

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality --- Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification**

September 6, 2016

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within two or more Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, which governs the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Tule Wind LLC

**Applicant Contact:** Jesse Gronner  
**Phone:** (509) 796-7045  
**Email:** [jesse.gronner@iberdrolaren.com](mailto:jesse.gronner@iberdrolaren.com)

**Project Name:** Tule I Wind (Project)  
**File Numbers:** State Water Board File #16004IN, RM 406053  
U.S. Army Corps File # 2009-00969-SAS

On May 3, 2016, the State Water Board received an application requesting a certification for activities related to the Tule I Wind Project (Project), from the ICF International (Agent) on behalf of Tule Wind, LLC (Applicant). A previous, now withdrawn, application submitted to the State Water Board proposed activities and impacts within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin and the San Diego Water Quality Control Boards. The current application proposes activities only in the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Board. An additional phase of the Project that would affect both Regional Water Boards is expected to be proposed at a later date. By agreement with the Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board will continue to administer applications for the Project. The application was determined complete on August 30, 2016.

**Project Purpose:** The purpose of the Project is to provide renewable energy with 67 wind turbines.

**Project Description:** Project would construct 62 wind turbines on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and five turbines on private land in southeastern San Diego County. Total project area is 447.9 acres.

Projected permanent and temporary impacts to waters of the state (including waters of the U.S.) are summarized in Table 1, below.

The Applicant proposes to perform activities necessary to construct the following Project components:

- Install a total of 67 three bladed, horizontal-axis wind turbines.
- Link each of the turbines with a 34.5 kilovolt (kV) overhead and underground collector cable system terminating at a collector substation, including approximately 98,127 feet of

trenched underground lines and 37,795 feet of overhead lines suspended from approximately 100 80-foot-tall, 30-inch diameter poles.

- Construct a collector substation to receive the electricity transmitted by the 34.5 kV collection system and convert it to 138 kV output.
- Install a 138 kV transmission line (20,614 feet overhead, 5,230 feet underground) connecting the project collector substation to the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Boulevard Substation located south of Interstate 8 on Old Highway 80 (i.e., the Project’s southern terminus is the point where the new transmission line enters the Boulevard Substation).
- Construct 22.49 miles of new access roads and improve 27.86 miles of existing access roads to accommodate construction, delivery and operations equipment and traffic (summarized in Table 2).
- Construct temporary infrastructure including a 10 acre parking and construction trailer area, a 5 acre concrete batch plant and twelve two-acre laydown yards.
- Install three permanent meteorological towers (MET), one Sonar Detection and Range System (SONAR) unit or one light detecting and ranging (LIDAR) unit.

**Table 1: Summary of Impacts to waters of the state**

Feature	Permanent Impacts (acre)	Permanent Impacts (linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (acre)	Temporary Impacts (linear feet)
Wetland				
Streambed	0.121	2,099	0.341	6,510
Lake/Reservoir				
Ocean/Estuary/Bay				
Riparian				
Isolated Waters				
<b>Total Impacts</b>	<b>0.121</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>0.341</b>	<b>6,510</b>

**Table 2: Tule 1 Wind Access Roads**

Road Type/Description	Permanent Road Width (Feet)	Temporary Road Width (Feet)	Total Road Length (Feet)	Total Temporary New Road Length (Feet)	Total Temporary Reworked Road Length (Feet)	Total Permanent New Road Length (Feet)	Total Permanent Reworked Road Length (Feet)	Total Road Length (Miles)
Turbine Access	18	-	7898	-	-	7898	-	1
Turbine Access with Crane Travel	18	36	69160	-	-	69160	-	13
McCain Valley Road Improvements	20	-	29139	-	-	810	28329	6
McCain Valley Road Improvements with Crane Travel	20	36	28266	-	-	-	28266	5
Facilities Road	30	-	1511	-	-	1481	30	0
Temporary Facilities Road	-	24	2752	2522	230	-	-	1
Temporary Electrical Access	-	15	17523	17523	-	-	-	3
Temporary Well Access	-	12	1052	422	630	-	-	0
RAR Connector Road	28	-	11113	-	-	10563	550	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168414</b>	<b>20467</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>89912</b>	<b>57175</b>	<b>32</b>

*Note - Reworked road is defined as any portion of road that is existing (width varies), includes two-track roads.*

**Project Location and Affected Counties:** The Project is located in the McCain Valley, approximately 6 miles north of the community of Boulevard. The total project area is 447.9 acres. (See Figure 1, Project Area Map).

### **Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), acting as joint lead agencies, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) respectively, prepared a Joint Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State Clearinghouse No.2009121079). The Final EIR/EIS was certified by the CPUC on April 19, 2012.

The Applicant has filed for authorization under South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District Nationwide Permit 12 concurrently with this water quality certification application.

