



**ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**STAFF REPORT**

**TO: EAST COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS  
HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PROGRAM: Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Repowering**

**APPLICATIONS: Patterson Pass Wind Project, Conditional Use Permit PLN2012-00214;  
Golden Hills Wind Project, Conditional Use Permit PLN2014-00032**

**APPLICANTS:** Patterson Pass Wind, LLC (a subsidiary of EDF Renewable Energy, Inc.);  
Golden Hills Wind, LLC (operating subsidiary of NextEra Energy  
Resources, LLC)

**PROPOSALS:** To approve Conditional Use Permits permitting existing wind farms to be repowered (i.e., replace existing wind turbines with new turbines, technology and infrastructure) with new wind farm projects, including:

- a) Patterson Pass Wind Project (PLN2012-00214), to install between 8 and 12 new turbines having a nameplate capacity of between 2.4 and 3.3 MW each, with a combined nameplate capacity of 19.8 MW; and
- b) Golden Hills Wind Project – Phase 1 (PLN2014-00032), to install up to 52 new 1.7 MW turbines with a combined nameplate capacity of 88.4 MW.

*Note:* Both proposals require the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to be certified. See discussion of Environmental Review below.

- LOCATION, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS. AND PARCEL AREAS:**
- a) The Patterson Pass Wind Project is located on three parcels encompassing roughly one and a half square miles, north of Patterson Pass Road, approximately two miles southwest of Midway Road, bearing Assessor's Parcel Numbers 099A-1800-001-00, 099A-1800-002-01 and 099B-7985-001-02 (see exhibits and attachments).
  - b) The Golden Hills Wind Project—Phase 1 is located on 36 parcels or parts of parcels extending over roughly seven square miles between one and two miles south of I-580 and from about one mile west of the North Flynn Road interchange with I-580 to about five miles east of that interchange, at Midway Road. Assessor Parcel Numbers include, for example, 99A-1760-1-3; all 36 specific parcels are identified in the Draft Resolution.

*Note:* The PEIR addresses repowering throughout the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA), which extends both north and south of I-580, up to 14 miles south of the Contra Costa County border and 9 miles west of the San Joaquin County border. (see exhibits and attachments).

**ZONING:** A & A-B-E (Agriculture, 160- and 320-acre minimum building site area).

**GENERAL PLAN** LPA (Large Parcel Agriculture), East County Area Plan, adopted in 1994  
**DESIGNATION:** and amended in November 2000 and May 2002.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** The program and projects are subject to the California Environmental  
**REVIEW:** Quality Act (CEQA, 1970 as amended) and a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been prepared to comply with CEQA and to be certified by the Board of Zoning Adjustments at the current hearing. The PEIR addresses the anticipated approvals of a series of CUPs for the progressive repowering of the APWRA, including decommissioning of existing old-generation turbines, installation of new turbines, and operation of new turbines under 30-year permits and conditions of approval that include implementation of mitigation measures identified in the PEIR.

The Final PEIR (hereafter referred to as the PEIR) incorporates the entire Draft PEIR, which circulated for public comment between June 6 and July 21, 2014. The PEIR includes the written and verbal comments received during that comment period and at a public hearing on the Draft PEIR on June 26, 2014, and responses to those comments. The PEIR is presented as a complete EIR, as revised on the basis of comments received, and other needed changes. The PEIR contains new supporting appendices that include Master Responses to the primary comments received, as well as background information, historical documents and other helpful documentation.

