

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PLANNING COMMISSION



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SUBJECT:** Strauss Wind Energy Project  
**CASE NUMBERS:** 16CUP-00000-00031, 18CDP-00000-00001, 18VAR-00000-00002, 18EIR-00000-00001

**DATE OF HEARING:** November 20 and 22, 2019

**PLACE:** COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM  
123 EAST ANAPAMU STREET  
SANTA BARBARA CA 93101

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Stauss Wind, LLC, an affiliate of BayWa r.e. Wind, LLC, proposes to construct and operate a 102 megawatt (MW) wind energy project south of the City of Lompoc. The Project site is the location of the previously proposed Lompoc Wind Energy Project (LWEP, 06CUP-00000-00009), which was approved by the County in 2009, but never constructed. The Strauss Wind Energy Project (SWEP) includes: 30 wind turbine generators (WTGs) up to 492 feet tall; a new 7.3-mile, 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to interconnect with the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) electric grid; an approximate 1-acre substation; an approximate 1.4-acre switchyard; an approximate 0.4-acre operations and maintenance building; onsite communication system, meteorological tower, and electrical collection lines; reconductor (replacing wires and poles) for 0.8 miles along PG&E's existing Manville 115-kV power line from the proposed switchyard to PG&E's Cabrillo substation in the City of Lompoc; and upgrades to the Cabrillo substation. In addition, Strauss Wind, LLC requests a variance to allow removal of all setback requirements from internal property lines on the Wind Site and modifications to setbacks of the WTGs from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) property.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project site is located on 5,887 acres located approximately 4.2 miles south of the City of Lompoc, 2.3 miles northwest of the coast adjacent to VAFB, 3.5 miles north of Jalama Beach County Park, and 3.6 miles southwest of Highway 1. The Project's Wind Site is located on 11 properties; the Project's transmission line corridor would be located on 11 properties, starting at the Wind Site and running east and northeast to the City of Lompoc. The Project site is located within the Third and Fourth Supervisorial Districts.

**Public Hearing and Comment:** The Planning Commission hearing begins at 9:00 a.m. The order of items listed on the agenda is subject to change by the Planning Commission. Anyone interested in this matter is invited to appear and speak in support of or in opposition to the project. **Written comments** are also welcome. All letters should be addressed to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission, 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101. Letters, with nine copies, and computer materials, e.g. PowerPoint presentations, should be filed with the secretary of the Planning Commission no later than **12:00 P.M. on the Monday** before the Planning Commission hearing. You may also submit comment letters electronically to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary at [dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us). The decision to accept late materials will be at the discretion of the Planning Commission.

Persons may address the Planning Commission by using the remote video testimony system located at the Betteravia Government Center, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

Maps and/or staff analysis of the proposal may be reviewed at the Planning and Development Department, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara one week prior to the public hearing. They may also be found on the Planning and Development Department's website, located at [www.sbcountyplanning.org](http://www.sbcountyplanning.org) and at: [www.countyofsb.org/plndev/projects/energy/Strauss.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/plndev/projects/energy/Strauss.sbc).

For further information, please contact the planner, Kathy Pfeifer at (805) 568-2507.

If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence to the Planning Commission prior to the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact the Hearing Support Staff at (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable the Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.

Planning Commission Hearings are televised live on County Santa Barbara Television (CSBTv) Channel 20 at 9:00 A.M. for the South Coast, Lompoc, Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Maria and Orcutt areas. Rebroadcast of Planning Commission Hearings are on Fridays at 5:00 P.M. on CSBTv Channel 20.



# County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director

Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director

Steve Mason, Assistant Director

## TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT STRAUSS WIND ENERGY PROJECT

18EIR-00000-0001 (State Clearinghouse #2018071002)

(October 31, 2019)

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a proposed Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) has been prepared for the Strauss Wind Energy Project (16CUP-00000-0031, 18CDP-00000-00001 and 18VAR-00000-00002). The Project site is the location of the previously proposed Lompoc Wind Energy Project (LWEP, 06CUP-00000-00009), which was approved by the County in 2009, but never constructed. A Final EIR was prepared for the LWEP and certified by the County in February 2009 (County EIR No. 06EIR-00000-00004). The SWEP environmental review is a supplement to the LWEP EIR.

This proposed Final SEIR discusses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and suggests measures which could eliminate or reduce these impacts. As a result of this project, Class I (significant and unavoidable) effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Biological Resources, and Land Use. Class II (significant but mitigable) effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Fire Hazards and Emergency Services, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Noise, Paleontological Resources, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. Class IV (beneficial) effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Supply. This SEIR is intended to serve as an informational document that informs the public, decision-makers and other interested agencies of the potential environmental consequences of the proposed project. The SEIR will be reviewed by the decisionmakers in their consideration of the proposed project. While CEQA requires that major consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the County of Santa Barbara and other responsible public agencies are obligated to balance the environmental effects of the project with other public objectives, including economic and social factors, in determining whether and in what manner, the project should be approved.

A Draft SEIR for the Strauss Wind Energy Project was released for public review on April 24, 2019. The public review period closed on June 14, 2019. An Environmental Hearing was held on May 30, 2019. **All comments received on the Draft SEIR have been responded to in the**

**Response to Comments section of the proposed Final SEIR.<sup>1</sup> Where appropriate, changes have been made to the Draft SEIR text in response to comments received, and have been incorporated into this proposed Final SEIR.**

County staff will prepare a staff report and forward it with the proposed Final SEIR and staff recommendation to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will review the environmental document and the staff report and will conduct public hearings on **November 20 and 22, 2019** at the at the **County Planning Commission Hearing Room at 123 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara.**

Please contact Kathy Pfeifer, planner, at (805) 568-2507 or [kathypr@countyofsb.org](mailto:kathypr@countyofsb.org) for additional project and hearing date information. Final action on the project and certification of the SEIR will be taken by the Planning Commission at their public hearing.

If a copy of the proposed Final SEIR is not attached, a copy may be obtained at P&D's offices at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria and on our website at: [www.countyofsb.org/plndev/projects/energy/Strauss.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/plndev/projects/energy/Strauss.sbc). All documents referenced in the SEIR are also available for review. Additionally, the proposed Final SEIR is available for review at the the Lompoc Public Library at 501 E. North Avenue in Lompoc, the Santa Barbara Public Library at 40 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara, and the UCSB library.

Errin Briggs, Environmental Hearing Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to PRC 21092, public agencies that commented on the draft EIR are herewith provided a copy of the Final EIR or relevant portions and our response to agency comments.