
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 4:54 PM
To: web; Clerk
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form

Name * Roger Sundahl

Select a Choice Full Board of Directors and District Clerk

Email * [REDACTED]

Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward) Portola Valley, Ca

Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone) [REDACTED]

Comments: *

In light of your recent narrowly approved bond measure, I would like the board to consider the following:

- 1) Does the Open Space Trust support renewable energy?
- 2) If you do support renewable energy, would you allow either wind mills or solar panels on those parts of your open space land that have sufficient solar or wind energy to support the production of electricity? More specifically, would you support wind mills on Windy Hill?

Thanks for your consideration.

Roger Sundahl

July 23, 2014

Mr. Sundahl,

As an open space agency, the District's primary purpose is to preserve open space and provide public access and low-intensity recreational uses appropriate to the nature of the land, where new uses would need to be compatible with the District's Mission and open space land preservation objectives.

The District is supportive of energy efficiency measures and evaluating renewable energy technologies (such as wind turbine, solar photovoltaic systems, etc.) where they are consistent with the District's Mission, Objectives and Board-adopted Basic Policies. Viable proposals would protect the physical and environmental characteristics of the land, as well as the quality of the visitor use experience while avoiding financial burdens to the District and impacts to the natural resources. Renewable energy proposals that facilitate public recreation, the preservation of significant structures, or support agriculture would be of greatest interest to the District.

A proposal for solar panels and wind mills at Windy Hill would need to demonstrate consistency with the District's Mission, objectives and Board-adopted Basic Policies as well as compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project's potential environmental impacts. The proposal would need to be analyzed in terms of its scale, design and purpose and consistency with the allowable uses on the land (i.e. deed restrictions, adopted use and management plans) and may require a land use policy recommendation for the Board's consideration.

The property deed for Windy Hill Open Space Preserve restricts uses to "limited to low intensity" recreation and open space uses such as hiking and equestrian trails, picnicking, etc. Proposals for new types of development, such as parking lots, paved roads, campgrounds and facilities (i.e. solar panels and wind mills), would require a conditional use permit and advisory design review by the Town of Portola Valley as part of the permitting process. Given potential environmental impacts that renewable energy project(s) may pose on the visual (aesthetic) values of resources and surrounding land uses and on wildlife habitat (i.e. birds), it is anticipated that challenges may occur with the permitting process and environmental review for larger-scale development proposals.

To date, the District has integrated renewable energy facilities on a limited basis to help manage its properties more efficiently and cost-effectively. Examples include the installation of solar-powered access gates at Preserves entrances/parking areas and windmills to power agricultural water pumps in remote Coastal areas.

Thank you for sharing comments about the renewable energy opportunities that the District can consider in the Preserves.

Cecily Harris
Board President