The PEIR identifies potential significant impacts of the program and the specific projects on aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, safety due to geological and seismic conditions, safety due to exposure to hazardous materials, safety due to location near an airport, water quality, soil erosion, noise, and traffic. Mitigation measures are also identified which if implemented would avoid or reduce most impacts to less-than-significant levels. Other impacts would remain significant and are unavoidable if the projects are approved, including air quality deterioration during construction, mortality of raptors, other birds, and bats migrating through and wintering in the program area, and traffic operations and safety when combined with another anticipated wind repowering project (the Sand Hill Wind Project), but can be reduced in part by the identified mitigation measures.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE** Three draft Resolutions are provided as attachments for the Board to  
**ADOPTED:** consider approving, should it accept staff recommendations, firstly to certify the PEIR as complete and reflecting the independent judgment of the Board, and secondly and thirdly to approve each of the two CUP applications. Each Resolution includes three Exhibits: A) Findings of Environmental Significance for each potential environmental impact considered in the PEIR; B) a Statement of Overriding Considerations (which recognizes that some impacts are unavoidable and cannot be reduced to a level that is less than significant, but that certain other considerations outweigh those impacts); and C) a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which consolidates all of the mitigation measures considered in the PEIR and establishes mechanisms to monitor and assure that each measure is effectively implemented.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board should receive a staff presentation, take public comment on the Final Program EIR and each of the two specific Conditional Use Permit project applications, review the draft resolutions and exhibits, including the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MMRPs) for the two projects, certify the Final PEIR by adoption of a draft Resolution for the purpose of CEQA, and, approve the Patterson Pass Project (PLN2012-00214) by adoption of the second Resolution and proposed draft conditions, and lastly, approve the Golden Hills Phase I Project (PLN2014-00032) by adoption of the third Resolution and proposed draft conditions.

## PERMIT HISTORY

Program Area: The APWRA has been developed with wind farms since the early 1980s, when the state identified it as a wind energy resource area. The program area is currently operating under 32 CUPs approved between 2003 and 2005 by the Board of Zoning Adjustments, of which 29 were appealed to the Board of Supervisors and approved in September of 2005. One CUP (C-8199, for the Diablo Winds project) was approved in 2003 for the first repowering project, on parcels between Altamont Pass Road and the Contra Costa County Line. Another CUP for the first phase of repowering wind farms operating under five different existing CUPs was approved in May, 2014 (CUP PLN2013-00013) for Ogin, Inc. which proposed repowering with its patented “shrouded” wind turbines.

An extensive history of the prior CUPs in the program area is provided in the Staff Report to the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments for the hearing on the Draft PEIR on June 26, 2014. That history describes the progressive development of wind energy projects in the area, turbine ownership patterns, early repowering efforts, the 2005 CUP approval process, the Settlement Agreement reached in 2007 between the County, most of the operators and a coalition of environmental advocacy organizations, and related agreements to initiate repowering at the present time. It also describes the strategies required by the 2007 Settlement Agreement to reduce average annual raptor mortality of four focal raptor species, including golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, burrowing owl, and American kestrel, and the intention of the PEIR to utilize mitigation measures to establish conservation strategies required by the Settlement Agreement.

As part of the 2007 Settlement Agreement, a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or a similar agreement was initiated, together with a corresponding Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). That process ended in late 2011 for reasons outside the wind companies’ or County’s control. The goal of the NCCP/HCP process was to facilitate repowering by addressing needs for environmental compliance while adhering to the requirements of the 2007 Settlement Agreement. However, there were three significant challenges that arose: 1) delays and uncertain participation by the USFWS due to reduced staffing, 2) regulatory challenges of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and 3) the desire of two of the wind companies to repower a large portion of the program area before the NCCP/HCP could be completed. In light of these challenges, the County determined that the best approach to meet the objectives of the 2007 Settlement Agreement was a PEIR together with a program level Avian Protection Plan (APP) to be developed as a framework for mitigation and conservation. Because there was no mechanism developed to implement the APP, the provisions of the program level APP were incorporated into the program level mitigation. Thus, the intent is to provide conservation strategies through the mitigation measures proposed in the DPEIR.

### Project Site Permit Histories

**PLN2012-00214:** June 17, 1991, Conditional Use Permit C-4438, approved wind electric generation facility for 336 wind turbines with expiration after 20 years.

September 22, 2005, Conditional Use Permit C-8263, approved by the Board of Supervisors for continued operation of a combined total of 336 wind turbines by enXco, Inc. (a subsidiary of the AES Corporation, (renamed EDF Renewable Energy in 2012) with conditions.

**PLN2014-00032:** February 3, 1982 to April 27, 1988, Conditional Use Permits C-4180 , C-4323, C-4326, C-4327, C-4382, C-4421, C-4424, C-4426, C-4436, C-4437, C-4494, C-4527, C-4658, C-4950, C-4957, C-5031, C-5065, C-5304, C-5317, C-5318, C-5319, C-5359, C-5360, C-5457, C-6208, and C-6210, approved wind-electric generation uses with conditions including five year reviews and expiration after 20 years. Various other uses approved throughout the area for activities not related to wind farm uses.

