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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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 California Offshore) Docket No. 17-MISC-01
 Renewable Energy)

Workshop on Assembly Bill 525: Developing a Permitting
 Roadmap for Offshore Wind Energy Development
 off the Coast of California

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

2:00 P.M.

Reported By:
 Elise Hicks

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Reporter Certificate	
Transcriber Certificate	

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 December 19, 2022 2:02 P.M.

3 MS. MACDONALD: Good afternoon. I'm Rachel
4 MacDonald, with the Energy Commission's Siting,
5 Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division.
6 Welcome to this afternoon's workshop focused on a staff
7 presentation of the Draft Conceptual Permitting Roadmap.

8 Before we begin, I'm going to go over a few
9 housekeeping items. First, this meeting is remote
10 access only and is being recorded. The workshop
11 recording will be made available on the Energy
12 Commission's website. Please note that to make the
13 Energy Commission's workshops more accessible, Zoom's
14 closed captioning has been enabled. Attendees can use
15 the service by clicking on the live transcript icon and
16 then choosing either show subtitle or view full
17 transcript. The closed captioning service can be
18 stopped by exiting out of the live transcript or
19 selecting the hide subtitle icon. Now I'll hand it
20 over to Commissioner Vaccaro and the virtual dais for
21 any opening remarks.

22 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Great. Thank you,
23 Rachel. Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to
24 warmly welcome you to today's workshop. I think we have

1 a full dais today, so I'm going to keep my remarks
2 brief. Over, I'd say the course of the past year, many
3 of you have heard me say before that planning for an
4 offshore wind industry in California takes a whole of
5 state government approach, and that the state agencies
6 working on offshore wind are collaborative, coordinated,
7 and dedicated to a thoughtful and responsible approach
8 to offshore wind development. That remains true.

9 The draft paper presenting a conceptual
10 permitting roadmap was jointly developed by both
11 principals and staff from the Energy Commission, State
12 Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, Department of Fish
13 and Wildlife, and Office of Planning and Research. And
14 it was based on input received over the past few years
15 from federal and state partners, a variety of
16 stakeholders, and tribes.

17 In my view, the paper demonstrates a
18 continuing collective commitment to advancing offshore
19 wind and is yet another example of the state agencies
20 speaking with one voice, as we have done before in
21 several instances in the offshore wind space. I look
22 forward to hearing reactions and recommendations on the
23 conceptual roadmap, and to robust public process as we
24 refine and implement it.

25 So, I have a hard time seeing, I think,

1 exactly who is on the virtual dais with me, but I would
2 like to invite Chair Hochschild to make some opening
3 remarks if he's here with us. Okay. I'm not hearing
4 his voice, so I think what I'll do is move forward then
5 to Dr. Huckelbridge with the California Coastal
6 Commission for opening remarks.

7 DR. HUCKELBRIDGE: Thank you, Commissioner
8 Vaccaro. Good afternoon, everyone. For those of you
9 who don't know me, I'm Kate Huckelbridge. I am the
10 current Senior Deputy Director and the incoming
11 Executive Director at the California Coastal Commission.

12 I will also keep my comments really brief
13 today. But I wanted to first thank Commissioner Vaccaro
14 and the Energy Commission staff for organizing the
15 workshop, and also for really taking the lead on the
16 permitting roadmap work. We appreciate that very much.
17 And although I think we still have a lot of work to do,
18 I think the conceptual roadmap we are presenting here is
19 a solid start, including providing some good models that
20 have been successful in the past.

21 So, you know, this is new for all of us, and I
22 think it's important to think of it as a living
23 document, something to be tweaked and improved as we
24 learn more and have the work under our belts. So, I am
25 really looking forward to hearing the feedback on the

1 roadmap from workshop participants today and into the
2 future. So, thanks everybody and again looking forward
3 to hearing.

4 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Great, thank you Kate.
5 Jennifer Lucchesi with the State Lands Commission.

6 MS. LUCCHESI: Hi, everyone. It's nice to be
7 with you on this Monday afternoon. I want to associate
8 myself with Commissioner Vaccaro's remarks and Dr.
9 Huckelbridge's remarks. I'm just looking so forward to
10 hearing your feedback and comments, and working towards
11 improving this conceptual roadmap, and really putting it
12 to work as we move forward with planning next year. So,
13 thank you for your time this afternoon and I'm looking
14 forward to hearing your thoughts.

15 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Great, thank you Jen.
16 And I believe we also have Becky Ota from the Department
17 of Fish and Wildlife with us today. I know she was
18 having some technical difficulties, so might still be
19 challenged with joining us.

20 MS. LUCCHESI: Commissioner Vaccaro, I think
21 she had some audio difficulties, so she had to log out
22 and she'll be logging back in.

23 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Okay, great. Well,
24 we'll have space at the end of the workshop for some
25 closing remarks when we are joined by Becky and

1 hopefully the Chair and a few others. So, with that
2 Rachel, I'd like to pass it back to you. Thank you.

3 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you Commissioner
4 Vaccaro. I'm going to hand it over to Kristy Chew and
5 Eli Harland to begin their presentation. Kristy, please
6 go ahead and turn your camera on.

7 MS. CHEW: Good afternoon. Welcome to another
8 workshop on offshore Wind Energy. I'm Kristy Chew,
9 staff with the Energy Commission's Siting, Transmission,
10 and Environmental Protection Division. This afternoon
11 we'll be discussing the Draft Conceptual Permitting
12 Roadmap for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities Originating
13 in Federal Waters off the Coast of California, which was
14 published on December 15th.

15 Next slide, please.

16 Here is the workshop schedule for this
17 afternoon. First, we will go over the requirements of
18 Assembly Bill 525. I will also share some news about
19 recent federal lease auctions that were held for the
20 Humboldt and Morro Bay Wind energy areas. My apologies
21 to those of you that attended this morning's workshop on
22 the Preliminary Assessment of Economic Benefits from
23 Offshore Wind, as this part will be repetitive of what
24 was presented this morning. Maybe you can take this
25 opportunity to enjoy a holiday cookie or move your Elf

1 on the Shelf to a new location in the house.

2 Next, we will have a presentation on the Draft
3 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap by Eli Harland. We will
4 then follow with questions and answers, and then finally
5 we will wrap up with public comments. I would like to
6 highlight that public comments on the public Draft
7 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap are due on Monday, January
8 9th.

9 Next slide, please.

10 California has been working with the Bureau of
11 Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, since 2016 to explore
12 potential offshore wind energy opportunities. The first
13 meeting of the BOEM and California Intergovernmental
14 Renewable Energy Task Force was held in the fall of
15 2016. In 2018, BOEM published a call for information
16 and nominations for three areas off the California
17 coast. They were the Diablo Canyon call area, the Morro
18 Bay call area, and the Humboldt call area.

19 Following extensive engagement with and
20 comment from the Energy Commission, local, state, and
21 federal agencies, tribal governments, ocean users, and
22 other interested persons and agencies, in May of 2021,
23 Governor Newsom and the Biden-Harris administration
24 announced an agreement to advance areas for wind energy
25 development off the northern and central coast of

1 California. BOEM later identified the Morro Bay Wind
2 Energy Area and the Humboldt Wind Energy Area and
3 conducted an environmental review of leasing these
4 areas.

5 Of note and related to the BOEM process, is
6 the California Coastal Commission's review of BOEM'S
7 Consistency Determination for leasing areas offshore
8 California. This Consistency Review is one of the first
9 regulatory opportunities for California under the
10 Coastal Zone Management Act to set a direction for
11 leasing that reflects the state's coastal and ocean laws
12 and policies.

13 In April of this year, the Coastal Commission
14 conditionally concurred with BOEM'S Consistency
15 Determinations. On May 26th, BOEM announced a public
16 comment period on proposed auction details and lease
17 terms presented in a proposed sale notice for the two
18 wind energy areas. And then on June 3rd, BOEM and the
19 state of California held a task force meeting to discuss
20 the public sale notice.

21 On August 1st, nine California state agencies
22 jointly submitted a comment letter to BOEM in response
23 to the public sale notice. The comment letter was
24 submitted by the Energy Commission, the Ocean Protection
25 Council, the California State Lands Commission,

1 California Coastal Commission, the California Public
2 Utilities Commission, the Department of Fish and
3 Wildlife, the Governor's Office of Planning and
4 Research, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic
5 Development, and the California Labor and Workforce
6 Development Agency.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Earlier this month on December 6th, BOEM held
9 an online lease auction for the outer continental shelf
10 of California. The auction offered five lease areas
11 covering up over 373,000 total acres off Central and
12 Northern California. The lease areas have the potential
13 to produce over 4.6 gigawatts of offshore wind energy,
14 which is enough to power over one and a half million
15 homes. The lease auction resulted in winning bids of
16 over \$757 million from five developers.

17 Next slide, please.

18 Now I will discuss how offshore wind energy
19 development in California relates to the state's Senate
20 Bill 100 goals. And more specifically, the 2021 Senate
21 Bill 100 Joint Agency Report. With the passage of the
22 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018, more commonly
23 referred to as SB 100, California requires that eligible
24 renewable energy resources and zero carbon resources
25 supply 100 percent of total retail sales of electricity

1 in California to end use customers, and 100 percent of
2 electricity procured to serve all state agencies by
3 2045.

4 The Senate Bill 100 Report also increased the
5 state's renewable portfolio standard to ensure at least
6 60 percent of the state's electricity comes from
7 eligible renewable energy resources by 2030. Senate
8 Bill 100 requires the Energy Commission, California Air
9 Resources Board, and the Public Utilities Commission to
10 prepare a Joint Policy Report every four years that must
11 contain certain statutory requirements.

12 The first report was issued in 2021 and found
13 that we need a significant buildout of clean energy
14 generation over the next 25 years to meet our goals.
15 Assembly Bill 525 told us to consider the findings of
16 the SB 100 Joint Agency Report in establishing the
17 offshore wind megawatt planning goals. The range of
18 scenarios and technologies were considered in the
19 portfolio modeling completed for the SB 100 Joint Agency
20 Report.

21 The core scenario assumed that 10 gigawatts of
22 offshore wind is included in the 2045 portfolio. It
23 also reflects that the core high flexibility scenario
24 showed a total resource cost savings of \$1 billion in
25 2045 with a portfolio that includes 10 gigawatts of

1 offshore wind. The SB 100 Joint Agency Report
2 acknowledged that there are additional investments and
3 actions that would have to occur to realize 10 gigawatts
4 of offshore wind by 2045 and found that while there is a
5 significant resource potential off the California coast,
6 there are also considerable barriers.

7 Among the foremost challenges are significant
8 anticipated transmission requirements and competing
9 coastal uses including shipping, fishing, recreation,
10 marine conservation, and Department of Defense
11 activities. The Senate Bill 100 report and energy
12 system modeling guided the offshore wind megawatt
13 planning goals, indicating that with additional actions
14 and investments to address challenges such as
15 transmission and competing coastal uses, a minimum of 10
16 gigawatts of offshore wind could be achievable by 2045.

