

DOCKETED

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Document Title:	Notice of Workshop - AB 525 - Assessing Transmission for Offshore Wind
Description:	Notice of Workshop - AB 525 - Assessing Transmission for Offshore Wind - November 10, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
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CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)

*IN THE MATTER OF:**California Offshore Renewable Energy*

DOCKET NO. 17-MISC-01

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ONLY-ACCESS
WORKSHOP ON ASSEMBLY BILL 525
STRATEGIC PLAN

RE: Offshore Renewable Energy

Notice of Workshop on Assembly Bill 525: Assessing Transmission Upgrades and Investments for Offshore Wind Development off the Coast of California

November 10, 2022

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Remote Access Only
See Attendance Instructions

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a workshop that will focus on the requirements established in Assembly Bill (AB) 525 (Chiu, Stats. 2021, ch. 231) to assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary, including potential subsea transmission options, to support the offshore wind planning goals of 2,000 megawatts (MW) to 5,000 MW in 2030 and 25,000 MW by 2045, established by the CEC in August 2022.

A quorum of CEC commissioners may participate, but no votes will be taken.

The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the direction provided below. Please note that the CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Agenda

The workshop will include presentations on the requirements of AB 525 related to transmission, as well as the offshore wind transmission planning efforts of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in the Integrated Resource Planning proceeding and the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) in the annual Transmission Planning Process. The workshop will also include presentations by the Schatz Energy Research Center, Cal Poly Humboldt, on studies already conducted and new studies underway on transmission for offshore wind. In addition, representatives of the Danish Energy Agency will present on their experience with transmission development for offshore wind in Denmark.

Background

Coordination with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

California has been working with BOEM since 2016 to explore potential offshore wind energy opportunities. The first meeting of the BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (BOEM-California Task Force) was held in October 2016. In October 2018, BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations for three areas off the California coast: Diablo Canyon Call Area, Morro Bay Call Area, and Humboldt Call Area.¹

Following extensive engagement with and comment from the CEC, local, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, ocean users, and other interested persons and agencies, in May 2021, California Governor Newsom, the Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl announced an agreement to advance areas for wind energy development off the northern and central coasts of California for the Humboldt Call Area and areas within and adjacent to the Morro Bay Call Area. BOEM and the State of California held a BOEM-California Task Force meeting on July 13, 2021, to discuss BOEM's process and schedule for moving forward with leasing areas for wind energy in California.

BOEM identified the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) and Humboldt WEA from within the respective call areas. BOEM completed environmental reviews and found no significant impacts for both the Humboldt and Morro Bay WEAs. On May 26, 2022, the Department of Interior announced a public comment period on proposed auction details and lease terms presented in a [proposed sale notice](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/california/2022-11537.pdf) (PSN, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/california/2022-11537.pdf>) for the two WEAs. On June 3, 2022, BOEM and the State of California held a BOEM-CA Task Force meeting to discuss the PSN and other related topics and on August 1, 2022, a group of nine California state agencies [submitted a comment letter to BOEM](https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2022-0017-0043) (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2022-0017-0043>) in response to the PSN with recommendations that reflect California priorities.² On October 18, 2022, the Department of the Interior announced that BOEM will hold an offshore wind energy lease sale for the Morro Bay and

¹ BOEM identifies areas with wind potential, which it designates as call areas. BOEM will issue a call for information and nominations to determine the level of commercial interest and to identify areas within the call area that may be appropriate to analyze for potential leasing.

² The comment letter was submitted on behalf of the state of California by the California Energy Commission, Ocean Protection Council, State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Governor's Office Business and Economic Development, and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency.

Humboldt lease areas on December 6, 2022. Auction details, lease terms, and qualified bidding companies are outlined in the [final sale notice](#) (FSN, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/10/21/2022-22871/pacific-wind-lease-sale-1-pacw-1-for-commercial-leasing-for-wind-power-on-the-outer-continental>).

Assembly Bill 525

In September 2021, the California State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed [AB 525](#) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB525), which requires the CEC in coordination with the California Coastal Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, the State Lands Commission, the Office of Planning and Research, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, the California Independent System Operator, the California Public Utilities Commission, other relevant federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, and others, as needed, to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast in federal waters. The CEC must submit the strategic plan to the California Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June 30, 2023.

AB 525 specifies that on or before June 1, 2022, the CEC must evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and establish megawatt offshore wind energy planning goals for 2030 and 2045.

In July 2022, Governor Newsom issued [a letter to state climate and energy leaders](#) (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/07.22.2022-Governors-Letter-to-CARB.pdf?emrc=1054d6>) asking the CEC to "establish a planning goal of at least 20 gigawatts (GW) by 2045 in the AB 525 process, and to work with our federal partners to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind and account for the needs of all those who use and care about California's precious coastal resources."

In August 2022, to inform the strategic plan, the CEC established preliminary, aspirational offshore wind planning goals of 2 to 5 gigawatts (GW) of floating offshore wind technologies in federal waters off the California coast by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045 as adopted in the [Offshore Wind Energy Development off the California Coast: Maximum Feasible Capacity and Megawatt Planning Goals for 2030 and 2045](#) report (<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=244285&DocumentContentId=78261>).

The CEC is currently working toward meeting the remaining requirements of AB 525, including identifying suitable sea space, creating a permitting roadmap, completing a preliminary assessment of the economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to seaport investments and workforce development needs and standards, developing a plan to improve ports and waterfront facilities, assessing transmission investments needed to achieve the megawatt planning goals, and identifying potential impacts and strategies to identify those impacts.

Assessing Transmission Investments and Upgrades

AB 525 requires the CEC, in consultation with the CPUC and California ISO, to assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary, including potential subsea transmission options, to support the offshore wind planning goals of 2,000 MW to 5,000 MW in 2030 and 25,000 MW by 2045, established by the CEC in August 2022. to support the 2030 and 2045 offshore wind planning goals established by the CEC. The assessment is required to include all relevant information on the cost of subsea high-voltage transmission and information made available by the California ISO Independent System Operator on the cost of network upgrades and the extent to which existing transmission infrastructure and available capacity could support offshore wind energy development. AB 525 requires the findings resulting from these activities be included in the chapter of the strategic plan relating to transmission planning.

Remote Access Instructions

The meeting workshop may be accessed by:

- **Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/99173602939?pwd=NDVLR0crSDQ2Ti9HRmlhQ3AxY1hndz09or> login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the **Webinar ID 991 7360 2939** and **passcode 131430** and follow all prompts.
- **Telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 991 7360 2939 and passcode 131430.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A more accurate transcript of the workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [e-commenting page](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01) for docket 17-MISC-01 at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Oral comments will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2022.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 17-MISC-01 in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 17-MISC-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Direct media inquiries to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Direct general inquiries to Rhetta deMesa at rhetta.demesa@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 628-1640.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at [Docket 17-MISC-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>. When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the topics of "Offshore Renewable Energy" and "Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group". To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: October 31, 2022, at Sacramento, California.

--Original Signed--

Elizabeth Huber
Director
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Subscription List: Offshore Renewable Energy; Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group; Joint-Agency Report - SB 100

