

DOCKETED

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Document Title:	Notice of Workshop on AB 525 - Identifying Additional Suitable Sea Space and Assessing Impacts and Mitigations
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CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



<p><i>IN THE MATTER OF:</i></p> <p><i>California Offshore Renewable Energy</i></p>	<p>DOCKET NO. 17-MISC-01</p> <p>NOTICE OF REMOTE-ONLY-ACCESS WORKSHOP ON ASSEMBLY BILL 525 STRATEGIC PLAN</p> <p>RE: Offshore Renewable Energy</p>
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Notice of Workshop on Assembly Bill 525: Identifying Additional Suitable Sea Space and Assessing Impacts and Mitigations for Offshore Wind Energy Development

June 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Remote Access Only
See Attendance Instructions

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a workshop that will focus on the requirements established in Assembly Bill 525 (Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021) (AB 525) to identify suitable sea space for wind energy areas in federal waters sufficient to accommodate the offshore wind planning goals established for 2030 and 2045. The offshore wind planning goals established are 2 to 5 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind generation by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045. In identifying suitable sea space, the CEC will consider existing data and information on offshore wind resource potential and commercial viability, existing and necessary transmission and port infrastructure, and protection of cultural and biological resources with the goal of prioritizing least-conflict ocean areas.

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

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

Agenda

The workshop will include presentations from CEC staff on suitable sea space for call areas in federal waters sufficient to accommodate the offshore wind planning goals established for 2030 and 2045. Additionally, there will be presentations and panel discussions about the potential impacts of offshore wind projects including, but not limited to, coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.

There will be opportunities for workshop attendees to provide public comments.

A more detailed agenda, suitable sea space maps, and workshop materials will be available prior to the workshop on the CEC's Event page (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>). Workshop documents will be docketed at the CEC's California Offshore Renewable Energy docket, [17-MISC-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01) (<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>).

Background

Assembly Bill 525

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

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

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

In August 2022, to inform the strategic plan, the CEC established preliminary, aspirational offshore wind planning goals of 2 to 5 gigawatts (GW) of floating offshore wind technologies in federal waters off the California coast by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045 as adopted in the [*Offshore Wind Energy Development off the California Coast: Maximum Feasible Capacity and Megawatt Planning*](#)

[Goals for 2030 and 2045](#) report

(<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=244285&DocumentContentId=78261>). In February 2023, the CEC adopted a second interim report [Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind as They Relate to Seaport Investments and Workforce Development Needs and Standards](#)

(<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=248972&DocumentContentId=83529>). On May 10, 2023, the CEC adopted a third interim report *Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy Permitting Roadmap*. The interim AB 525 reports are located on the CEC's AB 525 Report webpage [AB 525 Reports: Offshore Renewable Energy \(ca.gov\)](#).

The CEC, in coordination with the Coastal Commission, CDFW, OPC, the SLC, stakeholders, other state, local, and federal agencies, and the offshore wind energy industry, shall make recommendations regarding potential significant adverse environmental impacts and use conflicts, such as avoidance, minimization, monitoring, mitigation, and adaptive management, consistent with California's long-term renewable energy, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and biodiversity goals.

The CEC is currently working toward meeting the remaining requirements of AB 525, including identifying suitable sea space, completing a preliminary assessment of the economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to seaport investments and workforce development needs and standards, developing a plan to improve ports and waterfront facilities, assessing transmission investments needed to achieve the megawatt planning goals, and identifying potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.

Coordination with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

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

Following extensive engagement with and comment from the CEC, local, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, ocean users, and other interested persons and agencies, in May 2021, California Governor Newsom, the Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl announced an agreement to advance areas for wind energy development off the northern and central coasts of California for the Humboldt Call Area and areas within and adjacent to the Morro Bay Call Area. BOEM and the State of

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

California held a BOEM-California Task Force meeting on July 13, 2021, to discuss BOEM's process and schedule for moving forward with leasing areas for wind energy in California.

BOEM identified the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) and Humboldt WEA from within the respective call areas. BOEM completed environmental reviews and found no significant impacts for both the Humboldt and Morro Bay WEAs. On May 26, 2022, the Department of Interior announced a public comment period on proposed auction details and lease terms presented in a [proposed sale notice](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/california/2022-11537.pdf) (PSN, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/california/2022-11537.pdf>) for the two WEAs. On June 3, 2022, BOEM and the State of California held a BOEM-CA Task Force meeting to discuss the PSN and other related topics and on August 1, 2022, a group of nine California state agencies [submitted a comment letter to BOEM](https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2022-0017-0043) (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2022-0017-0043>) in response to the PSN with recommendations that reflect California priorities.² On October 18, 2022, the Department of the Interior announced a [final sale notice](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-offshore-wind-lease-sale-pacific) (<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-offshore-wind-lease-sale-pacific>) by BOEM for an offshore wind energy lease sale for three lease areas in the Morro Bay WEA and two in the Humboldt WEA. On December 6, 2022, BOEM initiated an offshore wind energy lease sale. The lease sale concluded on December 7, 2022, resulting in winning bids for the five lease areas from five companies totaling \$757.1 million. For more information, see the BOEM California webpage at <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/california>.

Remote Access Instructions

The meeting workshop may be accessed by:

- **Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/88180376887?pwd=R3g3Z1J2OE1hdU5nNGltQXpHdVICQT09> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the **Webinar ID 881 8037 6887** and **passcode 458552** and follow all prompts.
- **Telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the **Webinar ID 881 8037 6887** and **passcode 458552**.

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

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

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

Public Comment

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

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

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on **June 16, 2023**. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 17-MISC-01 in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

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

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

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

Direct general inquiries to Danielle Mullany at danielle.mullany@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 237-2539.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at [Docket 17-MISC-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=17-MISC-01), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=17-MISC-01>. When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the topics of "Offshore Renewable Energy", "SB 100", and "Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group". To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: May 11, 2023, at Sacramento, California.

__Signature on file__

Elizabeth Huber, Director
Siting, Transmission,
and Environmental Protection Division

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