17 Next slide, please.

18 Assembly Bill 525 became effective on January
19 1st of this year, and sets the analytical framework for
20 offshore wind energy development off the California
21 coast in federal waters. Assembly Bill 525 tasks the
22 Energy Commission to coordinate with an array of
23 specified local, state, and federal partners, and with
24 input from stakeholders to develop a strategic plan by
25 June 30th, 2023, for offshore wind energy developments

1 that will be located off the California coast in federal
2 waters.

3 When enacting Assembly Bill 525, the
4 legislature found and declared that if developed and
5 deployed at scale, the development of offshore wind
6 energy can provide economic and environmental benefits
7 to the state and the nation. And, that offshore wind
8 energy can advance California's progress towards its
9 statutory renewable energy and climate mandates. And,
10 that offshore wind energy can provide diversity in
11 energy resources and technologies, lowering overall
12 costs and it can add resources and technology diversity
13 to the state's energy portfolio. And that offshore wind
14 energy can contribute to a diverse, secure, reliable,
15 and affordable renewable energy resource portfolio to
16 serve the electricity needs of California rate payers,
17 and improve air quality, particularly in disadvantaged
18 communities.

19 And, that offshore when energy development
20 presents an opportunity to attract investment capital
21 and to realize community, economic, and workforce
22 development benefits in California. Including
23 development and preservation of a skilled and trained
24 construction workforce to carry out projects, long-term
25 job creation, and development of an offshore wind energy

1 supply chain. And that investments in offshore wind
2 energy development can offer career pathways and
3 workforce training in clean energy development. And
4 finally, the legislature found that offshore wind should
5 be developed in a manner that protects coastal and
6 marine ecosystems.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Examples of floating offshore wind
9 technologies that could cause potential conflicts
10 include the turbines, the inter-array cables, and the
11 mooring cables, and anchors. Potential conflicts that
12 are identified may affect species, habitats,
13 biologically important areas, and ecosystem processes.

14 Features of offshore wind technology include
15 the floating platform and the type of mooring system
16 selected. These technologies have differing potential
17 effects on the environment. They also dictate how many
18 turbines might be arrayed together in a given area of
19 ocean, allowing for an increase in megawatt generation
20 dependent on how close the turbines can be spaced in a
21 given area. The energy commission and other state
22 agencies are and will continue to evaluate the potential
23 impacts of floating offshore wind.

24 Next slide, please.

25 In addition to developing the strategic plan,

1 Assembly Bill of 525 includes interim work products to
2 inform the plan. These include evaluating and
3 quantifying the maximum feasible capacity of offshore
4 wind to achieve electricity, reliability, rate payer,
5 employment, and decarbonization benefits, and
6 establishing megawatt offshore wind planning goals for
7 2030 and 2045. The Energy Commission established the
8 planning goals in August of this year, which I'll
9 describe in the next slide.

10 Assembly Bill 525 also requires that on or
11 before December 31st, 2022, that the Energy Commission
12 shall complete and submit to the Natural Resources
13 Agency and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of
14 the legislature, two documents. One is a Permitting
15 Roadmap, which is the topic of this afternoon. And two
16 is a Preliminary Assessment of the economic benefits of
17 offshore wind, which was a topic of this morning's
18 workshop.

19 Next slide, please.

20 In August of this year, the Energy Commission
21 adopted offshore wind planning goals of 2,000 to 5,000
22 megawatts by 2030, and 25,000 megawatts by 2045. These
23 goals were established for the purposes of guiding the
24 development of the strategic plan.

25 Next slide, please.

1 In addition to the requirements I described so
2 far, Assembly Bill 525 further requires specific
3 analyses by the Energy Commission to inform the
4 strategic plan. These include identifying suitable sea
5 space for wind energy areas in federal waters sufficient
6 to accommodate the offshore wind planning goals,
7 developing a plan to improve waterfront facilities that
8 could support a range of floating offshore wind
9 development activities including construction, staging,
10 manufacturing, assembly, and operations and maintenance.
11 And finally, assessing the transmission investments and
12 upgrades necessary including potential subsea
13 transmission options to support the 2030 and 2045
14 offshore wind planning goals.

15 And that takes care of the background and now
16 we can get to the primary purpose of this workshop, the
17 permitting roadmap. For that, I will hand the
18 presentation over to Eli Harland. He's an advisor to
19 Commissioner Kourtney Vaccaro.

20 Next slide.

21 MR. HARLAND: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone.
22 Thank you, Kristy. As Kristy mentioned, my name is Eli
23 Harland and currently working as advisor to Commissioner
24 Vaccaro. It's my pleasure to be able to present on the
25 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap that, as the Commissioner

1 acknowledged earlier, was assembled in collaboration
2 with our state agency partners -- especially those in
3 leadership positions from each of the agencies that are
4 represented on the virtual dais today, as well as the
5 Commissioner's office.

6 The slide that's up now is a slide detailing
7 the requirements that came out of AB 525 for developing
8 a Permitting Roadmap, and includes a summary of the
9 statutes that are there. I'll ask the presenters to
10 move to the next slide, please.

11 Okay, so the concept paper that we're
12 discussing today was posted at the end of the day last
13 Thursday, and we're seeking written comment through
14 January 9th. I will make a note that I have a lot to
15 cover verbally today, and that'll really parallel what
16 was included in that draft document that was posted last
17 week.

18 So as the paper explains, we're presenting a
19 conceptual permitting roadmap. It's a vision for an
20 efficient, integrated, and coordinated permitting
21 approach that allows permitting entities to retain their
22 respected permitting jurisdictions, as required by AB
23 525, while committing to and implementing a process that
24 provides efficiency, transparency, and certainty. In
25 addition, the Conceptual Roadmap allows us to

1 productively move forward right now despite these
2 unknowns that would make it challenging to be even more
3 specific or detailed about the who does what, by when,
4 and how.

5 So, what we've created is a framework and a
6 timeline as we enter this third phase of the BOEM
7 regulatory process to add as much certainty as we can by
8 setting up a way to deal with these unknowns. We think
9 that certainty is definitely a good thing when it comes
10 to industrial development. It's also good for energy
11 planning, and certainty is also good for affected
12 stakeholders, tribes, and the public.

13 The Conceptual Permitting Roadmap lays out the
14 vision and the parameters of what follow-on agreements,
15 or the more specific what we're calling roadmaps might
16 need to include. We think that this structure is a good
17 starting point for the more in-depth dialogue that
18 should occur as we develop these collaborative types of
19 agreements.

20 I think it's important to point out that we
21 envision this as a dynamic process as what's documented
22 in the Permitting Roadmap, and it's a process to be
23 updated as new information becomes known about key
24 things such as transmission, ports and waterfront
25 facilities, as well as project details, timing,

1 environmental review requirements, and other
2 opportunities.

3 Some of the key assumptions that we've made in
4 developing this Permitting Roadmap -- they're really
5 two. The first is that interagency memoranda of
6 agreement and understanding, or coordination plans, are
7 foundational to really be effective, coordinated,
8 comprehensive and efficient permitting. And also the
9 second key assumption is that what we put forward in
10 this concept, is that it can be implemented without new
11 laws, though additional state and local agency resources
12 are going to be critical to implementing this.

13 A final and important point is that the CEC is
14 responsible for developing and submitting this
15 Permitting Roadmap, as Kristy described, to the
16 legislature, as well as to the California Natural
17 Resources Agency, even though the CEC doesn't have a
18 regulatory role in this process. So, AB 525 tasked the
19 CEC to develop the Permitting Roadmap in coordination
20 and consultation with specified state agencies to allow
21 for meaningful input by specified stakeholders, and to
22 have public process around the roadmap development.

23 We believe that this approach presented in the
24 paper has enabled the CEC to meet AB 525's mandates
25 because it was created by the Energy Commission, State

1 Lands Commission, the Coastal Commission, the Department
2 of Fish and Wildlife, and the Governor's Office of
3 Planning and Research. It was also based on input from
4 public agencies, tribes, and stakeholders over the years
5 that the Energy Commission and our state agency partners
6 have been working on/off assessing the offshore wind
7 opportunity. It also envisions that all of these
8 entities and persons within the roadmap have a place at
9 the table, as the inter-agency agreements, which are
10 really the cornerstones of these roadmaps, continue to
11 be developed and refined and implemented.

12 We especially are looking forward to
13 strengthening our collaboration with local and federal
14 government agencies who will also be involved in these
15 permitting processes. We see that existing state law
16 connects us together, and that local public agency and
17 regional perspectives in particular are important,
18 especially for a technology that is large and unique.
19 So that's a bit of a setup on how we've put together
20 this permitting road ramp and some of the key things to
21 understand before we kind of dive into it.

22 So, next slide, please.

23 All right, so what we're talking about is
24 floating offshore wind in federal water. So, AB 525 is
25 focused on offshore wind energy development at scale in

1 federal waters off the coast of California. The figure
2 on the slide, and also included in the report that was
3 posted, provides really a conceptual overview of the
4 location of floating offshore wind energy generation
5 facilities in federal waters, and how their components
6 and the related infrastructure will need to cross state
7 waters and trust lands and connect to onshore facilities
8 that would be subject to different federal, state and
9 local jurisdictions.

10 The figure makes clear that implementation of
11 a permitting roadmap is essential for timely coordinated
12 and efficient permitting processes among federal, state,
13 and local entities that are responsible for issuing
14 entitlements and the associated environmental review.
15 AB 525 requires that the permitting roadmap describe the
16 various timeframes of milestones: agency approvals
17 needed, sequencing among the various permitting
18 agencies, and opportunities for coordinating
19 environmental review under both the National
20 Environmental Policy Act as well as the California
21 Environmental Quality Act.

22 This distinction of where federal and state
23 jurisdiction is present is helpful because the sequence
24 of reviews and approvals really begins with BOEM in the
25 federal water areas. And BOEM is for responsible for

1 managing development of the nation's offshore energy and
2 mineral resources. BOEM has exclusive authority to
3 grant leases and approve facility construction and
4 operations plans for renewable energy development in
5 federal waters and the United States's outer continental
6 shelf, or OCS.

7 The Pacific OCS encompasses the area between
8 state jurisdiction over the sea floor and waters from
9 the mean shoreline out to three nautical miles, out to
10 200 nautical miles from shore. So that's what the red
11 dash lines on the graphic here are attempting to show.
12 This is important because BOEM leases -- issues leases
13 and approvals for construction and operation plans under
14 a clearly articulated leasing process that's conducted
15 under the authority of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
16 Act and its implementing regulations, other applicable
17 federal laws, and the final sale notice and accompanying
18 lease documents for a particular lease sale for
19 renewable energy development. BOEM's approval and
20 environmental review process for renewable energy
21 projects in the OCS encompass four phases, and I want to
22 talk about those next.

23 So, next slide, please.

24 So, BOEM's coordination and collaboration with
25 federal, state, local and tribal governments occurs

1 usually typically through intergovernmental renewable
2 energy task forces that begins sort of in the planning
3 and analysis phase on the left hand side of this
4 graphic. And these task forces can continue throughout
5 the construction and operation phases as well, which is
6 the latest phase on the graphic to the right. These
7 task forces provide forums for information sharing to
8 inform all facets of the BOEM process.

9 Currently BOEM is poised to complete phase two
10 activities for California with the lease issuance, and
11 they're going to begin phase three activities. And so,
12 the discussion and conceptual permitting roadmap really
13 focus on activities after lease issuance, given the
14 timing of where we are today. The third and fourth
15 phases of BOEM's regulatory roadmap are really those
16 points in time that occur after the lease is issued.

