

# Distributed Wind Deployment: Vineyard/Winery

Rural agricultural installation of one 1.85-megawatt wind turbine



Under a power purchase agreement structure, this GE 1.85-megawatt wind turbine is owned and operated by an affiliate of Foundation Windpower, LLC. The project is hosted by Scheid Family Wines in Salinas Valley, California, an agricultural operation that features access to an unobstructed wind resource. An added benefit of the project is production that matches the utility's peak afternoon demand. *Photo by Foundation Windpower, LLC*

**Project description:** This winery is located in the Salinas Valley south of Greenfield, California, where strong winds produced by an influx of cool air from Monterey Bay present ideal conditions for wind development. The Diablo Mountain Range to the east and the Santa Lucias to the west further amplify the winds, which blow consistently in the afternoons. The wind turbine, surrounded by vineyard land, has no obstructions to negatively influence the wind resource at hub height.

**Year of installation:** Construction began in December 2016 and the project was commissioned in September 2017.

**Type of customer:** Agricultural

**Utility:** Annualized net-metered project. The interconnection is with Pacific Gas & Electric, an investor-owned utility.

**Estimated production:** 4,000 megawatt-hours (MWh)/year plus demand-charge savings

**Actual production:** 3,927 MWh/year (first full year of operation)

**Percent of electricity offset:** 100%

**Additional consideration:** An intangible, non-economic factor that influenced the Scheid installation was the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

## In Their Words

*As an experienced developer/owner, why did you think this installation would be successful?*

Previous projects have allowed us to build knowledge about the wind resource, permitting environment, and interconnection processes within the state. This experience has ensured that we are able to develop optimum wind sites that help meet authentic sustainability practices.

- Steve Sherr, vice president of business affairs & general counsel, Foundation Windpower

*What was the driving force behind your decision to move forward with this project, and what do you think will make it successful?*

As a family-owned winery, we are committed to sustainability throughout the operations at Scheid Family Wines. Installing a new wind turbine is yet another facet of our desire to be good stewards of the environment. It's the perfect power source for the inexhaustible winds of the Salinas Valley and a new reason to feel great about pouring yourself a second glass of your favorite Scheid wine!

- Kurt Gollnick, chief operating officer, Scheid Family Wines



The Scheid distributed wind installation is Foundation Windpower's third Salinas Valley project. *Photo by Foundation Windpower, LLC*