

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Vincent Wiraatmadja
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Legislator Comment Letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



California Legislature

July 31, 2020

The California Energy Commission
1415 T Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814

RE: Docket Number: 17- MISC-01
Project Title- California Offshore Renewable Energy

Dear Commissioners:

We write to express our support for the development of offshore wind off the coast of California. Offshore wind technology offers great benefits that will not only energize local communities but will improve the energy grid while protecting against the worsening impacts of climate change. Offshore wind will reduce air pollution in areas traditionally burdened with poor air quality and create quality jobs up and down the state.

In 2018 California adopted Senate Bill (SB) 100 (de Leon), ensuring that California generates 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. California's load-serving entities will need 25-37 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy and storage to meet the state's carbon reduction goals by 2030 and up to 150 GW to achieve SB 100 targets in 2045. The best way to meet these demands is through a diverse composition of clean energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy conservation. Offshore wind must be considered a critical component of the state's efforts to meet its climate and energy goals.

We respectfully ask that you consider the following critical elements that offshore wind brings to California and our recommendations on how the CEC can help to advance this important piece of the state's future energy portfolio:

1. **Labor Opportunities:** Buildout of floating offshore wind off the coast of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay (approximately 3 GW by 2030) could create thousands of much-needed jobs in construction, operations, maintenance over the next decade. The CEC should move ahead with The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and proceed with site identification in the Humboldt and Morro Bay Call Areas to prepare for auctions in 2021.
2. **Environmental Justice:** Offshore wind delivers environmental justice for frontline communities disproportionately burdened by pollution. By moving to a clean source of renewable energy that can be built at scale, we can phase out California's reliance on fossil fuel peaker power plants, which are a source of NOX and other pollutants.

3. **Environmental Impacts:** Moving to offshore wind will help stave off the worst impacts of climate change. The state needs technologies that will move us toward clean energy. A goal of 3 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and 10 GW by 2040 is one way to ensure we are taking full advantage of this technology. And the CEC can support this effort by ensuring that needed research is carried out and mitigation strategies are designed for the potential impacts of offshore wind development on fish, marine mammals and seabirds.
4. **Transmission:** The CEC can also advance offshore wind by beginning long-term planning for the needed transmission infrastructure. If federal economic stimulus monies become available, they can be used to fund local transmission facility upgrades, enabling the development of offshore wind farms in Humboldt County and Santa Barbara County.
5. **Deep-water Ports:** The CEC can also begin long-term planning for the modernization and upgrading of seaports for offshore wind manufacturing, assembly, operations and maintenance. As an initial step, the planning work should include a ground-truthed survey of space availability and governance in ports statewide. Also, in the near term, the Port of Humboldt Bay should be prioritized for federal economic stimulus funding.

We appreciate the CEC's consideration of these benefits that offshore wind can bring to California.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember David Chiu, AD 17



Assemblymember Jim Wood, AD 2



Assemblymember Susan Talamantes-Eggman, AD 13



Assemblymember Bill Quirk, AD 20



Assemblymember Christy Smith, AD 38