17 And we presented in the paper a discussion
18 around each of these phases and so I'm going to focus on
19 phase three and phase four because they're more
20 immediate, and then talk about the graphic that's on the
21 slides here. So, in phase three these are really the
22 site assessment activities that individual lessees will
23 conduct. These are initial activities conducted to
24 characterize a lease site on the OCS, such as resource
25 assessment surveys, or technology testing, and that can

1 involve the installation of bottom founded facilities.
2 BOEM estimates that the phase can take up to six years
3 after lease issuance. Usually, it's up to one year for
4 a preliminary term to develop a Site Assessment Plan, or
5 a SAP, and up to five years for the site assessment
6 term.

7 Site assessment activities also have the
8 potential to require permits from state agencies. So,
9 agencies such as the State Lands Commission, or
10 Department of Fish and Wildlife that may have to issue
11 permits that would be discretionary during that time,
12 potentially. Also importantly, before site assessment
13 activities begin, the lease documents for the December
14 2022 sale of lease areas in federal waters off of
15 California's coast each require -- require each lessee
16 within 120 days of the lease effective date to provide
17 what's called an Agency Communication Plan or an ACP,
18 and to host a related meeting with those same agencies.
19 So, the federal, state, and local agencies of note is
20 Harbor Districts are included in that list and the BOEM
21 and lease documents.

22 And by the time of this meeting with each
23 lessee within the 120 days of lease issuance, all
24 entities will likely review -- with review and approval
25 authority will have been identified. And this first ACP

1 meeting is something that we're -- we currently see as
2 something that can serve as a springboard for the sort
3 of intergovernmental integrated team that we describe in
4 the conceptual permitting roadmap later.

5 In addition to requirements for an Agency
6 Communication Plan, the lease documents also require
7 each lessee to develop a Native American Tribes
8 Communication Plan that describes the strategies that
9 lessees intend to use for communicating with tribes that
10 have cultural and or historical ties to the lease area.

11 So, and then in addition to Agency
12 Communication Plan as well as a Native American Tribes
13 Communication Plan, the lease documents require each
14 lessee to develop a Fisheries Communication Plan that
15 describes the strategies that the lessees intend to use
16 for communicating with commercial fishing communities
17 prior to and during activities in support of the
18 submission of future plans. So, these could be survey
19 plans, the Site Assessment Plan, or the SAP, as well as
20 Construction and Operations Plans, or a COP.

21 While not aligned perfectly to agency
22 responsibilities for permitting, tribes in the
23 commercial fishing industry we know will be impacted by
24 activities related to floating offshore wind
25 development. And we see the Native American Tribe

1 Communication Plan and the Fishery Communication Plan --
2 that it can have a part, and serve a similar function as
3 this Agency Communication Plan, as sort of a foundation
4 for going into developing these more specific permitting
5 roadmaps, which is why we reflected it in the concept
6 that's here today.

7 And phase four. So, that was kind of covering
8 phase three of the BOEM process. In phase four, if a
9 lessee chooses to submit a Construction and Operation
10 Plan, it must do so within six months before completion
11 of the five-year site assessment phase that's in that
12 phase three. A Construction and Operation Plan, or a
13 COP, is a detailed plan for the construction and
14 operation of a wind energy project in a lease area
15 that's subject to a BOEM issued lease.

16 BOEM's regulations describe the requirements
17 for a COP, and BOEM has also published a notice of
18 intent checklist, or an NOI checklist, as guidance to
19 help lessees prepare their COPs. Want to just point
20 out, and this is also covered in the report, that in
21 October, 2022, BOEM proposed revisions to this NOI
22 checklist that reflects BOEM determinations that it can
23 begin processing incomplete submissions, subject to a
24 BOEM reviewed supplemental filing schedule, that allow
25 lessees to submit information under a phased approach.

1 According to BOEM, this revised approach
2 identifies the minimum threshold for a partial COP
3 submission that an applicant generally should meet
4 before BOEM will initiate the NEPA analysis through
5 publications of an NOI. Moreover, BOEM will consider
6 conformance with the NOI checklist when considering
7 acceptance of FAST-41 initiation notices, and setting
8 timelines within coordinated project plans where
9 applicable.

10 Real fast, or real quickly just to touch on
11 it, FAST-41 is a program developed under the federal
12 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act that
13 provides for coordinated review and oversight among
14 several federal agencies for infrastructure-covered
15 projects, through improved early consultation and
16 coordination among government agencies, increased
17 transparency through the publication of project specific
18 timetables, with completion dates for all federal
19 authorizations and environmental reviews, and increased
20 accountability through consultation and reporting on
21 projects.

22 BOEM will conduct a NEPA review for a COP,
23 which will include coordination and consultation with
24 other federal agencies as required by federal law. And
25 a lessee might also need approvals from other federal

1 agencies that might include but not be limited to the US
2 Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard, the US
3 Department of Defense, the US Army Corps of Engineers,
4 the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation
5 Administration, the US EPA, the US Department of
6 Commerce, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration. So, a lot of federal agencies that BOEM
8 and lessees through their COP review will be
9 coordinating with at the federal level.

10 So really the point of walking through the
11 BOEM process is to provide some context and some
12 explanation around this development process that really
13 starts in federal waters, and to sort of be able to pick
14 apart and build in where state agencies, and local
15 governments, and others could build these future
16 agreements around. So, I want to get into talking a
17 little bit more about the -- kind of the California
18 process as it links up in parallel to this federal
19 process.

20 So next slide, please.

21 So, the purpose of this overview, of the
22 environmental review and permitting process in
23 California is to provide some further context for some
24 of the key aspects that are helpful to explaining the
25 proposed Conceptual Roadmap. Several state agencies

1 have been coordinating on offshore wind planning since
2 2016 under the umbrella of the BOEM-California
3 Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task force, as well
4 as through other inter-agency coordination. And to
5 date, a more formal permitting or leasing process by
6 state or local agencies has not been initiated.

7 The Conceptual Permitting Roadmap really marks
8 an important turning point in the development of an
9 integrated public agency permitting framework. State
10 and local agency discretionary permitting processes
11 require completion of CEQA, or the California
12 Environmental Quality Act, before decisions can be made
13 on those permits.

14 The only official state actions to date have
15 been the Coastal Zone Management Act consistency
16 determinations for the Morro Bay and Humboldt Wind
17 Energy Areas, that were acted on by the Coastal
18 Commission at its April and June meetings earlier this
19 year, which were all part of BOEM's phase one and phase
20 two activities that are described more in detail in
21 Appendix B of the concept paper. And I touched on them
22 just a bit in the graphic prior. The areas offered for
23 BOEM by lease earlier this month were in those wind
24 energy areas.

25 Once BOEM issues the leases, it moves into

1 phase three, the site assessment period. Some of the
2 activities proposed for site assessment may require
3 state permits or entitlements. For example, a
4 geophysical permit, a scientific collecting permit, but
5 they would normally not go through or require the
6 preparation of a separate CEQA document, as they are
7 information collection activities that generally would
8 not have significant impacts on the environment.

9 While phase three is still prior to the
10 initiation of the major state permitting processes,
11 phase three really presents an opportunity, a really
12 important opportunity, for collaboration. Because the
13 eventual environmental review will rely on the best
14 available scientific information, which will be
15 developed in part through the site surveys and the SAPs.
16 State and local agency coordination with BOEM and
17 lessees on the necessary site and resource assessments
18 associated with this phase are critical to ensuring that
19 these studies allow the lead CEQA agency to develop a
20 robust and accurate description of the environmental
21 baseline and the environmental setting against which
22 potential impacts would be measured in the state's
23 future CEQA documents.

24 The most extensive environmental review and
25 permitting effort for the state would really be

1 initiated upon a lessee's application for a lease from
2 the California State Lands Commission, or local trustee
3 of granted public trust lands. For most industrial
4 marine projects in or crossing state waters, including
5 linear sea floor facilities like the sub-sea cables that
6 would be needed for the offshore wind projects, the
7 initial application would be to the California State
8 Lands Commission for a tidelands lease.

9 And under that scenario the State Lands
10 Commission would be the CEQA lead agency. The timing of
11 lessees submitting their applications to the State Lands
12 Commission, and any other state or local agencies, is
13 really important for the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap.
14 And the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap attempts to
15 capture what considerations should be assessed to ensure
16 the timing is the most efficient. Also, state and
17 federal joint review of submitted construction and
18 operation plans is an opportunity identified in the
19 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap to coordinate and improve
20 efficiency by allowing the state to ensure that the COPS
21 include sufficient information to carry out the analyses
22 that CEQA requires.

23 Current COP review by BOEM, and the various
24 local and state lead and responsible agencies, can also
25 facilitate joint CEQA and NEPA review if the state lead

1 agency and BOEM agree that a joint document is
2 appropriate or can facilitate consistency between the
3 CEQA and NEPA documents, should separate documents be
4 deemed appropriate.

5 Next slide, please.

6 Okay. So, I wanted to, after providing some
7 of the background on the state and the federal
8 processes, I wanted to share now and go into a bit more
9 detail about the proposed Conceptual Permitting Roadmap
10 that was kind of the heart of the document that was
11 posted last week.

12 So, as stated previously, the roadmap is
13 characterized as conceptual because there are currently
14 many unknowns that make specificity unfeasible at this
15 time. However, the process below is intended to
16 establish a structure that allows for addressing new
17 information through public process. Again, some of the
18 key assumptions underlying the conceptual permitting
19 roadmap are that interagency memoranda of agreement and
20 understanding and coordination plans are foundational to
21 effective, coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient
22 permitting.

23 And another key assumption is that the
24 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap can be implemented without
25 new laws, though additional state and local agency

1 resources are critical. And we also think that
2 resources for stakeholders and tribes can help advance
3 meaningful participation.

4 This Conceptual Permitting Roadmap recognizes
5 that robust interagency agreements that articulate a
6 common vision and shared commitments are the cornerstone
7 of successful large scale planning efforts. State
8 agencies have begun this coordination process for
9 offshore wind for the past six years. At least nine
10 California state agencies have coordinated and
11 collaborated with one another and local and federal
12 partners, including BOEM, to assess the potential for
13 offshore wind development at scale off federal waters,
14 off California.

15 Principals and staff with these state agencies
16 have met on a regular basis over the past few years to
17 share information, problem solve, and jointly submit
18 written comments on federal leasing activities,
19 conducting outreach and engagement with tribes and
20 stakeholders, and fund and carryout studies among other
21 activities. This whole of state government approach is
22 well documented and has led in part to BOEM developing
23 the lease documents in a manner that reflects the
24 state's diverse priorities and values.

25 In addition, past state and federal agency

1 collaboration to plan and permit terrestrial renewable
2 energy projects really provides a pathway for
3 development and implementation of a permitting roadmap,
4 without the need for new enabling statutes or
5 regulations. So, for example, the Desert Renewable
6 Energy Conservation Plan was developed as an interagency
7 landscape scale planning effort that covered 22 and a
8 half million acres of land in seven California counties,
9 about half of which was managed by the Bureau of Land
10 Management.