September 22, 2005, Conditional Use Permits C-8137, C-8173, C-8216, C-8225, C-8234, C-8235, C-8240, C-8243 and C-8244, approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for the maintenance and continued operation of existing wind turbines in the APWRA, subject to conditions and expiration on September 22, 2018.

January 11, 2007, same Conditional Use Permits as above, modified by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to enter into a Settlement Agreement, with changes to the Avian Wildlife Protection Program and Schedule, EIR requirement, on- and off-site habitat mitigation and conservation strategies, and controls on relocated turbines.

## **SITE AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTION**

The program area and projects are proposed within the Alameda County portion of the APWRA (except as noted, APWRA hereinafter shall mean the Alameda County portion), which currently includes 43,358 acres, or nearly 68 square miles. For the purposes of the PEIR, in order to enable the development of additional wind energy resource areas to be considered, based on average wind speed data produced by the CEC, the APWRA boundaries were expanded from the originally designated area of about 58 square miles by about an additional 10 square miles, primarily located to the south of the existing APWRA.

The region is generally characterized by rolling foothills of mostly treeless grassland, primarily used for cattle grazing, with relatively steep terrain on the west and more gentle slopes on the east. Major features of the area include wind turbines, ancillary facilities, an extensive grid of high voltage power transmission lines, substations, microwave towers, a landfill site, Interstate 580, railroad track lines, ranch houses, and clusters of rural residential homes on Dyer and Midway Roads.

## **GENERAL PLAN POLICIES & ZONING**

The ECAP designates almost the entire program area as Large Parcel Agriculture (LPA), with some relatively small areas designated as Resource Management (RM), Water Management (WM) and Major Public (MP). Descriptions of these land use designations were provided in the Staff Report provided for the public hearing on the Draft PEIR (see attached materials).

Lands in the project area are zoned A-160 and A-320 (Agricultural District, with minimum building site areas, respectively of 160 acres or 320 acres), which allows for agricultural and other non-urban uses. Within the A District, privately owned wind-electric generators are a conditionally permitted use subject to approval by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (EBZA).

## **PROGRAM EIR DESCRIPTION**

The Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) addresses the anticipated approval of new CUPs to allow replacement of old generation wind turbines with current generation turbines in the Alameda

County portion of the APWRA, both broadly on a program level for the entire area, and more specifically on a project level for two current project applications, the Patterson Pass Wind and Golden Hills Wind–Phase I Projects. Once certified, subsequent specific project applications will be able to ‘tier’ from the PEIR, as provided for in the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15168). The PEIR also enabled the two specific projects to be grouped together for evaluation, along with future anticipated projects, such as Phase II of the Golden Hills Wind Project, the Summit Wind Project, and the Mulqueeney Ranch Project. The current and expected future projects are related geographically and are expected to have similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. The future repowering CUPs can rely on the mitigation measures contained in the PEIR as uniform standards where appropriate and by tiering from the PEIR to provide a framework for focused, project-level analysis. Tiering is defined in the CEQA Guidelines as a means of covering (or evaluating for the purpose of CEQA) general policies while allowing for subsequent, more narrowly-focused EIRs, negative declarations or other types of CEQA documentation for specific development or site plans, to the extent that the assessment of anticipated impacts and identification of mitigation measures in the PEIR are applicable to the specific projects.

The PEIR also evaluates in tandem, or nearly side-by-side, two repowering program build-out scenarios, identified as program Alternative 1 and program Alternative 2, which are distinguished from each other only by a difference in total MW output. Alternative 1 represents the Alameda County APWRA output capacity as of 1998 – 417 MW; Alternative 2 foresees modest expansion of that output (under 10 percent) to a total of 450 MW. Both Alternatives would serve the program objectives, which include repowering the Alameda County portion of the APWRA as intended by the Settlement Agreement and the existing CUPs, reduce avian mortality, establish avian wildlife conservation strategies, provide environmentally-sensitive and clean wind power to achieve statewide objectives for renewable energy by 2020, contribute to air quality improvement and greenhouse gas reduction goals, and enhance habitat qualities in the program area through reduced footprint of turbines, roads, overhead powerlines and other infrastructure.

