

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	19-ERDD-01
Project Title:	Research Idea Exchange
TN #:	235631
Document Title:	Pacific Coast Renewable Energy Comments - Draft Research Concept on Advance to Next-Generation Offshore Wind Energy Technology
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Pacific Coast Renewable Energy
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/16/2020 5:00:23 PM
Docketed Date:	11/16/2020

*Comment Received From: Pacific Coast Renewable Energy
Submitted On: 11/16/2020
Docket Number: 19-ERDD-01*

**Draft Research Concept on Advance to Next-Generation Offshore
Wind Energy Technology**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [Larry Miles](#)
To: [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)
Subject: Draft Research Concept on Advance to Next-Generation Offshore Wind Energy Technology
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 3:42:52 PM

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November 13, 2020

Ms. Silvia Palma-Rojas, Ph.D.
Energy Research & Development
California Energy Commission

Re: "Draft Research Concept: Advance to Next-Generation Offshore Wind Energy Technology" scoping workshop, held October 22, 2020

Dear Dr. Palma-Rojas:

I apologize for the last minute nature of this comment.

In listening to the comments made during the workshop, it was pretty clear that those in attendance having commercial interests were ready to get started with project development in mind. Their belief being, I guess, that the technologies they are promoting are proven and state-of-the-art, and their existing experience is sufficient to dive into the deeper ocean. Perhaps so.

It also seemed to be the case that there was considerable interest in two specific locations – offshore Morro Bay and offshore Humboldt Bay. Morro Bay is of interest because there is or soon will be significant onshore grid access available presumably to the first-come-first-served believers. This onshore grid access is quite valuable. Humboldt Bay area does have a phenomenal wind resource, but limited existing onshore grid connection capacity.

The gist of the CEC's October scoping workshop was pretty accurately described in its title. However, it seemed there was a failure to communicate. It seems the CEC must be focused on a future path to longer-term economically viable offshore wind energy and answering the question, what type of research might facilitate movement toward or down that path? Commercial interests are naturally more interested in getting started down a path with a glimmer of gold at the end.

In my view this begs a question: Has the State of California (or any of its agencies) developed a plan, or is it developing a plan that would describe or identify what the State believes would be a suitable if not preferred use of the vast wind resource potential of the Pacific Ocean off the California Coast? That is, a plan that would benefit ratepayers, taxpayers, citizens, the environment, create jobs in California, and provide an opportunity for those providing the capital to earn a decent return on their investments.

This is a bit like the gold rush. Without a plan, whatever happens will most likely benefit private interests.

The prepared questions suggest the draft research concept might become the State's Plan for offshore wind energy. Is this the intent?

The State has only one chance to develop wind resources in the Pacific in a thoughtful well-

conceived fashion. The High-Speed Rail situation supplies lessons about how not to proceed.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Miles

Pacific Coast Renewable Energy