine Rotor Planes	8-56

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1: Project Vicinity Map.....	2-3
Figure 2-2: Wind Farm Projects in the APWRA.....	2-5
Figure 2-3: Buena Vista Repowering Project	2-9
Figure 3-1: Project Vicinity Map.....	3-3
Figure 3-2: Wind Farm Projects in the APWRA.....	3-5
Figure 3-3: November 2003 Buena Vista Project.....	3-15
Figure 3-4: April 2004 Buena Vista Project	3-17
Figure 3-5: Existing Turbines and Access Routes – Buena Vista Site.....	3-23
Figure 3-6: Context Photo Viewpoint Locations	3-25
Figure 3-7: Context Photos – Viewpoints 1a and 1b.....	3-27
Figure 3-8: Context Photos – Viewpoints 2a and 2b.....	3-29
Figure 3-9: Context Photos – Viewpoints 3a and 3b.....	3-31

Table of Contents

Figure 3-10:	Context Photos – Viewpoints 4a and 4b.....	3-33
Figure 3-11:	Context Photos – Viewpoints 5a and 5b.....	3-35
Figure 3-12:	Context Photos – Viewpoints 6a and 6b.....	3-37
Figure 3-13:	Context Photos – Viewpoints 7a and 7b.....	3-39
Figure 3-14:	Buena Vista Repowering Project	3-43
Figure 4-1:	Zoning and Setback Requirements.....	4-11
Figure 5-1:	Byron Airport Height Exception Overlay Zone	5-5
Figure 5-2:	FAA Lighting.....	5-13
Figure 6-1:	Noise Measurement Locations and Local Receptors	6-5
Figure 7-1:	Simulation Viewpoint Map.....	7-7
Figure 7-2:	Existing and Simulation Views of Viewpoint 1.....	7-9
Figure 7-3:	Existing and Simulation Views of Viewpoint 2.....	7-11
Figure 7-4:	Existing and Simulation Views of Viewpoint 3.....	7-13
Figure 8-1:	Location of Sensitive Biological Communities.....	8-9
Figure 8-2:	Locations of Special-Status Bird Sightings.....	8-19
Figure 8-3:	Locations of Potential Kit Fox Burrows	8-21
Figure 8-4:	Locations of Known Special-Status Plant Occurrences.....	8-31

APPENDICES

Appendix A:	May 2004 Notice of Preparation / Initial Study
Appendix B:	Comment Letters, November 2003 Mitigated Negative Declaration
Appendix C:	Comment Letters, April 2004 Draft EIR
Appendix D:	Comment Letter, May 2004 Notice of Preparation
Appendix E:	Avian Mitigation Monitoring Program
Appendix F:	Wake Effects Reports as Commissioned by G3 Energy
Appendix G:	Wake Effects report as commissioned by Northwind Energy