The County’s intention for certifying the PEIR is to enable the current specific projects to be considered for approval subject to the identified mitigation measures and conditions of approval. Certifying the PEIR is further intended to serve the County’s objectives, which includes serving the public and market need for electrical energy, the public policy need to produce renewable energy, and the widely-held public and regulatory agency need to substantially reduce avian mortality related to wind turbine operations. The goals of the applicants are to repower their windfarm assets in compliance with the existing CUPs and applicable laws, reduce avian mortality, and meet state and County goals for production of renewable energy.

The significant impacts of the repowering program (i.e., the current and expected future projects), and of the individual projects were summarized in a bullet list in the Staff Report for the public hearing on the Draft PEIR. Very briefly restated here, the significant and unavoidable adverse impacts included the effects of operations for the life of the permits on avian species, including raptors, other birds and bats migrating through and wintering in the program area, as well as some temporary construction-related impacts, on air quality (due to predicted emissions in excess of regional air district standards) and on traffic operations and transportation, if construction-related traffic occurs concurrently with the Sand Hill Repowering (wind energy) Project. Other impacts, that could be reduced to less than significant levels, included effects on scenic vistas and other aesthetic considerations including shadow flicker, potential conversion of recognized Prime Farmland (not including the currently proposed Golden Hills and Patterson Pass Projects), other construction-related air quality and greenhouse gas emission impacts, and a broad range of other impacts on biological resources, including special-status plants, a wide range of terrestrial species, habitat communities, migratory wildlife corridors and nursery sites. Additionally, the projects were determined to have varying potential impacts on historical, archaeological, undocumented human remains or paleontological resources, and in the topic areas of seismic safety, water quality of stormwater runoff, hazardous materials, aviation, transportation and circulation, emergency response, and

noise. The significant impacts and mitigation measures are summarized and concisely tabulated in the Executive Summary portion of the PEIR.

An extensive program of mitigation measures were identified in the Draft PEIR, and have been consolidated in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MMRPs) for the Golden Hills and Patterson Pass Projects, attached as Exhibit Bs to their two respective draft Resolutions. In a relatively small number of cases, certain mitigation measures do not apply to one or the other specific projects, such as some aesthetic impacts, and the aviation and conversion of Prime Farmland impacts that will only apply to future projects. A separate program-level MMRP has been prepared for adoption together with certification of the PEIR, which includes those additional mitigation measures.

The program as guided by the PEIR is intended to support a variety of goals and objectives, which will in turn support environmental benefits for resident terrestrial and avian species, their habitats, and general ecological values. In addition, improvements in the wind turbine technology and project design would result in benefits associated with aesthetics, public safety, and noise. Some of the following benefits are expected and are briefly discussed below.

- Habitat will be enhanced due to the significant reduction in the number of turbines and the undergrounding of most of the electrical infrastructure. Project proponents would contribute to the establishment of conservation areas and easements within the program area or outside the program area but in the same eco-region. Such areas would provide enhanced habitat qualities for avian and terrestrial species on a coordinated, landscape-level basis.
- Substantial reductions in avian mortality have been shown in to result from repowered turbines. Complete repowering would result in far fewer wind turbines and overhead power and communication lines which would lead to fewer avian and bat collisions and electrocutions.
- Reductions in the number of individual turbines and the wider distribution fewer modern turbines would detract less from the natural landscape and allow for more prominent views of the rolling, grassy terrain that characterizes the program area.
- Public safety is improved due to the reductions in fire hazards, the underground placement of electrical lines, improved turbine technology that reduces the risk of blade throw, and the very substantial reduction in the number of individual turbines.
- Noise is reduced compared to the sound produced by first- and second-generation turbines due to the type how the wind encounters the turbine, relatively low rotational speeds and, pitch control on the rotors.

