

WHAT THE EXPERTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ALTAMONT PASS BIRD KILL PROBLEM

“Wind turbine-caused raptor mortality was greater at the APWRA than at any other wind farm in the world, based on published reports. We estimated bird mortality caused by wind turbine collisions at the APWRA to be...about 22,000 to 44,000 birds over the past 20 years of wind turbine operations.”

BioResource Consultants 11/10/03 letter to Alameda County regarding APWRA permits

“Society...regards the killing of golden eagles as an impropriety that should be mitigated, an attitude reflected in both state and federal law.”

Golden Eagles in a Perilous Landscape, California Energy Commission (Hunt 2002)

“High raptor mortality documented at Altamont Pass...has resulted in a great deal of scrutiny of other wind plant developments. In the mid-1990’s, development of wind projects were delayed, sometimes to a point that the project was not developed, due in part to avian collision concerns.”

Wind power industry report on avian and bat mortality at wind developments (Erickson et al. 2002)

“Twenty-nine Golden Eagle incidents over an approximately three year period, in an area of about 50 square miles, should be considered an unacceptable level of accidental mortality. This is particularly significant with a species, like the Golden Eagle, which breeds in very low densities, has a low reproductive rate, has suffered population declines throughout its range in California and elsewhere, and is considered uncommon and a species of special concern in California.”

Avian Mortality at Large Wind Energy Facilities in California: Identification of a Problem, CA Energy Commission (Estep 1989)

“The environmental impacts of these projects have not been adequately addressed. Avian mortality due to wind energy development has been an ongoing problem in the APWRA. The Service believes that the potential to minimize mortalities in the APWRA have not been fully explored.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 11/12/03 letter to Alameda County regarding APWRA permits

“The operation of turbines and use of rodenticide associated with the operation of turbines is causing mortality to State and Federally listed species, State species of special concern, and State fully protected species.”

CA Department of Fish and Game 11/13/03 letter to Alameda County regarding APWRA permits

“The Energy Commission supports the expansion of wind energy and other renewable energy sources in the state, but has consistently maintained that this must be done in an environmentally responsible manner.”

California Energy Commission 11/13/03 letter to Alameda County regarding APWRA permits

“We do not believe that the proposed project provides adequate mitigation to fully compensate for both the individual and cumulative effects of wind turbine projects on raptors. The wind turbine areas...act as sinks for the raptor species and other sensitive wildlife...without adequate measures to protect raptor species in the Altamont Hills, the long-term viability of raptors on adjacent public lands is also in question.”

East Bay Regional Park District 12/4/03 letter to Alameda County regarding APWRA permits

“The number of deaths of golden eagles and other wildlife caused by collisions with windmills must be considered ‘significant’ in the legal context as well as being unacceptable to society.”

11/4/04 letter to Alameda County from raptor experts Pete Bloom, Grainger Hunt, Hans Peeters, and Bob Risebrough