

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Defenders of Wildlife*

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**Comments of Defenders of Wildlife on the April 20, 2018 IEPR Commissioner Workshop on North Coast Regional Energy Perspective**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



To: California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Docket No. 18-IEPR-02  
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From: Kim Delfino, Defenders of Wildlife

Date: May 4, 2018

Subject: Comments of Defenders of Wildlife on the April 20, 2018 IEPR  
Commissioner Workshop on North Coast Regional Energy  
Perspective

Docket Number: 18-IEPR-02

Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) respectfully submits these comments on the April 20, 2018 IEPR Commissioner Workshop on North Coast Regional Energy Perspective to the California Energy Commission (CEC).

Defenders, on behalf of our 279,000 members and supporters in California, works towards protection of wildlife, ecosystems, and landscapes while supporting the timely development of renewable energy resources in California. Achieving a low carbon energy future is critical for California – for our economy, our communities and the environment. Achieving this future—and *how* we achieve it—is critical for protecting California’s internationally treasured wildlife, landscapes, productive farmlands, and diverse habitats.

We appreciate the Commissioners visit and workshop on the North Coast to hear firsthand in the community of the region’s energy issues, initiatives, and perspectives. The potential for floating offshore wind projects is an interesting development for the region and California and there is much to learn and consider. To that end, Defenders strongly supports leveraging analytical tools for landscape scale analysis and facilitating local government efforts for renewable energy planning. We appreciate that the Commission has put so much effort into developing tools for this work.

The proposal for North Coast offshore wind is in the earliest stages and presents the opportunity to do science-driven, community stakeholder-based “smart from the start” planning to create a least conflict energy region. The Offshore Wind Energy Gateway will be an essential tool for considering how and where wind generation could occur off the North Coast. Equally important will be considering how and where offshore wind energy comes onshore. The Environmental Report Writer has great potential for considering onshore siting, construction and operations, and the transmission of offshore wind energy. We see a unique and important opportunity to use both tools to comprehensively consider and plan for North Coast offshore wind energy from the deep-water generation site to coastal support and gen-tie, and finally to the grid.

Science-based geospatial analysis and landscape level planning tools provide essential supporting and enabling functionality, to make smart-from-the-start planning possible. These tools help to protect our remaining natural resources while meeting our energy, housing, and economic needs for a sustainable future in California. We strongly encourage the Commission to support and fund these planning efforts for the North Coast.

Defenders of Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to comment on the April 20, 2018 IEPR Commissioner Workshop on North Coast Regional Energy Perspective and seeing the Offshore Wind Energy Gateway and Environmental Report Writer to comprehensively plan for smart from the start North Coast energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Delfino", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Delfino  
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Defenders of Wildlife  
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