

DOCKETED

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May 27, 2026

Honorable Members of the California Legislature
California State Capitol
10th and L Streets
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Honorable Members of the California Legislature:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is pleased to provide this letter that outlines the progress and status of the CEC's administration of the Voluntary Offshore Wind Program (Program), which was established by Assembly Bill (AB) 209 (Chapter 251, Statutes of 2022) and amended by AB 1373 (Garcia, Chapter 367, Statutes of 2023) and AB 1417 (Stefani, Chapter 397, Statutes of 2025).

The Program statutes are Public Resource Code [\(PRC\) Section 25992 – 25992.22](#).

PRC Section 25992.22 requires the CEC on or before March 15, 2024, and each January thereafter concurrent with the submission of the Governor's Budget, to submit a report to the Legislature and the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on the moneys received and allocated pursuant to this chapter. The report shall include, but not be limited to, a description of and information on the use of funds, geographic distribution of fund allocation, program activities, and awardees.

California's offshore wind policies and programs are informed by the AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) (Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021).¹ The Strategic Plan provides the foundation for the Program.

Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Program

The Program's purpose is to support state activities that complement and are in furtherance of federal laws related to the development of offshore wind facilities, including federal laws providing for offshore wind lease conditions set by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The Program statutes provide detailed guidance on authorized funding activities. Generally, the activities support funding coordination with agencies, environmental impacts monitoring and research, workforce development, and infrastructure readiness. AB 1417 adds capacity funding for local and tribal communities.

Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Fund

¹ On July 10, 2024 the CEC adopted the final reports *Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan Volume I: Overview Report*, *Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan Volume II: Main Report*, and *Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan Volume III: Appendices*.
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/ab-525-reports-offshore-renewable-energy>.



The Program statutes establish the Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Fund (Fund) and the Private Donations Account (Account) within that Fund. The purpose of the Fund and Account is to accept donations from private and federal sources. The statutes allow the CEC to enter into an agreement with a donor to use the donation consistent with the Program statutes.

Notwithstanding [Section 13340 of the Government Code](#), the Fund and Account are appropriated without regard to fiscal year.² To date, no appropriation, donations, or other deposits have been made into the Fund or Account and the balances of each are zero.

AB 1417 Program Updates

AB 1417, effective January 1, 2026, amends the existing Program statutes. CEC staff is incorporating AB 1417 changes into its Program implementation, specifically, the 1) Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Program [PRC Sections 25992.10 - 25992.11], and 2) Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Fund [PRC Section 25992.20 - 25992.22].

AB 1417 defines an “eligible entity” and an “offshore wind entity” for Program purposes and requires that offshore wind entities report four times per year to the CEC on their voluntary donation activities with eligible entities. AB 1417 requires the CEC to report to the legislature on March 1 of each year on capacity building activities supported by the Program. Finally, AB 1417 adds a requirement that the CEC annually post a public report on specified Program activities.

Going Forward

With the completion of the Strategic Plan, the CEC began scoping a public process to implement the Program. The CEC has begun coordinating with partner agencies including the California Coastal Commission, California State Lands Commission, California Ocean Protection Council, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The CEC is preparing a Request for Information that it plans to release in the second quarter of 2026 and plans to adopt Program guidelines by the fourth quarter of 2026. The CEC is required to provide an opportunity for public input and at least one public workshop in developing guidelines or standards. The statute provides an exemption from the Administrative Procedure Act for those guidelines or standards.

² Section 13340 of the Government Code provides that state funds are appropriated through the annual Budget Act and are not continuously appropriated unless a statute expressly authorizes it.



The CEC will use a webpage, docket, and listserv to support and promote public engagement. CEC staff will work with stakeholders, tribes, and other state and federal agencies throughout the development of the guidelines and Program implementation.

If you have any follow-up questions or to request additional printed copies of this letter, please contact Director of the Office of Governmental and International Affairs, Sarah Brady, at sarah.brady@energy.ca.gov or 916-664-1754.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Bohan".

Drew Bohan
Executive Director