11 The DRECP was developed by the Bureau of Land
12 Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
13 the Energy Commission, and the Department of Fish and
14 Wildlife. So, it was built together with federal and
15 state participation. And collectively, these agencies
16 that built the DR-- that developed the DRECP are
17 referred to as the Renewable Energy Action Team, or REAT
18 agencies.

19 Chief among the REIT priorities was advancing
20 state and federal renewable energy and conservation
21 goals, meeting requirements of federal and state
22 endangered species acts, and facilitating the timely and
23 streamlined permitting of renewable energy projects.
24 REAT agencies took coordinated action through two
25 memorandum of understanding. One to -- one among the

1 REAT agencies, and two signed by the Department of the
2 Interior and the state of California. So, the REAT
3 process as well as the DRECP process are recent examples
4 that we were inspired by as we looked at the approach
5 for the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap.

6 And then earlier in a comment from Dr.
7 Huckelbridge, was that there are other examples that
8 we've looked to and build on. And those include the San
9 Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team,
10 or the BRRIT for short, which was formed by the San
11 Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to improve the
12 permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration
13 projects and associated infrastructure along the
14 shoreline of nine barrier counties. BRRIT is comprised
15 of staff from state and federal regulatory agencies with
16 jurisdiction over the projects that are there.

17 Another example that we looked at, and is
18 summarized in the report, is that we looked at what's
19 called the Dredged Material Management Office, which is
20 a joint program of federal and state agencies created
21 through an MOU to increase efficiency and coordination
22 between those agencies to foster comprehensive and
23 consolidated approach to handling dredged material
24 issues, and to reduce any redundancy and delays in
25 processing of permits.

1 So, with all of that in mind, the Conceptual
2 Roadmap that we're going to walk through here today and
3 present in the paper really builds from what we've
4 learned from our work on the DRECP as members of being
5 REAT agencies, the Renewable Energy Action Team
6 agencies, this BRRIT process that we just described, as
7 well as some of the models that we see from the FAST-41
8 program.

9 And so, what we've developed here, and has
10 been described at a high level so far, is what we're
11 calling the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap. So, what's
12 on the screen is showing you some of the important
13 things that we've identified and that we're putting
14 forward to inform the development of these future
15 memorandum of understanding agreements and coordination
16 plans.

17 The roadmap, I wanted to point out, does not
18 encompass permitting for transmission facilities beyond
19 more of the immediate onshore infrastructure
20 development. Nor did we contemplate that it includes
21 the potential port and waterfront upgrades and related
22 permitting requirements for those. And so, what we
23 found is that there are some really important elements
24 to include in any future agreements, or memorandums of
25 understanding, or in these what we're calling roadmaps.

1 And some of the things that are some elements
2 that we think are really important to put there-- that
3 we've put forward in the concept are -- the first one
4 are the parties and who should be included in these.
5 And so, we envision at minimum that all local, state,
6 and federal entities with known or likely environmental
7 review or permitting jurisdiction during the preliminary
8 term. So, these are the site assessment surveys, the
9 Site Assessment Plans, or the SAP, the COP, or the
10 Construction Operation Phase. And we think that the
11 structure should allow for flexibility so that entities,
12 parties with known responsibilities, can join these
13 agreements at any time.

14 We also think that in these agreements, the
15 best way to go about having an efficient permitting
16 process is to have parties be able to come together and
17 commit to developing a single permit application
18 checklist. And if necessary, maybe one for the North
19 Coast and one for the Central Coast that encompasses
20 requirements of each permitting entity.

21 We also think that the parties would develop
22 an integrated process for submittal and review of
23 application materials, whereby to the extent feasible,
24 applicants can submit one set of application materials
25 that meets the needs of each agency and are shared and

1 reviewed jointly by the relevant state and local
2 agencies. So, we also think that the parties would
3 create and implement a schedule for interagency
4 coordination on review of site assessment and survey
5 plans, on the SAPs, on the COPs, as well as CEQA review
6 and compliance, and applications for local, state and
7 federal entitlements.

8 We think the parties will implement a project specific
9 permitting schedule with interim and final milestones,
10 and with a commitment to use best efforts to complete
11 state and local permitting collectively, within two
12 years after the first project application is deemed
13 complete by the lead agency. We think that parties
14 should endeavor to create a process for a coordinated
15 review of the completeness of project applications, and
16 work with lessees to really expedite or address any
17 project application deficiencies in that
18 review, identifying consultation with lessees,
19 opportunities for joint environmental documents under
20 both NEPA and CEQA. And we also think that the parties
21 might explore identifying a CEQA lead agency, or in
22 identifying the CEQA lead agency and potentially
23 establish a joint review panel, which is an example of
24 state and local review of infrastructure projects in the
25 past in the marine environment. And so, this is sort of

1 the first components of what we see -- we're
2 recommending would be put into these memorandums of
3 understanding.

4 So, next slide, please.

5 And then the other pieces that are just as
6 important to the conceptual permitting roadmap as the
7 agreements are. But we really see that the model from
8 the BRRIT, the model from the REAT during the days of
9 developing the DRECP, that having a staff-level working
10 group for coordination and engagement with lessees, from
11 the pre-filing period all the way through permitting, is
12 really important for communication, and very important
13 for having all of the best science and all of the best
14 information that is developed by lessees in these times
15 where you're kind of pre-permit times, but you have a
16 lot of pre-scoping time. So having a staff-level
17 interagency coordination group.

18 And then also having, which is similar to some
19 of the past examples we've looked at, but having, again,
20 a state, federal, local agency principal coordination.
21 So, being able to designate principals from the
22 different agencies that can meet on a regular basis to
23 receive updates from lessees and agency staff and to
24 provide a venue to really resolve issues and hear from
25 stakeholders and tribes. These post-agreements and this

1 process should have a dispute resolution process that's
2 established that allows agencies and agency principals
3 to really resolve disputes.

4 And then we also recommend that, and we think
5 it's really important, to provide a venue for
6 stakeholders and tribes to publicly engage with agency
7 staff and principals to provide input into these agency
8 processes. And this is separate from, and really in
9 addition to, the legally required tribal consultation
10 and public process that would be required under all of
11 the various laws that apply, whether it's NEPA and CEQA.
12 And really is feasible. We think we should utilize the
13 efforts of lessees to meet the requirements of their
14 leases with BOEM for the communication plans that we
15 talked about earlier, the Fishing Communication Plan, as
16 well as the Native American Tribes Communication Plan,
17 as ways to leverage that work to support this conceptual
18 permitting roadmap.

19 And we'd also look to models, I think, of
20 early public engagement in these processes, such as the
21 model that the State Lands Commission used in their
22 approach to engaging on infrastructure projects that are
23 proposed in state waters. One more recent one that was
24 brought to our attention is the offshore wind projects
25 that are being proposed in state waters. There was an

1 early public engagement and pre-scoping activities.

2 They could be also a model here for engaging with

3 stakeholders and tribes and the public.

4 And then also visibility and accountability.

5 We recommend that one state or a local agency, really,

6 establish maybe permitting dashboards or permitting

7 pages that could be similar to the federal FAST-41

8 dashboard pages and would capture the state and local

9 requirements that the FAST-41 pages would not

10 necessarily cover. And, that it would be really

11 important for this agency to also add the visibility to

12 that, which would be hosting a web page or a public

13 docket of some sort for each of the projects.

14 So, the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap is --

15 really envisions that these memorandum of understanding

16 agreement and coordination plans be developed and

17 executed by all participating federal, state, and local

18 agencies within 180 days after lease issuance. And

19 keeping that option, obviously, for agencies to be added

20 as participants to agreements and coordination plans at

21 any time moving forward.

22 We really see the urgency now that BOEM is

23 moving into the third phase of this process. But also,

24 we think it's enough time to add -- to have the

25 important calibration that is required of exploring and

1 going into these types of agreements. Our suggestion is
2 that the six months after lease execution to have these
3 in place, or at least begin to have these frameworks in
4 place, so that some of the more immediate things that
5 need to be kept on track are --we're able to do that and
6 articulate that.

7 So, I want to walk through and go through a
8 diagram that was included in the paper that was posted
9 last Thursday. In that paper, it's set up as one diagram
10 or one table. It's actually got a couple of different
11 sections to it. So, I'm going to walk through each of
12 those individually.

13 So next slide, please.

14 So, the diagram is broken up. This first one
15 is showing what we're calling federal agencies. And
16 note in this diagram that the upper row for all of these
17 will be the same that you'll see, but the attempt of
18 this diagram is to really show a graphical way of the
19 state processes, the federal processes, and how the
20 conceptual roadmap that we just discussed, how that lays
21 over the top of those process boxes.

22 We tried to show just enough detail on these
23 but there's actually a lot more happening behind each of
24 the process boxes. But we've tried to pick some of the
25 major process and milestones that are there. And so, as

1 you go through the ideas that from left to right, you'll
2 see some very similar language that we looked at earlier
3 in the BOEM graphics. Because as we started with a lot
4 of -- or all of this sort of starts in the four-phase
5 BOEM process.

6 But the one piece that we have in light green
7 is sort of the start of this process. And that's
8 supposed to be -- that light green column is supposed to
9 be the work that occurs between, you know, essentially
10 now or very soon and where we see that 180 days becoming
11 very important within lease execution. So that the
12 darker green that comes just after the lighter green is
13 when the phase three BOEM process begins.

14 And so, you can start to see the types of
15 activities that, at least on this slide, that lessees
16 and BOEM will be up to along this kind of continuum.
17 And it's all leading up to getting to a place where as
18 lessees, and BOEM, and everybody else who's involved in
19 this conceptual permitting framework, is preparing for
20 applications coming in to BOEM for larger project sizes,
21 or for the large project size. So, these would be the
22 key application deliverables.

23 And that's sort of in the light blue in the
24 middle of this graph. And the darker blue is supposed
25 to be the fourth phase of the BOEM process that was laid

1 out earlier. And this is where, especially that first
2 column in the darker blue, the major environmental
3 review and major permitting processes will occur.

4 So, next slide, please.

5 Again, the top of this graph is the same. And
6 it's just showing some of the state agency -- some of
7 the things that state agencies would be doing in this
8 period of time. Across the bottom of all of these, it's
9 showing that there's going to be continued, or we
10 recommend continued engagement between the local, state,
11 and federal agencies, as well as the important outreach.

12 And so, the next slide is local agencies. The
13 local agency slide looks very similar to the state
14 agency slide, and it probably could have been combined
15 together. We decided not to combine it together, but
16 the two could be very similar, because this is where
17 CEQA applies, as well as the rules for state tideland
18 leases, and the processes that the State Lands
19 Commission will go through.

20 But I decided to break these up, or we decided
21 to break them up, so that we showed state and local.
22 Just to emphasize that we know that this Conceptual
23 Permitting Roadmap, put together with input from a lot
24 of our state partners, and informed by the work that
25 we've done with federal partners, state partners, local

1 partners, and through outreach. And so, we wanted to
2 put this on here to show that what we really see as very
3 important is that the collaboration and agreements that
4 we can reach and the trust that we can build with local
5 agencies is just as important here, especially with the
6 way that CEQA and state law work.