## **KEY ISSUES IN FINAL EIR**

Final Program EIR. After the Draft PEIR circulated for the required 45-day period (between June 6 and July 21, 2014), and after the EBZA held a public hearing (June 26, 2014) for comment on the Draft PEIR, a Final PEIR (hereinafter referred to as the PEIR) was prepared, which has the form of a fully-revised Draft EIR. The printed edition of the PEIR includes the four original appendices (including information on existing wind farm CUPs, materials related to the PEIR Notice of Preparation, supporting documents for the biological resource analyses and noise data) and three new appendices, perhaps most importantly of which is the collected comments on the Draft PEIR and responses to those comments (the other appendices include ‘historical’ or background documents, such as a Draft Avian Protection Program, the 2007 and 2010 Settlement Agreements, and a Shadow Flicker Analysis for the Golden Hills Project).

Comments received on the Draft EIR during the 45-day comment period and responses to each comment included letters from three public agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Bay-Delta Region), East Bay Regional Park District, and California Department of Transportation, two non-profit

environmental advocacy organizations, Audubon California and Save Mount Diablo, and from the APWRA SRC. Other comments were received from NextEra Energy and EDF Renewable Energy Project Applicants for Golden Hills and Patterson Pass, respectively, Altamont Winds, LLC, a APWRA wind operator, and area resident Robert Cooper. Some of the key issues were raised by multiple commenters and are highlighted as follows. The County has responded to the issues in *Appendix E: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Response to Comments* in the Final PEIR.

The primary focus of the comment letters on the Draft PEIR, was with regard to the analysis and methods used in the PEIR to identify the significant adverse effects of repowering on avian species, including golden eagles and other raptors, but also extending to effects on other migrating or resident bird species, bats, terrestrial species and habitats, and on the proposed mitigation measures and strategies. Comments received at the public hearing were also generally focused on avian mortality issues, and included, in addition to speakers who also submitted written comments, another area resident (Karen Sweet) and comments of the EBZA members. To address the most common and prevalent comments received, seven “Master Responses” were prepared as summarized below:

- *Baseline and Determination of Significance.* Several commenters questioned how impacts on avian species were found to be significant, in relation to the ‘baseline’ of existing conditions in which there is already a substantial degree of predictable avian mortality. The commenters claimed that the baseline used in the PEIR is misleading and should not anticipate continuing the existing use and, as a result, the DPEIR does not adequately determine the significant effects. The issue is discussed at length in Master Response 1, and the County believes that the clarifications provided regarding the determination of significance for avian impacts is consistent with the approach and mitigation actually used and already required in the Draft PEIR—particularly the required mitigation for all raptor fatalities regardless of whether the impact exceeds baseline levels.
- *Program Area Boundary.* Comments were received from several commenters regarding the selection of the program area boundary. At a program level, the PEIR provides that environmental and public review by evaluating the County’s approval of wind energy projects within the program area. As described in detail in Section 1.1.2, Program-Level Analysis and Tiering, of the Draft PEIR, specific projects proposed in the future would undergo project-level environmental analysis tiered from the PEIR. The two individual projects evaluated at the project level in the PEIR are within the APWRA boundary as established in the Alameda County General Plan.
- *Avian Mortality Rates and Methodology for Existing Conditions.* Several commenters noted that the baseline fatality rates used were the average over the course of the study on which the analysis was based (2005-2011 bird years) as opposed to the average over the last 3 years. In addition, the commenters noted that because another year of data has become available since the publication of the DPEIR, the data should be included in the baseline fatality rates in the FPEIR. This issue was addressed in Master Response 3.
- *Estimated Avian Mortality Rates Methodology.* Several commenters stated that the Diablo Winds Project and the Buena Vista Wind Project were older technologies and/or used flawed methods to estimate fatalities, and therefore may underestimate the risk to birds and bats. Other commenters noted that additional data from the second year of postconstruction fatality monitoring at the Vasco Winds project is available and recommended including the information in the Final PEIR. This and related issues were discussed in full in Master Response 5.
- *Avian Fatality Monitoring Methodology.* Several commenters stated that the DPEIR did not describe in enough detail the requirements for avian fatality monitoring after construction of repowered

projects. Some revisions to the Draft PEIR were made to the tables to reflect the comments, and the revisions and response to these comments are presented in detail in Master Responses 4 and 5.

