

Tule Wind Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The Tule Wind Project is the first wind energy project approved on public lands in California since 2002, and will produce up to 186 megawatts of clean energy, enough to power up to 65,000 homes.

VITALS

Location: San Diego County, CA

Technology: Wind turbines

Electricity production capacity: 186 megawatts

Company: Tule Wind LLC (Iberdrola Renewables, Inc.)



BY THE NUMBERS - The project is expected to:

- ✓ Produce enough electricity to power up to 65,000 homes
- ✓ Create up to 325 jobs during peak construction and 12 permanent jobs
- ✓ Generate an estimated \$3.5 million into the local economy during construction and \$2 million annually in overall economic output once the project is up and running
- ✓ Provide an annual base rental of \$785,295 for use of public land
- ✓ Be built on 12,360 acres of public lands. Other portions of the project are proposed on Ewiiapaayp Tribal, State of California and private land.
- ✓ Connect to the proposed Boulevard Substation rebuild component of San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E's) East County (ECO) Substation Project

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is working closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community, tribes and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

- ✓ **Smaller Footprint:** The number of wind turbines on public lands was reduced from 128 to 62 to avoid impacts to biological, cultural and hydrological resources.
- ✓ **Smart Siting:** Portions of the electrical lines will be placed underground, with some facilities sited on previously disturbed private land.
- ✓ **Protecting Cultural Resources:** Memorandum of Agreement and Historic Properties Treatment Plan-Cultural Resources Management Plan are in place to avoid and minimize impacts to cultural resources.
- ✓ **Avian and Bat Protection Plan:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM worked with the applicant to minimize potential risk to golden eagles by requiring intensive eagle surveys to guide siting of wind turbines and requiring measures to address avian issues if they arise.
- ✓ **Reduced Visual Impacts:** Visual impacts will be minimized by installing fewer wind turbines, locating portions of the electrical line underground, and minimizing lighting and structure visibility.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the BLM committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated, focused processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process. In the past two years, Salazar has used this approach to approve 25 major renewable energy projects on public lands. When constructed, the projects are expected to create nearly 12,000 construction and operational jobs and produce more than 6,200 megawatts of energy, enough to power 2.2 million American homes. These projects include 15 commercial-scale solar energy facilities, three wind projects and seven geothermal plants.

A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP: On October 12, 2009 Secretary Salazar and then-Governor Schwarzenegger signed an agreement directing Interior agencies and California State agencies to create a federal-state initiative to advance development of environmentally appropriate renewable energy on U.S. lands in California. The BLM worked with the California Public Utilities Commission to combine analysis of the Tule Wind Project with the CPUC's East County Substation and the Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects. This cooperative model allowed for a more comprehensive analysis of these related projects.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Tule Wind Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. The State of California is working to achieve a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard, which will require 15,000 – 20,000 MW of renewable energy by 2020.