7 And then the last slide, or the next slide, I
8 guess.

9 Public stakeholder and tribal engagement. We
10 also see this as very important, and we don't see it as
11 something that is only important when we get to the
12 required places of permitting, and the required places
13 of environmental review. But really, in the development
14 of the agreements that the agencies would be working
15 through, that there is an opportunity for the public,
16 and stakeholders, and tribes to engage in that process
17 as well.

18 So, an example might be, and I didn't put any
19 of these into the graphic, and we're really hoping to
20 get a comment from folks to give us a sense of best ways
21 to provide this engagement, but some of the things that
22 we were thinking about in this early stage, before we
23 get into the more major entitlement processes with CEQA
24 and NEPA. But as we're in this earlier stage of the
25 BOEM process, is this could be some places where working

1 groups that get established such as the one that's
2 required by the Coastal Commission and their consistency
3 determinations for a fishing working group, this could
4 be a place where a group that could be a key input into
5 the interagency agreement development.

6 But then after those agreements are developed
7 a key part of those also. This could also be an
8 opportunity where, as these agreements are developed and
9 worked on, places where there's tribal engagement and
10 consultation ahead of when the consultation or that
11 engagement might be required by state law. And so, it's
12 more early in the process.

13 And it's really -- you know, we really think
14 seeing engagement is critical beyond just what's legally
15 required. And so, we're really looking forward to
16 hearing public comment on some of the suggestions for
17 this public stakeholder and tribal engagement in this
18 earlier process as we're developing these agreements for
19 the permit roadmap.

20 And so, next slide.

21 Okay, so thanks for walking through that. I
22 know that that was a lot of words for not as many
23 slides, but that's the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap
24 that we put out there, has a lot of really rich content
25 to it. We think it's a really thoughtful way to move

1 forward in this place where there are a lot of unknowns,
2 there are some knowns as well. And so, we've hoped to
3 really capture that. And we're going to be looking for
4 everyone's written comments through January 9th on the
5 document that was docketed.

6 Our intent is to, you know, after those public
7 comments coming in, our intent is to bring that
8 document, a revised version of that document depending
9 on the comments, to a CEC business meeting in January of
10 next year. And so, we really appreciate your
11 participation today, appreciate you listening to me
12 speak, and we're looking forward to questions and
13 answers and getting into the public comment. So I think
14 with that, I pass it back to either Kristy or Rachel.

15 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you Eli and Kristy for
16 your in-depth presentation of the Conceptual Permitting
17 Roadmap. We do have about 15 minutes or so for Q&A
18 before we move into public comment. Please ask
19 questions specific to the report we just presented. If
20 you have comments, please hold them for the public
21 comment period. And Eli and Kristy are available for
22 questions. Hilarie, do we have any hands raised in the
23 queue?

24 MS. ANDERSON: And so that is for all of our
25 attendees -- if you have a question for this question-

1 and-answer period, please use the raised hand function.
2 That should be at the bottom of your screen, like an
3 open palm. And if you are on the phone, that will be a
4 star-nine to raise your hand and a star-six to unmute.
5 And so far, we have one raised hand, we have Mike
6 Conroy. Give me just a moment. There you go, Mike.
7 You should be able to unmute yourself and ask your
8 question.

9 MR. CONROY: Roger that. Thanks. Just
10 confirming you can hear me?

11 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, we can hear you.

12 MR. CONROY: Perfect. I don't know who this
13 question is addressed to, so I'm just going to ask it
14 and you guys can all fight over who answers it. As
15 noted in the draft report, BOEM is in the process of
16 updating the NOI checklist for COPs. If BOEM publishes
17 an NOI that may not include sufficient information for
18 the state to carry out the analysis that CEQA requires,
19 how would that disconnect be addressed? Is the state
20 considering changing the CEQA NOP requirements to align
21 more closely with any updated BOEM NOI checklist?

22 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: So, thank you for that
23 question. This is Kourtney Vaccaro. I think I'll just
24 go ahead and jump in here and acknowledge, you know,
25 it's a really thoughtful question. And as I sit here,

1 you know, I don't believe that that's something that
2 we've thought through yet. Definitely something though
3 that we should keep in our list of considerations as we
4 continue to work through this process. So, thank you
5 for sparking new conversation.

6 MR. HARLAND: And real fast, Mike, I couldn't
7 find my unmute quick enough, so it wasn't quite a fight
8 over on this end, but I think that's exactly right. And
9 really the intent of what we're putting forward here as
10 a concept, are these are a lot of the things that have
11 to be on the table as agreements come together among the
12 agencies and thinking through it. Right? But making
13 changes of that sort is not something that the state is
14 contemplating at this moment. But it's important
15 information, I think, as federal, state, local agencies
16 begin to engage in how we move forward with this.

17 MR. CONROY: Perfect. Thanks Eli and
18 Kourtney. Appreciate it.

19 MS. ANDERSON: Great. Thank you, Mike for
20 your question. The next on the list we have is Steve.
21 Let me unmute your line. You should be able to unmute
22 yourself now.

23 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: Thank you. Can you hear me?

24 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear. Great.

25 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: Hi. Yes, this is Steve

1 Scheibblauer. And I'm wondering about adaptive
2 management. I don't see that concept anywhere in the
3 roadmap or the expedited process and what have you. So
4 how is that going to be accommodated? And this is
5 probably largely aimed at future WEAs that state and
6 BOEM, rather, might develop.

7 But as we acquire information, scientific
8 studies, we actually have some of these machines in
9 place. Certainly we're going to learn from that. And,
10 you know, understanding that once these wind farms are
11 in place there's not an easy way to move them.

12 So where is adaptive management in this to be
13 able to have these agencies, as they evaluate their
14 permits and what have you, to have a fuller
15 understanding about how these things actually work? And
16 that could be environmental, you know, on upwelling or
17 whale strikes or what have you. Could be fisheries
18 impacts, it could be engineering, whether they stay
19 upright or not. You know, all those kind of things.
20 How are we going to accommodate that in this permitting
21 process? Thank you.

22 DR. HUCKELBRIDGE: I'll jump in. Steve, this
23 is Kate Huckelbridge. And just wanted to start off by
24 saying, I think adaptive management, as we made clear in
25 our CDs, needs to be baked in throughout the process.

1 This permitting roadmap is more about the process for
2 developing, you know, how we're all going to work
3 together. But I don't think we've gotten to the
4 specifics of how we might incorporate concepts around
5 adaptive management into actual permits, or leases, or
6 the types of authorizations that'll be needed for each
7 project.

8 But the part of the process is a lot of
9 coordinated review and discussion by the agencies. And
10 so, I would anticipate that's going to be a major topic
11 of conversation, and likely coordination across
12 different permit requirements or lease requirements,
13 potentially, that relate to adaptive management. And
14 building in both the learning, and then the adaptation
15 part.

16 MS. LUCCHESI: And this is Jennifer Lucchesi
17 with State Lands. I would just add to what Kate just
18 said that a lot of that we hope to work through as part
19 of the CEQA process. And when Eli was talking about the
20 joint review panel that would be set up, that's among
21 local and state agencies with permitting authority. So,
22 we'd hope that through that joint review panel that we'd
23 work through a lot of those issues that you just
24 identified. So that would be the primary mechanism.

25 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: Thank you.

1 MS. ANDERSON: Great. Thanks, Steve for your
2 comment. We're going to go to the next hand, which is
3 James Frolich, I'm sorry if you mispronounce your name,
4 but you should be able to unmute your line. James?

5 MR. FROLICH: Yes, this is James Frolich, you
6 got it more or less, right. Just an administrative
7 question. In the chat, the link for the materials for
8 this is morning's link. Is that the same one, or is
9 there going to be a different one?

10 MS. ANDERSON: I believe that that should be
11 the link for the overall docket. So, for the whole, I
12 believe. Rachel, I'm not sure. I don't have it in
13 front of me.

14 MR. FROLICH: Okay. And when you click on it,
15 it's just the announcement for this morning's meeting.

16 MS. ANDERSON: There are the -- I don't
17 believe we have the PowerPoints on the website yet.
18 They're going to be going up afterwards.

19 MS. MACDONALD: There's the one docket for the
20 17 miscellaneous, that docket. That covers both events
21 and has the materials and items and notices on the
22 docket. But there are separate event pages, and I can
23 make sure that's posted in here. I'll grab that right
24 now 'cuz there's one for AM and one for PM. I'm sorry
25 for any confusion.

1 MS. ANDERSON: Thanks, Rachel.

2 MR. FROLCH: Thanks.

3 MS. ANDERSON: Okay, we're going to go to the
4 next hand, which is Kristen Hilslop. Kristen, your line
5 should be open.

6 MS. HISLOP: Thank you very much. Kristen
7 Hislop, I'm with the Environmental Defense Center. And
8 Eli, forgive me if I missed if you explained this
9 differently, but in the conceptual roadmap diagram
10 looking at public and stakeholder engagement, it looks
11 like that doesn't really happen until the last phase
12 here, BOEM phase four. I mean you have -- in the
13 roadmap I noticed that it says there will be, you know,
14 obviously the public process as required by law, but
15 then some additional opportunities for engagement.

16 And I thank all of the agencies that are
17 represented here today for being really accessible and
18 working with us already. But I'm just curious if
19 there's an opportunity to get that kind of baked-in here
20 to work with the environmental groups and other
21 stakeholders.

22 MR. HARLAND: Yeah, good question Kristen.
23 And it should probably say those ones, those process
24 boxes are the legally required public process and
25 consultation --

1 MS. HISLOP: Got it.

2 MR. HARLAND: -- as I pointed out. And then
3 it should say the, it's like the non-statutory
4 requirements. Cuz lessees are going to have a
5 responsibility through their leases with BOEM to have
6 those three communication plans that I described. But
7 there's a lot more there. There's not just three
8 communication plans. Lessees have a lot of interaction
9 and iterative work to do with BOEM, including progress
10 reports that will be prepared that report out on their
11 outreach and engagement process.

12 So, I look at that as-- or I guess we look at
13 that as very foundational to what will be happening, and
14 we want to build on top of that. And so, the document
15 doesn't show in that process diagram defined roles or
16 things that will happen there. But we really want to
17 hear, I think in the comments, whether they're today
18 verbally, written comments, if we have opportunities to
19 engage and collaborate as this gets developed on the
20 right places and the right ways to bring in the public
21 stakeholder and tribal portions into that, so that the
22 agreements that agencies are working from don't just
23 work for agencies. But on top of working for agencies,
24 they may also be able to work really well for the public
25 and stakeholders and tribes. So, that's sort of the

1 idea. You can almost picture like a circle around that
2 box that says, "Tell us the best ways to kind of fill in
3 here."

4 MS. HISLOP: Okay, thank you. That's helpful.

5 MS. ANDERSON: Thanks, Kristen. Let's move to
6 the next hand that's raised, which is Adam Stern. Adam,
7 your line should be open.

8 MR. STERN: Yes, thank you. This is a
9 question for Commissioner Vaccaro or Eli Harland. This
10 is Adam Stern with Offshore Wind California. One of the
11 things that's been very impressive about your process
12 over the last year and a half is how much interagency
13 coordination you've been doing within the state, and
14 then together with the federal agencies.

15 Why, in your proposal, will it take half a
16 year to come up with the inter-agency agreements and
17 MOUs? Can't that be something that's expedited? And
18 what would happen if you said let's try to do this in 60
19 days instead of 180?

