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Offshore Wind California Comments on AB 525 Planning Goals

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Statement by *Offshore Wind California* on Draft Report from California Energy Commission (CEC) on Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Strategic Planning Goals for Offshore Wind Energy in 2030 and 2045
May 8, 2022

The ambitious multi-gigawatt (GW) goals set by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in its draft AB 525 report[1] are very encouraging news and an important milestone for the Golden State's offshore wind industry. They show that California is serious about "going big" on floating offshore wind to drive economies of scale and realize the substantial jobs, climate, and clean power benefits from responsibly developing this remarkable renewable energy resource.

The CEC's preliminary offshore wind planning goals – 3 GW by 2030, 10-15 GW by 2045, and potentially up to 20 GW by 2050 – send an important signal to the industry and other state and federal agencies that California is committed to moving forward expeditiously to make offshore wind power a reality. This includes the federal lease auction this fall and planning for ports, transmission, procurement, additional call areas, workforce development, and a sustainable supply chain to jumpstart California's offshore wind industry.

The ultimate goal is to develop a thriving, world-leading floating wind industry and make offshore wind a key part of California's diverse clean power portfolio, while also protecting marine and coastal resources. That's why we've recommended that the state set bold offshore wind goals of at least 3 GW by 2030, 10 GW by 2040, and 20 GW by 2050. These California targets are now in the CEC draft report and align with the Biden Administration's goal of 30 GW for U.S. offshore wind by 2030 and aim for 110 GW by 2050.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates California's technical offshore wind potential at 200 GW[2], with more than 20 GW[3] in the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) two Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) and three other planning areas. NREL reports that developing 10 GW of offshore wind in California will support thousands of jobs[4], supply 15 percent[5] of its current electricity needs, generate enough competitively priced[6] power for at least 3.5 million homes[7], and produce $20 billion[8] in GDP by 2050.

California's 2021 joint agency report concluded that to reach 100 percent clean energy by 2045, it will need a diverse renewables portfolio including offshore wind. The report's "SB 100 Core Scenario" calls for 10 GW of offshore wind by 2045, or as much as the model would allow, which would complement other renewables and save ratepayers $1 billion in installed clean power capacity.[9] In its first-ever 20-year outlook, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) included 10 GW of offshore wind for transmission planning.[10]

We want to thank the CEC Commissioners and staff for their work in preparing this draft report, as well as the authors and supporters of AB 525, which sets offshore wind planning goals as one of its key deliverables. Looking ahead, we are committed to working with the CEC and other state agencies to continue implementing AB 525's road map, and provide the best industry insights and data to make California a leader in floating offshore wind.

Adam Stern, Executive Director, Offshore Wind California, a trade group of offshore wind developers and technology companies

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[1] CEC - Offshore Wind Development off California: Maximum Feasible Capacity & Megawatt Planning Goals for 2030 & 2045, May 2022.
[2] NREL - 2020 Offshore Wind Resource Assessment for the California Pacific Outer Continental Shelf, October 2020.
[3] NREL - The Cost of Floating Offshore Wind Energy in California Between 2019 and 2032, November 2020.
[4] NREL - Floating Offshore Wind in California: Gross Potential for Jobs & Economic Impacts from Two Future Scenarios, April 2016.
[5] NREL - Floating Offshore Wind Costs in California: Study Results, October 2020.
[6] NREL - The Cost of Floating Offshore Wind Energy in California Between 2019 and 2032, November 2020.
[7] White House - Biden Administration Opens Pacific Coast to New Jobs and Clean Energy Production with Offshore Wind, May 2021.
[8] NREL - Floating Offshore Wind in California: Gross Potential for Jobs & Economic Impacts from Two Future Scenarios, April 2016.
[9] SB 100 Joint Agency Report - Charting a Path to a 100% Clean Energy Future, March 2021.
[10] California ISO - Draft 20-Year Transmission Outlook, January 2022.