

| DOCKETED | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Docket Number: | 17-MISC-01 |
| Project Title: | California Offshore Renewable Energy |
| TN #: | 243700 |
| Document Title: | REACH Central Coast Comments - REACH Central Coast Comments on Draft AB 525 Planning Goals |
| Description: | N/A |
| Filer: | System |
| Organization: | REACH Central Coast |
| Submitter Role: | Public Agency |
| Submission Date: | 6/24/2022 11:46:28 AM |
| Docketed Date: | 6/24/2022 |

*Comment Received From: REACH Central Coast
Submitted On: 6/24/2022
Docket Number: 17-MISC-01*

REACH Central Coast Comments on Draft AB 525 Planning Goals

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

June 24, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Draft AB 525 Planning Goals

Dear California Energy Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) as it seeks to assess and quantify the maximum feasible capacity and establish megawatt planning goals for offshore wind energy pursuant to AB 525. By way of background, REACH is a nonprofit, economic impact organization with a mission to increase economic prosperity on the Central Coast of California. Advancing and supporting the growth of offshore wind and other renewables and clean-tech innovation is a critical part of our regional work.

We appreciated providing [comments on March 11](#) in support of bold megawatt planning goals for 2030 and 2045 to enable the rapid scale up of a new clean energy sector and investment in waterfront infrastructure on the Central Coast, maximize the value of existing Central Coast transmission infrastructure and ensure long-term growth for this critical new industry.

As the CEC looks to finalize its megawatt planning goals, we respectfully encourage it to consider more ambitious targets than those outlined in the draft report, including 20 GW by 2045. Importantly:

- The Central Coast region is actively working to do its part to achieve bold offshore wind goals, recognizing the important role of the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area in reaching the first set of 2030 goals and laying the groundwork for the longer-term growth of this sector over the coming decades. We recently launched a Central Coast waterfront infrastructure study to prepare our region to support the growth of the offshore wind sector and are committed to working in partnership with the CEC to meet bold megawatt planning goals.
- The upcoming fall auction by BOEM continues to spark significant investment interest in our region, more so than perhaps any other policy decision in recent years. Bold goals will be vital to ensure that our region and state continue to attract global interest and investment in scaling up this new energy industry beyond the upcoming auction and facilitate the development of infrastructure and supply chains that will create long-term economic opportunity and jobs.
- Earlier this week we submitted a [letter](#) to Governor Newsom outlining perspectives from the Central Coast community as the state considers the future of Diablo Canyon. A critical element of the policy conversation on this important state energy site is the need to ensure that we are investing now not simply to address short-term energy needs, but for the long-term to build a

REACH

Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

bridge to a renewable energy future. Bold megawatt planning goals, matched with state investment to advance offshore wind, are critical to achieve this long-term vision and support communities such as the Central Coast that are embracing and evolving our roles as energy hubs for the state.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with the CEC to advance these important efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH
melissa@reachcentralcoast.org