20 But I'd love to hear just what are the
21 constraints? And since you have all these great
22 relationships and it's been -- you've been working
23 together so closely, could you do it faster? Because
24 that seems like a potential bottleneck here that we'd
25 like to avoid if possible.

1 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Yeah, thanks for the
2 really good question, Adam. So, I would say from my
3 perspective that I am optimistic that we could get
4 started on this fairly soon. However, as you know,
5 offshore wind, while it is a priority and we are
6 incredibly excited about it, you know is one of many
7 things that all of the agencies are working on.

8 And what we're looking at right now is really
9 a dedication of resources and time to enter into these
10 agreements and then implement them. And there's still
11 some work to be done there and some thinking. And so,
12 could it theoretically be done within six months?
13 Possibly. But again, I think it's, really how do all of
14 the regulatory agencies align?

15 And one of the things, you know, that we try
16 to hit on up top in this presentation is while the
17 Energy Commission was tasked to submit the report and to
18 help develop the report, we're not one of the regulatory
19 agencies. And so collectively as we put this together,
20 the concept -- we're kind of looking at 180 days all
21 told.

22 But I think if we could accelerate, and we
23 have the resources to do so, I think the agencies would.
24 But I would be speaking out of turn, I think, to try to
25 tell State Lands, or Coastal, or others that they need

1 to do it faster. But that's certainly a comment that we
2 welcome from you and others as we refine the document
3 and think about ways to phrase things, right? In terms
4 of recommendations or things for further consideration.

5 MR. STERN: Thank you.

6 MS. ANDERSON: Thanks, Adam. Okay, let's go
7 to our next hand, which is Mona Tucker. Mona, you
8 should be able to unmute your line.

9 MS. TUCKER: Good afternoon everyone. My name
10 is Mona Olivas Tucker, and I'm the tribal chair for Yak
11 Titvu Titvu Yak Tihhini, Northern Chumash tribe of San
12 Luis Obispo County and Region.

13 A couple of comments I would like to make.
14 One is about the timeline regarding when the wind farm
15 may be up and working. Since this is new technology, or
16 new technology to deep water, have you taken into
17 account that there could be problems that you would
18 encounter that you're not prepared for because this is
19 in some ways experimental? That's one question.

20 And the other item is a comment. I have heard
21 a lot in the discussion about tribal consultation. And
22 as far as the wind ports go, there hasn't been tribal
23 consultation. We have recently learned about the
24 proposed wind ports that may be off the coast of our
25 homeland. And I also found out that in consideration of

1 the location of those wind ports, that cultural
2 resources were not taken into consideration.

3 And so, I would like to know what direct
4 consultation will be taking place regarding potential
5 deep water, very large wind ports? And thank you for
6 your time.

7 MR. HARLAND: Yeah, Mona, thank you for your
8 question about the timing for projects in the water. We
9 didn't purposely put together a timeframe for all of
10 those steps that got there, but we did start with the
11 timing of the BOEM phased process that really comes out
12 of -- it's their regulatory process. And some of that
13 gets translated specifically into the lease documents
14 that would be executed between BOEM and individual
15 developers. And we sort of worked with that, but we
16 didn't put in a different time or sort of change that
17 timeframe itself. And so, appreciate your comments, and
18 the question I think, and the comment about ports and
19 those studies, noted that we have it down.

20 It's interesting because there is an
21 intersection between permitting for projects and
22 permitting for ports and waterfront facilities. And
23 we're not talking specifically about the ports and
24 waterfront facility type of permitting for this
25 workshop, but we have folks who are on this workshop

1 from the Energy Commission and other agencies that are
2 working on that, as well as our ourselves as leaders in
3 this space and working through that. And so noted, that
4 comment, and appreciate you bringing that up today.

5 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. We're going to move
6 to the next hand, which is Eric Miller. Eric, you
7 should be able to unmute yourself.

8 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Yes, this is Eric
9 Miller, with Miller Marine Science and Consulting.
10 Thank you all for the presentation. It was very helpful
11 and very informative.

12 I guess a quick question, and maybe Eli, you
13 covered it and I missed it. But with regards to the
14 interagency collaboration, especially the memorandum of
15 understanding, do you anticipate essentially lining out
16 the responsibilities of each of the agencies as it
17 relates to the overall permitting process? And
18 specifically in those instances where there could be
19 some -- anywhere from minor to major overlap between two
20 agencies' jurisdictions such as in the coastal zone?

21 MR. HARLAND: Yeah, I can respond to that, and
22 I would welcome any other state agency partners that
23 wanted to share any pieces too. But that is part of
24 what we would envision occurs as part of the agreement/
25 development.

1 I was saying one of the key assumptions is
2 that we're not going to be suggesting here -- you know,
3 we can't specifically through this change laws. So,
4 this is really about bringing together the existing laws
5 that are on the books and processes, and making those as
6 efficient as possible by really looking at past examples
7 and then looking at what we have in front of us.

8 So, I think that that part will be kind of
9 taken care of in that process there. And then the --
10 what's also included in the draft that was released as
11 an appendix is a table that the Energy Commission put
12 together. But in collaboration with our state agency
13 partners and looking at other existing resources, and
14 sort of what are all the different kind of touch points
15 as you go through entitlement? Whether it's a lead
16 responsibility, a consulting responsibility or like a
17 responsible agency under those. So, I think we're
18 trying to put together all of the information that you
19 would need as agencies would go into and start thinking
20 about what these agreements look like.

21 And Jennifer, I saw your -- you popped up too.

22 MS. LUCCHESI: Yeah, I was just going to add,
23 I think we're very sensitive and trying to be very
24 thoughtful about the level and the importance of
25 coordination. Not only with BOEM through site

1 assessment activities and the development of COPs to
2 make sure that our state requirements are being met too.
3 Or if those requirements are different or higher than
4 BOEM's, that we adjust for that, but also, among the
5 state agencies and the local governments as well.

6 We don't want to have a situation where
7 developers are having to redo a study or double back on
8 something because we wanted it done differently than
9 BOEM, or different -- or among our state agencies we're
10 asking for the same thing but using different words. So
11 those MOUs are going to be extremely important so that
12 we are all on the same page in terms of what we need to
13 ask, when, and how we all interact with each other given
14 we might have overlapping geographic jurisdiction, but
15 our authorities are very different, but complementary.

16 So, we want to actually implement that
17 complementary authority and jurisdiction so that we're
18 not making more work, especially for stakeholders, our
19 tribal governments, and our less-- and our developers.

20 MR. MILLER: Thank you Jennifer, that was
21 great. And that was what I was looking for, is ensuring
22 that we're not responding to -- a developer is not
23 responding in one capacity to, let's say, State lands
24 Commission, and then has to turn around and develop a
25 slightly different product or maybe even a very

1 different product for a different agency. You know,
2 maybe like Coastal Commission or something like that.
3 So, want to hopefully come up with one package that
4 serves all purposes. Thank you.

5 MS. ANDERSON: Thanks, Eric. Okay, we're
6 moving on to our next raised hand for this question-and-
7 answer period. And we have Sarah Seekins. Sarah, you
8 should be able to unmute your line.

9 MS. SEEKINS: Hi. Yeah, thank you. This is
10 Sarah Seekins, and I'm with Environmental Resources
11 Management. We're an environmental consulting firm
12 working for some of the recent lease winners.

13 And I guess my question is sort of well-timed,
14 it overlaps with the previous question just in terms of
15 some of the BOEM requirements for the lessees. In the
16 next year or so, given the timing of this final
17 strategic interagency plan being June of this year, you
18 know what can we do beyond heavy regulatory coordination
19 with some of these local agencies to sort of address
20 some of these uncertainties upfront as we start working
21 on some of the permitting efforts for the developers?

22 And is there any thought on potential liaison
23 with the various developers, just sort of share insights
24 and share best practices?

25 DR. HUCKELBRIDGE: This is Kate Huckelbridge,

1 I can speak a little bit to this, but would definitely
2 invite other state agency folks to weigh in too. I mean
3 I think we have started some of that coordination
4 already, trying to get our head wrapped around what the
5 process looks like over the next six months. I do
6 think, especially for this first go around, that
7 coordination with agencies and between developers and
8 the agencies at the state is going to be really critical
9 in addition to the, you know, obviously with BOEM.

10 And we have talked about sort of coordinating
11 that so it's not, you know, a developer doesn't need to
12 meet with every agency separately -- that we're creating
13 a little bit more of a process to make that consistent
14 so that we're all--again, on the same page, asking for
15 the same things, looking at the same things as we're
16 reviewing, you know, SAPs and other types of plans that
17 are going to be coming out soon. So, it's not -- you
18 know, I don't think we have -- we have not yet developed
19 like a checklist or something along those lines that
20 could be coming at some point, but I think we are
21 committed to sort of that -- to a coordinated effort to
22 review and trying to figure out what we need. You know,
23 how to get all the agencies on the same page.

24 MS. LUCCHESI: I would just add to what Kate
25 said to say a couple of different things. Both in terms

1 of making sure that we as state agencies are respectful
2 and thoughtful of not just the developer's time, but of
3 our stakeholders, our public, our tribal government's
4 time. So that's going to be a big responsibility for us
5 to make sure that we are as efficient with all of your
6 time as possible, and that obviously helps us as well.

7 But at the same time, I think our general
8 approach as individual agencies is to have a very open
9 engagement process and to be accessible and responsible.
10 So, we also want to carry forward that interaction with
11 our stakeholders. And so, we're going to -- it's going
12 to be a fine balance, right? Because as Commissioner
13 Vaccaro was saying earlier, we are -- there's a lot of
14 capacity and resource issues on our end.

15 So, we're trying to kind of maintain our
16 responsiveness and transparency, but also then make sure
17 we're all working together and connecting with you all
18 in very efficient and productive ways. And so hopefully
19 those -- we anticipate, and our goal is that those MOUs
20 will help us to work towards that.

21 MS. ANDERSON: Great, thank you. We're going
22 to move to our next raised hand. Steve, Steve Black,
23 you should be able to unmute your line.

24 MR. BLACK: Thank you. Can you hear me okay?

25 MS. ANDERSON: Yep. I can hear you just fine.

1 MR. BLACK: I just have a clarifying question,
2 Eli, for you. And I may have misheard the presentation.
3 And first of all, thank you for the obvious effort you
4 all put into this document.

5 You mentioned that the agency coordination
6 plan and the meetings leading up to the development of
7 an agency coordination plan might be a good opportunity
8 to talk about these interagency agreements and the MOU.
9 But as a follow up to Adam's question, given the
10 lateness, you know the delay in BOEM issuing leases and
11 what may be as much as a year of delay before those
12 meetings occur, or at least before that plan is due, did
13 I hear you correctly or is your intent to, as you said,
14 develop the MOU and the interagency documents in 180
15 days or less?

16 MR. HARLAND: Yeah, Steve, that's a good
17 question. Thank you for that. And yeah, we were
18 looking to leverage as much of existing thi-- as much as
19 existing process, or laws, or things that have to be
20 followed as possible. So, when we look to those, the
21 lease requirements for the ACP, the Agency Communication
22 Plan, seems like a natural jumping off point.