- *Technical Advisory Committee.* Related to the comments on the fatality monitoring methodology, several commenters asked about the makeup of the technical advisory committee (TAC). Master Response 6 addresses clarification of the Draft EIR text on this subject and on monitoring methods, and changes to the text. If approved, construction of the Golden Hills and Patterson Pass projects could take place in 2015; accordingly, the County envisions establishment of the TAC immediately following approval of these projects.
- *Avian Protection Plan.* Several commenters addressed how the key provisions of a program-level Avian Protection Plan (APP), developed by the County, have been incorporated into the PEIR as mitigation measures, and requested that the County provide copies of the program-level APP to enable comparison with the PEIR. As indicated in the Draft PEIR, although the County worked with wildlife agencies and other stakeholders to prepare a draft program-level APP, the County determined that the best method to ensure implementation of the measures in the program-level APP would be to incorporate them as mitigation measures in the Draft PEIR. This issue was fully discussed in Master Response 8.
- *Avian Compensatory Mitigation.* Comments and suggestions were received regarding compensatory mitigation (Mitigation Measure BIO-11h), including the option to contribute to raptor recovery efforts through contributions to rehabilitation facilities, how specific mitigation options would be selected, and clarifications regarding the suggested duration of the compensatory mitigation increments. The mitigation measure was revised for clarification in the Final PEIR with the following (in *italics*), to require the operator to “Compensate for the loss of raptors *and other avian species*, including golden eagles...”. This and other aspects of compensation and conservation are discussed in Master Response 9, and in other specific responses to comments.
- *Adaptive Management Measures.* Some of the comments questioned how adaptive management measures (Mitigation Measure BIO-11i) would be implemented, and stated that those measures lacked specificity regarding how they would be implemented, as well as the types and/or effectiveness of specific ADMMs included in the measure. Several commenters also noted several additional ADMMs that should be considered. In response to these comments, the County revised Mitigation Measure BIO-11i on page 3.4-110 through 3.4-11 of the Draft PEIR; these revisions are shown in mark-up mode in Master Response 10, and are reflected now in the text of the Final PEIR.
- *Bat Impacts and Mitigation.* Several opinions and comments were received regarding the analysis of wind energy turbine operations’ impacts on bats, and raised a variety of points, such as the availability of additional background information on bats, the concern of ‘barotrauma’ impacts on bats, survey protocols, and the use of adaptive management measures to minimize impacts on bats. Each of these major issues was addressed in Master Response 11 in the FPEIR.

## PROJECTS

Two wind repowering projects have been proposed thus far for approval by the County, and for which the PEIR provides the basis for compliance with CEQA. Conditions of approval were developed jointly for both projects and for future repowering projects (Model Conditions of Approval), drawing from typical conditions of approval for Alameda County CUPS including the prior CUPS for the wind farms as approved in 2005, input from the County’s Public Works Agency, Environmental Health Department and Fire Department, and from the two current project applicants. In addition, Planning Department staff adapted some conditions of approval or elements thereof from the recently developed Vasco Winds and



Shiloh IV projects in, respectively, Contra Costa and Solano Counties. The conditions of approval also incorporate the mitigation measures identified in the PEIR, in a manner so as to summarize and in some cases adapt for their most effective implementation.

Golden Hills Wind Project. Phase 1 of the Golden Hills Project, which is proposed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC through a subsidiary, Golden Hills Wind, LLC, would decommission and remove an estimated 775 existing wind turbines from parcels that NextEra Energy has leases on since 2005. The proposal, described in detail in the PEIR, would install up to 52 new 1.7 MW turbines, make improvements to related infrastructure, and yield a nameplate capacity of 88.4 MW. The Project site encompasses 36 separate parcels (some references in the PEIR to 38 parcels appear to be in error) on more than 4,500 acres, on which there are seven CUPs currently in effect.

