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BOEM'S lack of stakeholder representation ON the Task Force

please see attached letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
256 Figueroa Street #1, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 239-1219
www.alliancefisheries.org

Ms. Jean Thurston-Keller

July 9, 2021

California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordinator

BOEM Pacific Office

Sent electronically

RE: Concerns about the lack of representation on the Task Force from directly affected stakeholders

Dear Ms Thurston-Keller and members of the Task Force,

The ACSF is deeply concerned that the makeup of the California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force) contains no representatives of stakeholders who will be directly affected by Offshore Wind (OSW) development off of California.

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF) is a 19-year-old 501(c)(3) founded for the purposes of connecting fishermen with their communities, and to represent fishing interests in state and federal processes. The ACSF is a regional organization, with commercial fishing leader representatives from Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, Morro Bay, and Pillar Point harbors, and Port San Luis, on our Board of Directors. Port communities, Coastal Pelagic fisheries, and several recreational fishing organizations also have representatives on our Board. Thus the ACSF represents a large cross-section of fishing and community interests for the Central Coast of California. The term "fisherman" is used inclusive of both our fishing men and women.

BOEM's announcement for the July 13, 2021 Task Force meeting includes this statement about the purpose of the Task Force:

“It serves as a forum to discuss stakeholder issues and concerns; exchange data and information about ocean uses, and biological and physical resources; and facilitate early and ongoing dialogue and collaboration opportunities.” (emphasis added).

This does not appear to be a true statement. How could such information be exchanged and dialog occur if directly affected stakeholders are not at the table? True dialog could inform the federal, state, and local Task Force representatives about stakeholder concerns which might be addressed by their jurisdictions, in addition to informing BOEM. How are commitments by our national and state leaders to social and environmental justice furthered by *excluding* the voices of key stakeholders?

Please recall that the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended, is not the only important federal statute that provides public benefits from the use of ocean resources. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is also such a law, providing for our nation’s food security through the sustainable management of renewable ocean resources.

The region’s commercial fishermen, who will likely be the most impacted of affected stakeholders, feel we should be at the table when matters are discussed that affect our livelihoods, the well-being of our communities, and the nation’s food security.

Please know the ACSF remains committed to constructive engagement in all of the upcoming steps in evaluating the wisdom of OSW development in California’s Central Coast and potential project planning and permitting. We will be submitting detailed comments for the expected Call for Information on the Morro Bay 399 Area.

Thank you for considering this request.

/s/

Alan Alward, Co-Chair

Cc California Energy Commission