23 But as you're describing that that jumping off
24 point might be a lot later than intended, or that might
25 be shown here. And what we were trying to articulate

1 with the 180 days, or the six months, is that -- having
2 those in place by about halfway through the preliminary
3 term of a lease, so in that year one, seemed like about
4 the right place to put these. And so that's really
5 where that timeline came from, is looking at the lease
6 issuance as sort of an important milestone.

7 It doesn't mean that we would wait around and
8 say, okay, once the lease is issued, we'll all start
9 talking and negotiate these agreements or think through
10 how those agreements work. Like really putting forward
11 this concept is, like trying to get that conversation--
12 continue that conversation, because permitting hasn't
13 just been a conversation in the AB 525 sort of silo,
14 it's just that the roadmap exists to do it there.

15 And so, we want to start working on that
16 stuff, you know, immediately. That's why the concept's
17 out there now for people to comment on and to work
18 through. But I wouldn't be able to say precisely, like,
19 it's going to be 180 days, and day one is this day, and
20 then you go forward. This is just really what we're
21 sort of suggesting here, but the Agency Communication
22 Plans seem like an important place. And maybe they
23 become less of a jumping off place because we're able to
24 advance some forward, but we want to make sure that
25 folks working on these agreements and engaging on this

1 understand like the whole playing field of things that
2 are out there. And the ACPs are part of that playing
3 field that we see as important.

4 MR. BLACK: Okay, thank you Eli. We'll -- and
5 we'll come back to this in comments. Thanks.

6 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. And we're going to
7 move on to our last raised hand, and this is for the
8 question and answer period, the community section.
9 We're going to have comment -- public comments after
10 this. But we're going to open the line for Laura Morse.
11 Laura, you should be able to unmute yourself.

12 MS. MORSE: Hi, thank you for this
13 presentation. My name's Laura Morse, I'm with
14 Mainstream Renewable Power. And I worked previously for
15 another developer on the East Coast for the last five
16 years progressing multiple COPs on the East Coast, so
17 have quite a bit of experience with moving projects
18 through the full timeline.

19 And looking at figure three, the number one
20 thing that jumps out at me is the site assessment aspect
21 of it. And I think it's important probably to reach
22 back to developers and talk further about that, because
23 typically site assessment does continue into the COP
24 review phase. It's basically an iterative process that
25 will continue.

1 So, you know, really what that means, I think
2 on the state side there may be some additional
3 permitting that you'll continue to do with regards to
4 site assessment. It's not a hard and fast end six
5 months prior to submission of the COP. That's just not
6 how it works.

7 And so, I'd encourage you to, you know,
8 through the developer groups in California, some folks
9 have already spoken, is reach out and talk to developers
10 directly to probe that a little bit more. You know,
11 because I think the figure three will need a little bit
12 of revision, and folks need to be aware that there is
13 activity that will continually be occurring out on the
14 lease areas up until construction, effectively.

15 MR. HARLAND: And then Laura, did you have a
16 question too as part of that?

17 MS. MORSE: Well, it was really, I think,
18 well, I guess the real question is I read, I interpreted
19 the site assessment as a hard and fast end.

20 MR. HARLAND: Uh huh.

21 MS. MORSE: So, what I was saying was really
22 in response to my interpretation of that. If that's not
23 the case, then that would be good to know, how your
24 group is viewing site assessment?

25 MR. HARLAND: Yeah, no, appreciate that. And

1 I think it is presented for kind of like more simplistic
2 terms as it -- occurring that way. But appreciate you
3 sharing your experiences with us, so that we have --
4 articulate that properly, so as people are using this
5 conceptual document, they understand all those pieces.
6 So, appreciate you sharing that.

7 MS. MORSE: Thank you.

8 MS. ANDERSON: Okay, thank you Laura. And
9 that was the last of our raised hands for the question-
10 answer period. I'm going to bring our slide deck back
11 up for public comments and I'm going to hand it back
12 over to Rachel.

13 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you Hilarie. That was a
14 great collaborative Q&A. Thank you, Commissioner
15 Vaccaro, and principals from our partner state agencies,
16 and Eli for addressing questions. This wraps up our
17 question-and-answer period and we'll now move to Dorothy
18 Murimi for the public comment portion of our agenda.
19 Thank you, Dorothy.

20 MS. MURIMI: Thank you Rachel. So, moving on
21 to public comment. This is an opportunity for attendees
22 to give their comments. Each person will have up to
23 three minutes or less to speak. Comment times may be
24 reduced to ensure we're able to hear from everyone.

25 So, folks joining in on Zoom, go ahead and use

1 the raise-hand icon, looks like an open palm. And folks
2 on the phone, press star-nine to raise your hand, and
3 star six to unmute on your end. When you're called
4 upon, we'll open your line. Be sure to unmute on your
5 end, state, spell your name for the record, and give
6 your affiliation, if any. After which, you may begin
7 your comments. We're showing a timer on the screen, and
8 we'll alert you when your time is (AUDIO CUT OUT). So,
9 once again, all comments will be part of the public
10 record.

11 Start with the Varner Seaman. Please state
12 and spell your name. You may begin your comment.

13 MR. SEAMAN: Thank you. My name is Varner
14 Seaman, spelled V as in V-R-N-E-R, last name Seaman, S-
15 E-A-M-A-N, representing the American Clean Power
16 Association, California. First, I want to thank the CEC
17 staff and Commissioners for convening this workshop, and
18 for the many state, federal, and local agency staff and
19 principals who've come together in an all of government
20 approach to advance offshore wind in federal waters off
21 the California coast.

22 ACP California, in partnership with Offshore
23 Wind, California, has been consistently advocating for a
24 unified approach towards permitting offshore wind. We
25 very much appreciate the focus on state and federal

1 agency coordination and cooperation, and your commitment
2 to a permitting framework that is built on the successes
3 of past energy infrastructure permitting in California,
4 and is grounded in an interagency agreement like a
5 Memorandum of Understanding.

6 We also agree that this work can be
7 accomplished within the existing statutory framework.
8 An MOU can help clarify roles and responsibilities and
9 help facilitate appropriate concurrent versus sequential
10 reviews and approvals among all the state and federal
11 agencies with jurisdiction and equities in permitting
12 offshore wind off the coast of California. Together
13 with existing interagency agreements, an MOU will set
14 forward expectations and thus facilitate good
15 communication and coordination among all the various
16 agencies together with the offshore wind industry that
17 will be working together to permit offshore wind
18 facilities in an efficient and timely way and with good
19 environmental outcomes.

20 The Draft Conceptual Roadmap is a step in the
21 right direction and incorporates several of the ideas
22 that we and other stakeholders have shared with your
23 staff and other key resource agencies. We appreciate
24 that and want to continue to work with you to develop
25 efficient and effective permitting roadmap that will

1 enable the offshore wind industry to meet California and
2 the Biden administration's offshore wind goals.

3 It is in our collective and shared interest,
4 therefore, to establish a foundational document that
5 sets the course for successful project development and
6 permitting decisions over the next several years. The
7 wind industry has engaged with other stakeholders, and
8 we share an interest in a robust permitting roadmap that
9 is transparent, includes environmental review and
10 permitting milestones that are ambitious and achievable.

11 A clear and effective permitting roadmap will
12 reduce the risk of unnecessary delay and inefficient use
13 of agency resources, while increasing our overall
14 chances of success. To meet the state and BOEM'S goal
15 of spinning offshore wind turbines in the water by 2030,
16 we needed to start now and there is no time to waste.

17 A few things to note. We think that -- we
18 appreciate that there's the discussion of having a CEQA
19 lead agency that's designated as was referenced. We
20 think that's important in the final product. We also
21 would like to support including a timetable that has
22 early identification and consultation of cooperating
23 agencies and will help clarify roles and
24 responsibilities for every aspect of the environmental
25 review and permitting process and help ensure adequate

1 resources on planning at those agencies. Thank you very
2 much and we look forward to the ongoing opportunity to
3 collaborate.

4 MS. MURIMI: Thanks for your comment. Next,
5 we have Liz Klebaner, apologies if I've misstated your
6 name. Liz will be followed by Mike Conroy. Please
7 state and spell your name, give your affiliation, if
8 any, you may begin your comments.

9 MS. KLEBANER: Thank you. Good afternoon.
10 I'm Liz Klebaner, that's L-I-Z K-L-E-B-A-N-E-R. I'm
11 outside counsel to Anbaric Development Partners. I
12 would like to thank Commissioner Vaccaro and the
13 Commission staff for their work to support offshore wind
14 generation in California, and their candid and
15 thoughtful responses to stakeholder input in the
16 implementation of AB 525.

17 A little about Anbaric. Anbaric develops
18 transmission to accelerate the deployment of renewable
19 energy across North America, and specializes in the
20 design, development, financing, and construction at
21 large scale electric transmission system. Anbaric's
22 transmission expertise includes the design and
23 development of shared open access subsea transmission
24 systems for offshore wind. Building on prior models,
25 including the REAT and the San Francisco Bay Restoration

1 Regulatory Integration Team, the Commission's Draft
2 Conceptual Permitting Roadmap envisions a Memorandum of
3 Understanding among the relevant federal, state, and
4 local agencies to coordinate environmental reviews and
5 permitting for offshore wind.

6 Anbaric supports the MOU model as it has the
7 clear potential to provide certainty to industry, and
8 yield targeted and high quality data to inform agency
9 and public decision making. However, Anbaric is
10 concerned that the Conceptual Permitting Roadmap is
11 unduly narrow. First with respect to transmission, the
12 conceptual permitting roadmap provides that it would
13 apply only to transmission proposed as part of an
14 offshore wind generation project, and to the first
15 points of onshore transmission interconnection.

16 AB 525 does not limit the permitting roadmap
17 to transmission that is proposed as part of a wind
18 energy facility. AB 525 expressly recognizes subsea
19 transmission as an option to limit congestion and
20 requires subsea transmission to be addressed in the
21 strategic plan. Like wind energy facilities, subsea
22 transmission projects would benefit from the MOU, as
23 such projects would require review and approvals by the
24 same agencies as offshore wind energy facilities.

25 The Commission has the discretion under AB 525

1 to include transmission projects within the scope of the
2 permitting roadmap. Accordingly, we encourage the
3 Commission to augment the permitting roadmap concept to
4 include transmission, and to work with the CPUC and the
5 CAISO to ensure that the MOU can also apply to subsea
6 transmission projects proposed independently of wind
7 energy facilities.

8 Second, the permitting roadmap assumes that
9 the first point of interconnection for a wind energy
10 facility would be on land. This assumption forecloses
11 more efficient transmission alternatives such as a mesh
12 grid system. One important potential advantage of a
13 mesh grid configuration is it requires fewer cables to
14 come to shore. Mesh grid systems also have the
15 potential to increase the overall reliability of supply
16 under contingency conditions. Such systems, as the
17 Commission knows, are being explored in other locations,
18 including in New York and Denmark. For these reasons,
19 Anbaric respectfully requests that the conceptual
20 permitting roadmap also be revised to remove the
21 assumption at the first point of interconnection from an
22 energy facility be on land

23 MS. MURIMI: Please conclude your comment.

24 MS. KLEBANER: Thank you very much for the
25 opportunity to comment on that Draft Permitting Roadmap.

1 MS. MURIMI: Thank you. Next, we have Mike
2 Conroy followed, by Adam Stern.

3 MR. CONROY: Hi. Confirm that you can hear me
4 again?

5 MS. MURIMI: Yes, we can. Oh, and please
6 state and spell your name.

7 MR. CONROY: Yeah, Mike Conroy, C-O-N-R-O-Y,
8 from Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. Page 12
9 of the draft report mentions the possibility that the
10 state and BOEM could engage in a programmatic level of
11 consultation that encompasses multiple leases in their
12 projects. For example, one for the Central Coast WEA,
13 and one for the North Coast WEA as a means of increasing
14 efficient engagement and consistent outcomes agreements.

