

DOCKETED

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Dec. 23, 2022

Chair Davis Sochschild

Vice Chair Siva Gunda

Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister

Commissioner Patty Monahan

Commissioner Kourtney Vaccaro

Paul Deaver, Staff

RE: Preliminary Assessment of Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind and the Draft Conceptual Permitting Roadmap

Dear Chair Sochschild and Committee Members,

Humboldt County respectfully requests that the California Energy Commission (CEC) extend the Jan. 9, 2023, deadline for submitting comments in Docket 17-MISC-01, for both the Preliminary Assessment of Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind and the Draft Conceptual Permitting Roadmap, by 30 days.

As the CEC is no doubt aware, on Dec. 20, 2022, the Governor declared a state of emergency in Humboldt County due to a 6.4 magnitude earthquake, which has resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries, has disrupted energy and water access to thousands of residents, and requires the county's focused attention—both now and in the coming weeks.

Given the emergency situation, and the fact that the current comment period already overlaps the holiday season, an extension is doubly crucial. The county must have adequate time to meet our residents' critical near-term needs, and to ensure that the county can fully address the CEC's two draft proposals. Both drafts raise important issues that would benefit from robust local stakeholder input—input that cannot be the county's focus until the pressing needs of the ongoing emergency situation are addressed. Humboldt County is one of the two regions most directly addressed by the CEC's reports, making the opportunity for stakeholder engagement and written comments particularly crucial.

For all of these reasons, we ask that the CEC exercise its discretion to extend the time for submitting filed comments to Feb. 8, 2023.

Sincerely,

Elishia Hayes

Humboldt County Administrative Officer

CC: Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood