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Comment on Preliminary Draft Utility Scale Renewable Energy Generation Research

We broadly agree with the assessment of barriers and challenges for the offshore wind industry and deploying offshore wind to CA. Recommended initiative 5.1 (Cost Reduction of Offshore Floating Systems with a Focus on Platform and Anchoring Systems) is critical to the viability of offshore wind. While it is true that most utility-scale wind turbines are of the horizontal axis type, there are other configurations being investigated and undergoing testing for floating offshore applications (e.g. airborne turbines, vertical axis turbines etc.) such as those required in CA. Indeed, some of these concepts are mentioned in the Technical Assessment companion document associated with the draft plan (TN # 228862), albeit in the context of onshore wind.

In light of this observation, we feel that the language used in the first sentence of Recommended initiative 5.1 "Floating offshore wind turbines place a horizontal wind turbine on a floating platform..." that defines an offshore wind turbine as a "horizontal wind turbine" is too restrictive. Thus we respectfully suggest that simply rewording the first sentence to be "Floating offshore wind turbines place a wind turbine on a floating platform that is anchored to the seabed with cables." would enable a much more diverse set of responses from the community that would ultimately result in a lower cost of wind energy for CA rate payers.