



Councilmember Betty Olds  
District # 6

CONSENT CALENDAR  
January 29, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: City Councilmember Betty Olds  
Subject: Wind Turbines and Bird Deaths

#### RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to write letters to both the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Planning Department, expressing the Berkeley City Council's concerns about the number of bird deaths as a result of wind turbines in the Altamont Pass.

#### BACKGROUND

A year ago, a legal settlement between environmental groups, wind companies and Alameda County regulators promised to reduce bird deaths by 50% within three years. In addition, the agreement called for the closure or relocation of 300 wind turbines that are considered to be the most threatening to birds, especially golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels and burrowing owls. Recently, the Scientific Review Committee, a team of five scientists who studied the situation, reported that efforts to reduce bird deaths are not on track to meet the 50% goal. The report also concluded that additional older turbines need to be removed, than originally thought. Bird deaths can be reduced by replacing older turbines with fewer, bigger, more powerful wind turbines.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None

#### CONTACT PERSON

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