

DOCKETED

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AWEA-California Statement on 2-7-20 Release of Maps

Attached please find a press release of the American Wind Energy Association of California (AWEA-California) on the California Energy Commission's release of maps for discussion of offshore wind development on the Central Coast of California on February 7, 2020. We look forward to continued discussion with the CEC, other state and federal agencies, and stakeholders.

Danielle Mills

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [Monika Lee](#)
Subject: RELEASE: Offshore wind energy providers remain committed to building offshore wind facilities—at scale—to help California achieve its climate goals
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020 3:38:48 PM
Attachments: [AWEA.png](#)



[American Wind Energy Association](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2020

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Offshore wind energy providers remain committed to building offshore wind facilities—at scale—to help California achieve its climate goals

SACRAMENTO — The American Wind Energy Association of California (AWEA-California) released the following statement today from Director Danielle Osborn Mills, following the California Energy Commission’s [release on Friday](#) of maps highlighting potential offshore wind development areas on the Central Coast:

“The new maps released by the California Energy Commission do not yet identify adequate space for offshore wind production at the scale needed to create a viable industry—or for California to achieve its climate goals. However, they are a reminder of the enormous potential for offshore wind on the Central Coast, where steady winds and new offshore facilities can be connected to existing transmission capacity to provide large quantities of safe, reliable, secure, and renewable energy—with widespread local and statewide economic and environmental benefits.”

“California has enormous offshore wind potential, and as the state makes plans for achieving its 100% clean energy goals, California leaders should commit to standing up a new offshore industry that can operate at scale. This will require the state to plan for 10 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2040 to provide the certainty manufacturers need and to maximize offshore wind’s greenhouse gas reductions, local economic development potential, and ratepayer benefits.”

“The identification of sea space on the Central Coast is essential to achieving an offshore wind industry in California. The State and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management had previously identified approximately 600 square miles of

technically developable sea space in this area, which is otherwise limited by physical and legal constraints. But the new maps identify only about 80 square miles of non-continuous commercially viable sea space within the existing BOEM Morro Bay Call Area—enough for one small project. Due to their closer proximity to shore, we don't expect additional sites identified in the maps that are outside the existing BOEM call area to support additional commercial development.”

“Offshore wind providers encourage the State and BOEM to work together expeditiously in the coming months to expand the amount of sea space available for commercially viable wind production, working toward an auction in the Morro Bay Call Area with sufficient sea space to site and permit multiple economically viable projects. We look forward to engaging with agencies and stakeholders on this critical issue and urge Governor Newsom to promote the development of a robust offshore wind industry the state will need to make its vision of a 100% clean energy future a reality.”

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