

**DOCKETED**

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**RWE Renewables comments on the California Energy Commission  
AB 525 Draft Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



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## **Electronic Filing**

February 10, 2023

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Docket No. 17-MISC-01

### **RWE Renewables comments on the California Energy Commission AB 525 Draft Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap**

Dear Chair Hochschild and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Assembly Bill 525 (“AB 525”) Draft Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap. RWE Renewables (“RWE”) acknowledges the arduous work of the Commission and staff who have developed the Draft Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap (“Permitting Roadmap”) and appreciates the work underway which is required to meet the remaining AB 525 requirements and deliverables. As a provisional leaseholder in the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (“WEA”), RWE has a vested interest in working closely with the Commission, agencies, other leaseholders, Tribal Nations and stakeholders to directly contribute to the development of a Permitting Roadmap that, if designed with sufficient detail and specificity, will create consistent and transparent processes that will benefit the development of current and future offshore wind lease areas of the coast of California.

The Permitting Roadmap is a key output of the AB 525 legislation. This roadmap is critically important and foundational for developers such as RWE to begin the work necessary to plan and develop the initial lease areas in the Humboldt and Morro Bay WEAs. A well-defined Permitting Roadmap will include, but not limited to the following: identification of a lead agency; clear sequencing; clear requirements and timelines; an identified coordination plan amongst agencies; articulation of the impacts of permitting processes on project

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construction and operation; and provides adequate funding for responsible agencies. These components will provide developers and agencies with the tools and guidance that will be necessary to advance offshore wind development in the State of California in the timelines that are necessary to meet the state's Clean Energy goals.

RWE supports the joint comments of American Clean Power California and Offshore Wind California, which have been submitted in this docket on February 10, 2023. The extensive comments were developed by a broad spectrum of subject matter experts who have decades of renewable energy permitting experience and are inclusive of the many lessons learned from the development of offshore wind on the East Coast of the U.S.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the AB 525 process and submit comments on the Draft Permitting Roadmap. RWE looks forward to progressing the Permitting Roadmap from a conceptual framework to a final product that is robust, transparent and will provide clear direction to advance offshore wind in federal waters off the California coast.

Sincerely,

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## **About RWE Renewables**

RWE Renewables Americas develops, owns, and operates some of the most efficient, highest performing renewable energy projects in the United States – including offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and energy storage – and has developed and constructed more than 5,000 megawatts of renewable capacity in the U.S. since 2007. We rank among the top renewable energy companies in the U.S., with more than nine hundred employees and the company’s presence and footprint continues to grow.

RWE is one of the world’s leading companies in offshore wind, active across the entire value chain, from project conception and development to construction as well as operation and maintenance. The unparalleled expertise the company has earned over the last 20 years has resulted in 17 wind farms in operation. In 2022, RWE Renewables secured lease area OCS-P 0561 of the coast of Humboldt in the first ever auction for floating offshore wind off the coast of California as well as area OCS-A 0539 in the New York Bight offshore lease auction. These lease areas position RWE as a leading developer of offshore wind in the U.S. from coast to coast.

The U.S. market is a strong focus of ours and our strategy for renewables is geared toward growth: RWE will invest \$1.66 billion annually to expand its wind and solar energy, and storage technologies portfolio. RWE has committed to become carbon neutral by 2040, along with ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement.