



Re: EFSEC Hearing regarding Badger Mountain Solar Project on November 17, 2021

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The Sierra Club is a national organization with a mission to protect the planet; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club has over 100,000 members and supporters in Washington State and over 3.8 million nationally.

The Sierra Club has a long history of supporting renewable energy. In 2006, the Sierra Club worked very hard to pass Initiative 937 in Washington State. This initiative required utilities to obtain 15% of their electricity from renewable resources (excluding hydro) by 2020. In 2019, the Sierra Club supported and worked to pass the Clean Energy Transformation Act which commits Washington State to 100% percent clean electricity by 2045. Nationally, the Sierra Club continues work to pass national legislation for a fossil fuel free electrical grid.

That said, the Sierra Club also believes that clean energy must be developed such that it does not destroy the habitat of our endangered species. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, there are less than 700 endangered greater Sage Grouse in Washington State, their range is down to 8% of their historic range and they occur in two relatively isolated areas in Washington State.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, one of the remaining sage grouse refuges may intersect with the proposed Badger Mountain Solar project.

The Sierra Club supports a full independent EIS for the proposed Badger Mountain Solar project to determine the effects of this proposed project on one of the last strongholds of the Greater Sage Grouse in Washington. Once those effects are known, it must be determined what mitigation may be required, up to and including modifying or potentially moving this project such that it does not interfere with the greater sage grouse.

Regards,

Margie Van Cleve  
Conservation Chair – Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/centrocercus-urophasianus#desc-range>