15 As the fishing industry has repeatedly
16 requested, we would applaud any efforts that result in a
17 programmatic level analysis. Given the CEC's goal of 25
18 gigawatts by 2045, a programmatic analysis, which
19 includes consideration of cumulative impacts to current
20 ocean users, the marine environment and ecosystem, and
21 social implications, is even more important. This
22 cumulative impact analysis necessarily must incorporate
23 activities planned outside of California, i.e., the
24 Brookings Call Area off Oregon, which is less than 50
25 miles from the northern boundary of the Humboldt WEA.

1 We applaud that this document is framed as a
2 living document. BOEM has recently changed how it
3 arrives at WEAs, as seen in the Gulf of Mexico and
4 Central Atlantic, and has been promised for both Oregon
5 and the Gulf of Maine. It is not outside the realm of
6 possibility that BOEM offers additional changes in its
7 post-lease processes in the future.

8 While many of the items contained in the
9 document are laudable, we must not let the desire for
10 doing something expeditiously be the enemy of doing
11 something completely and thoroughly. While offshore
12 wind has been positioned as necessary, and while we have
13 serious concerns about the BOEM process, particularly
14 with the siting decision making process, which is noted
15 above as changing, we don't argue that offshore wind may
16 have a role in our energy future. But we cannot stick
17 our heads in the sand and pretend that there are not
18 serious and significant concerns about the impacts. Not
19 only to the state's wild capture seafood industry, but
20 to the marine environment and ecosystem as well.
21 Thanks.

22 MS. MURIMI: Thank you. Next, we have Adam
23 Stern. Please state and spell your name, give your
24 affiliation if any. You may begin your comment.

25 MR. STERN: Yes, thank you. It's Adam Stern,

1 S-T-E-R-N, with Offshore Wind California, a trade group
2 that's representing the offshore wind industry. I want
3 to associate our thoughts with that of my colleague at
4 American Clean Power, Varner Seaman. We echo many of
5 the statements that he made. And I want to just augment
6 them by restating something that I asked in the Q&A
7 period -- which we strongly encourage the state, acting
8 through the governor's office, to develop the required
9 inter-agency agreements and the state and federal MOUs
10 for offshore wind permitting as soon as possible.

11 And one way to expedite this might be to draw
12 upon the successful MOUs that were arranged during the
13 Schwarzenegger and Brown administrations for onshore
14 renewables, but obviously adapting them to the unique
15 challenges associated with offshore wind and the
16 different agencies that have responsibilities for this.
17 I believe you alluded to this in some of the comments
18 that Eli Harland made in explaining the document, the
19 conceptual framework. But the MOU should involve
20 commitments from California agencies to meet performance
21 schedules developed in a way that are aligned with FAST-
22 41, ideally with the CEQA analysis progressing in
23 concert with the required NEPA analysis.

24 The MOU should address, among other
25 milestones, the timing of the federal and state

1 environmental reviews of both the lease sale and project
2 specific proposals, including Site Assessment Plans,
3 Construction and Operations Plans, Coastal Development
4 Permits, CZMA Consistency Determinations and
5 Certifications, State Lands Commission Leases and
6 related consultation requirements.

7 There also should be a framework that allows
8 for swift elevation of issues to policy level officials,
9 including the governor's office, with a reporting
10 structure that helps keep the process moving. Specific
11 issues that need to be addressed include the
12 alternatives analysis, the mitigation measures, and
13 other ways to avoid conflicting or duplicative measures,
14 ensuring that the agencies compare notes and coordinate
15 their analyses and conclusions regarding controversial
16 issues such as potential impacts to fisheries.

17 I want to, representing Offshore Wind,
18 California, applaud the work of all of the staff at CEC
19 and the other agencies that have worked on this. I
20 recognize that this is an ongoing process. We look
21 forward to working with you to ensure that the
22 conceptual framework turns into a actionable framework
23 to be used in the important processes that we have ahead
24 of us to realize the promise of offshore wind. Thank
25 you very much.

1 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comments.
2 Before conclude-- before closing public comments, I'd
3 like to give an opportunity for individual (AUDIO CUT
4 OUT). -calling in, please press star nine to raise your
5 hand. And if you are on Zoom, go ahead and press the
6 raise hand icon.

7 Give that one moment. And this is a reminder,
8 written comments are also being accepted. Deadline for
9 that is January 9th, 2023. Once again, folks who are
10 calling in, press star-nine to raise your hand (AUDIO
11 CUT OUT). Folks on Zoom, use the raise-hand feature.
12 One raised hand, Kristen Hislop. State, spell your
13 name, give your affiliation if any, you may begin your
14 comment.

15 MS. HISLOP: Kristen Hislop, K-R-I-S-T-E-N,
16 Hislop, H-I-S-L-O-P. I'm just popping on to thank staff
17 for this great presentation and let you know that we
18 will be submitting written comments from the
19 environmental conservation groups. But I just wanted to
20 take the opportunity to say thank you.

21 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for that comment. And
22 with that that concludes public comment at this time.
23 Rachel, I hand the mic back to you.

24 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Dorothy. Now let's
25 turn to Commissioner Vaccaro and the dais for any

1 closing remarks.

2 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Yeah, thank you Rachel.

3 I just want to again echo the thanks to Rachel and to
4 Kristy for their work today in helping to present this.
5 Definitely want to extend my thanks, gratitude to Eli
6 Harland for also participating today and doing a very
7 thorough walkthrough in explaining the rationale behind
8 the Conceptual Roadmap, what we all hope to accomplish,
9 and the many opportunities going forward for continued
10 engagement.

11 I thank the principals and staff from our
12 state agency partners who helped develop this document.
13 And really, we couldn't have done it without all of the
14 input that we've received over the years from local,
15 state, federal agencies and entities, tribes, fishing
16 community, industry, and other stakeholders who continue
17 to stay engaged and who continue to work with us as this
18 process evolves. So just a tremendous thanks to
19 everyone.

20 And with that, I'd like to first invite Becky
21 Ota, if she's able to, to join us for closing remarks as
22 she wasn't able to join us for opening remarks.

23 MS. OTA: Thank you, Commissioner Vaccaro.
24 Can you hear me okay? Wonderful. Oh, my sincerest
25 apologies, I had significant technical difficulties and

1 couldn't join in at the beginning of the meeting as
2 Commissioner Vaccaro had said. I'm Becky Ota, I am the
3 Habitat Conservation Program Manager for the Department
4 of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Region.

5 And the Department of Fish and Wildlife, for
6 many of you who may not realize, we've been a part of
7 this process with offshore wind since the inception of
8 BOEM's interagency formation, or the Interagency Work
9 Group, which has been a number of years ago now, and
10 have been involved with all of the coordination that
11 you've heard about with looking at the roadmap. And
12 from my colleagues from Coastal Commission and State
13 Lands Commission and the department's role here is we
14 have CEQA responsibilities, we have California
15 Endangered Species Act responsibilities, and our mandate
16 and our work with fisheries management is also key for
17 us, as well as ecosystem work and habitat.

18 So, we are very much involved in this process.
19 And I just, couple more things. I wanted jotted down a
20 number of words as I was listening to everybody, and I
21 really thank everybody for being here to talk about the
22 roadmap and the permitting. But what I heard was
23 coordination, collaboration, transparency, adaptive
24 management, understanding, trust, being thoughtful, it's
25 timely, efficient, adaptive management, responsible, and

1 responsive. So, we're all committed to that, that we're
2 on this with you today with all of those things and
3 more. And the department is definitely looking forward
4 to the continued cooperation, coordination with all of
5 our stakeholders, tribal governments, and the agencies.
6 So really appreciate this effort today from CEC.

7 Thank you, Commissioner, for allowing me to do
8 some closing comments. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Yeah, of course. I'm
10 glad the technology was working. Becky, you've been
11 instrumental in helping us develop this concept, you and
12 staff over at CDFW, so thank you.

13 MS. OTA: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: I think I'll turn now
15 to Dr. Huckelbridge, and then next we'll do Jennifer
16 Lucchesi, and I can't tell if we have any other CEC
17 commissioners or the Chair on, and we'll allow CEC to
18 close.

19 DR. HUCKELBRIDGE: Thanks everybody. I'm -
20 I'll keep it really brief. I appreciated all the
21 comments. We still have some work to do to work out
22 some of the details here and just want to let you know
23 that that's in process. And really looking forward to
24 meeting with, you know, new lessees and our agency
25 partners and stakeholders. I mean, immediately starting

1 in January and into next year. So, thanks everybody.

2 And I will stop there.

3 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Jennifer Lucchesi?

4 MS. LUCCHESI: Yeah, I'll just associate
5 myself with Dr. Huckelbridge, and Becky, and
6 Commissioner Vaccaro. Thank you all for your thoughtful
7 comments and questions and we look forward to working
8 with you all in the new year. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Thank you. And Rachel,
10 I can't tell if we might have any other principals from
11 the CEC, or any other entities.

12 MS. MACDONALD: I saw Jen Eckerle. I'm sorry.
13 Thank you. Here she is.

14 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Oh, that's great. Jen.

15 MS. ECKERLE: Hi.

16 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Hi. Thank you for
17 being able to join us. If you'd to make some closing
18 remarks, that would be great. Jen Eckerle, with the
19 Ocean Protection Council.

20 MS. ECKERLE: Thank you so much. I am sorry I
21 wasn't able to join you for the full time, but I was
22 here for most of the public comment. And I just want to
23 echo the comments from my colleagues, and say I'm
24 grateful for the opportunity to hear everybody's
25 perspective, and looking forward to working together in

1 the new year. So, thank you for the opportunity.

2 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Great. Thank you for
3 joining us. So, Rachel, I'm going to hand it back to
4 you to close this out.

5 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Vaccaro. I want to close today's workshop by expressing
7 our appreciation. I actually had a long list of
8 individuals and Commissioner Vaccaro did a wonderful
9 job. So, I echo your sentiment, and thanks to our staff
10 and partner agencies greatly for today.

11 We also thank you, Commissioner Vaccaro, for
12 your leadership today and always. We thank Hilarie
13 Anderson and Jack Bastida for managing Zoom today. Our
14 division director, Elizabeth Huber, and also Dorothy for
15 facilitating public comments. Lastly, we'd like to
16 thank our workshop attendees. Thank you for joining us
17 this afternoon. We look forward to your continued
18 engagement and participation as we move forward with
19 development of the strategic plan.

20 We are adjourned.

21

22 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 4:00
23 P.M.)

24

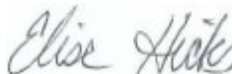
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