Patterson Pass Wind Project. EDF Renewable Energy (EDF RE, formerly EnXco, Inc.) has proposed a project to be owned as the Patterson Pass Wind Farm, LLC (an operating subsidiary of EDF RE), and would entail repowering of its existing 21.8 MW windfarm. The existing windfarm originally comprised 336 Nordtank and Bonus 65 kW turbines, of which 317 turbines remain operational. The repowered project would consist of 8–12 turbines with a total nameplate capacity of 19.8 MW. The site consists of three parcels encompassing 952 acres.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

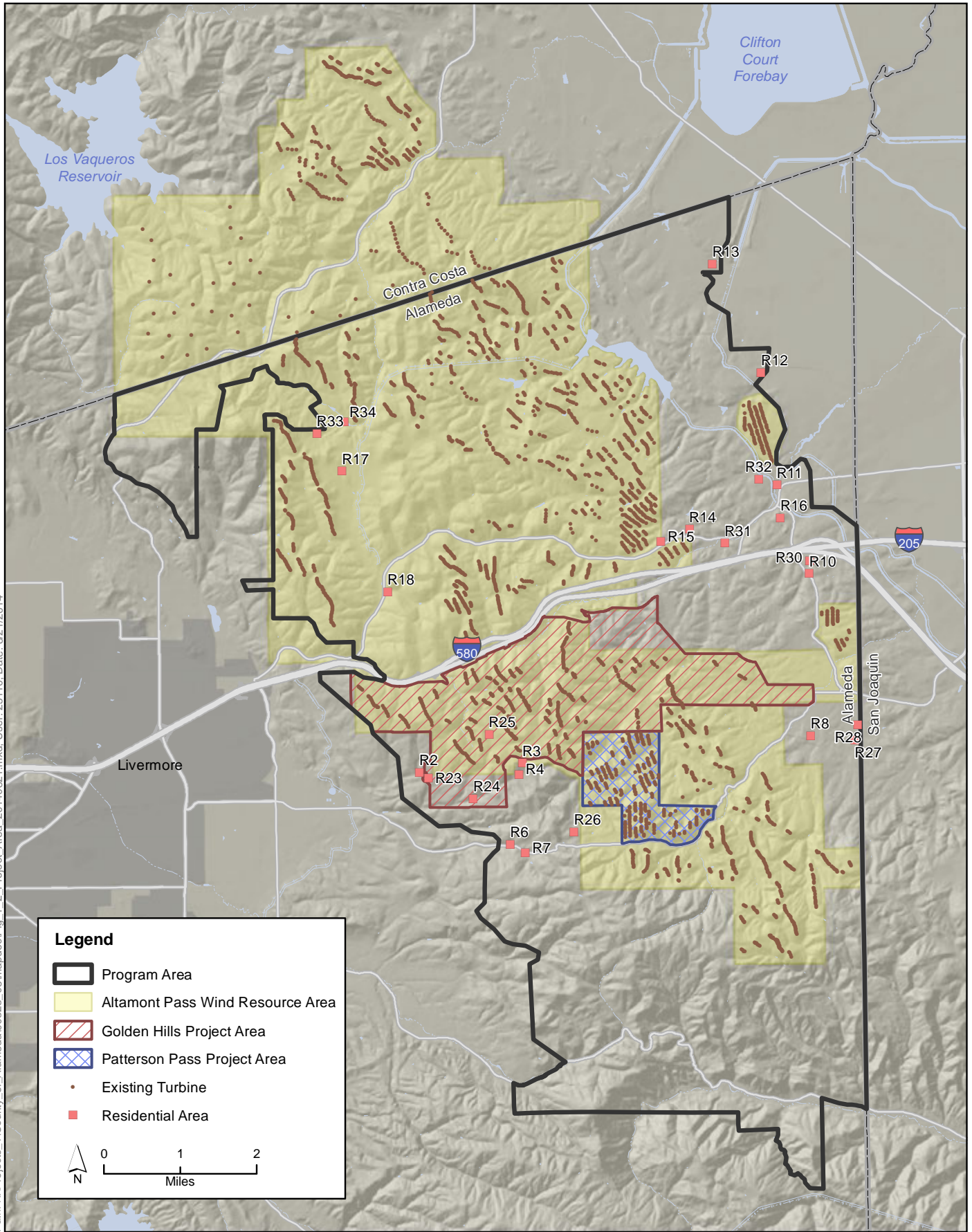
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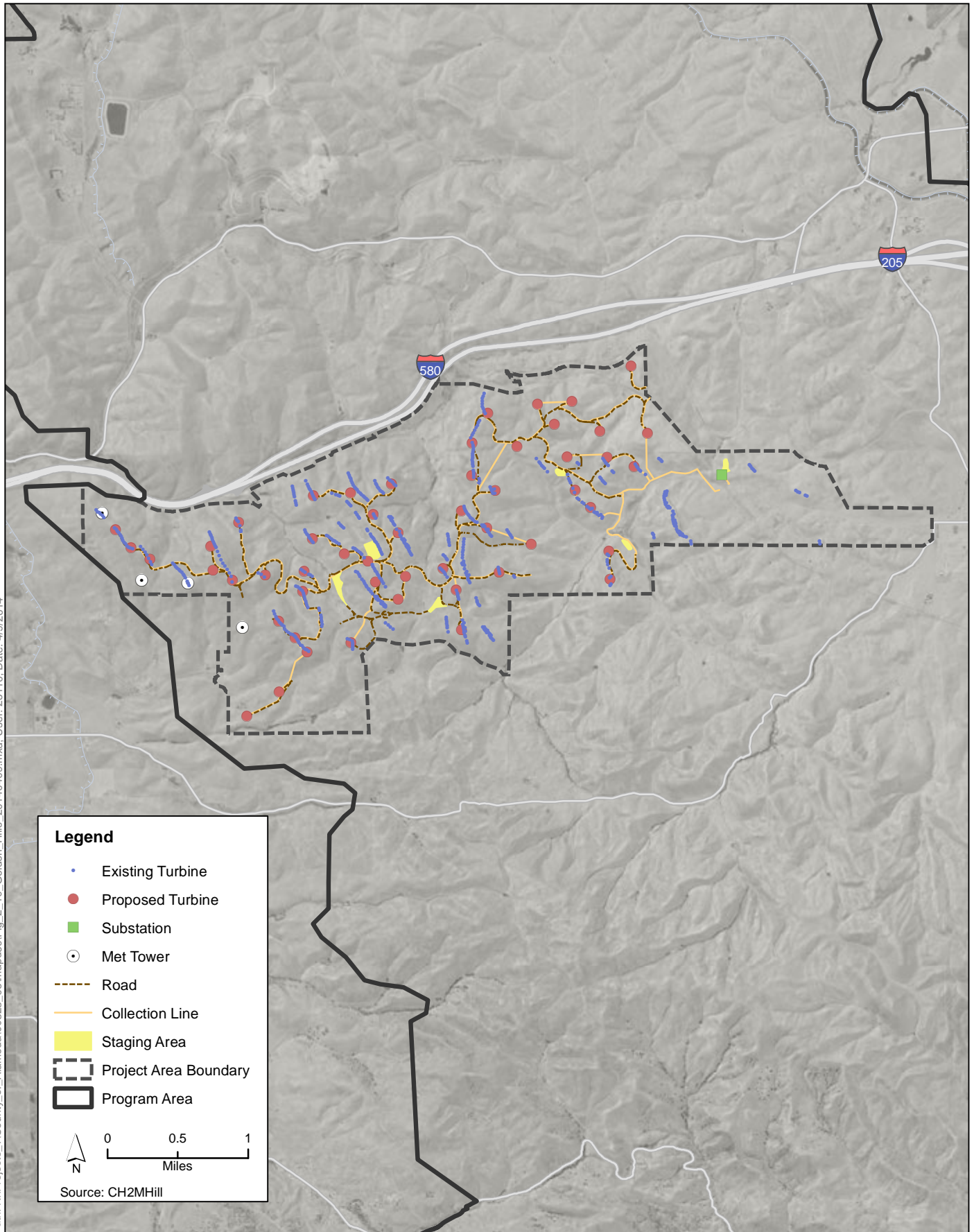
**Legend**

- Program Area
- Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area
- Golden Hills Project Area
- Patterson Pass Project Area
- Existing Turbine
- Residential Area

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**Legend**

- Existing Turbine
- Proposed Turbine
- Substation
- Met Tower
- Road
- Collection Line
- Staging Area
- Project Area Boundary
- ▭ Program Area

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