The Applicant has also applied for a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

State Water Board staff are proposing to regulate the Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on September 6, 2016 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on September 27, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Clifford Harvey at (916) 558-1709 or [Clifford.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Clifford.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Public Review Period:** State Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by email or mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the date of this announcement. Written comments should be submitted to the following address:

**State Water Resources Control Board Staff Contact:**

Cliff Harvey, Environmental Scientist  
Division of Water Quality  
401 Certification and Wetlands Unit  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**Telephone:** (916) 558-1709

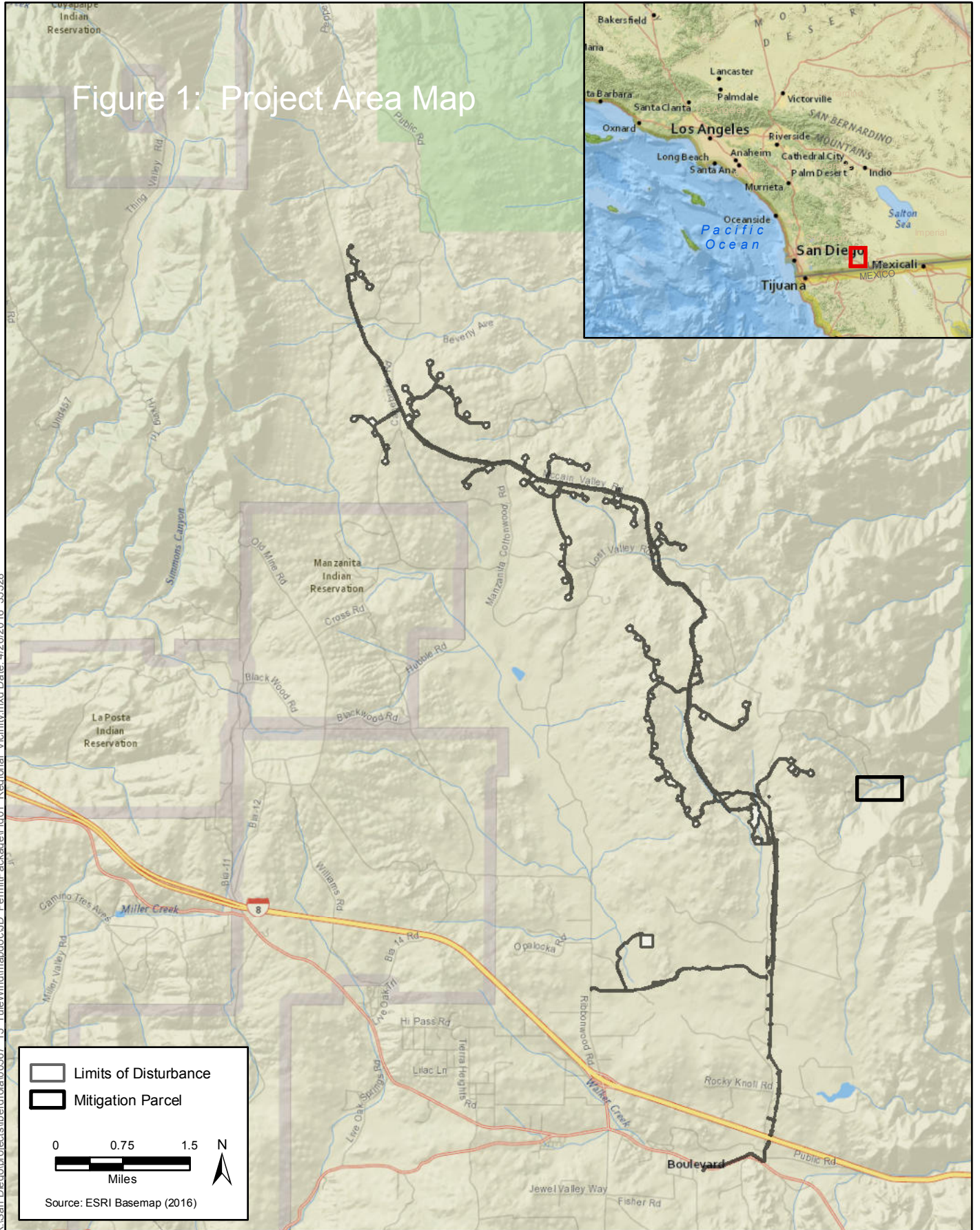
**Fax:** (916) 341-5584 (ATTN: Cliff Harvey)

**Email:** [clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**



Figure 1: Project Area Map



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**Figure 1**  
**Regional Vicinity Map**  
**Tule I Wind Project | Permit Application**

***KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES***

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the SUBSCRIBE button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml)

Select "CWA 401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.

You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.