

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Dan Chia on behalf of POLB
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POLB AB 209 comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



December 4, 2023

Eli Harland
California Energy Commission (CEC)
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: **AB 209 Offshore Wind Waterfront Facilities Improvement Program Workshop**
Docket No. 23-MISC-01

Dear Mr. Harland:

Offshore wind will play an important role in California's renewable energy portfolio, which will help the State tackle the climate crisis through electrification of multiple sectors, including operations at the Port of Long Beach. The Port of Long Beach (POLB) is transitioning our container terminal operations to zero emissions by 2030, primarily through electrification.

As a result, we are forecasting approximately a six-fold increase in annual power consumption. It is essential that California succeeds in developing a robust offshore wind industry, so there is sufficient reliable, resilient, renewable energy powering our grid as we plug more of our operations into the grid and as residents generally electrify their vehicles and buildings. As an economic engine for the region and the State, supporting over 575,000 jobs in Southern California and 700,000 in the State, the cost of renewable energy for our zero-emission terminal operations is important for our business to remain competitive and avoid cargo being diverted to other states that do not have policies aimed at tackling the climate crisis.

As the AB 525 Port Readiness Report (Report) noted, the state will require a multiport strategy that relies on the geographic, industrial and operational characteristics of many different ports and harbors in California in order to develop offshore wind successfully. Within the multiport strategy, the Report noted that “[**Staging and Integration (S&I) sites are the most critical that require urgent funding.**” It will not be possible to develop offshore wind without S&I, we will need sufficient S&I throughput capacity to achieve our 25 GW goal by 2045, and establishing robust S&I will help unlock manufacturing, which will maximize jobs and economic benefits.

Understanding that time is of the essence when it comes to tackling the climate crisis and the important role offshore wind will play, the POLB moved forward aggressively, at its own risk, to develop the Pier Wind concept while the State completed the AB 525 Strategic Plan. Pier Wind is designed to provide the critically needed S&I to achieve 25 GW by 2045. Pier Wind is also designed to achieve the economies of scale needed to help lower the cost of offshore wind

energy. In keeping with the POLB's Green Port Policy and Clean Air Action Plan, Pier Wind will also be designed to be the cleanest and greenest offshore wind terminal operation, incorporating zero emission equipment and supporting clean vessel operations. The POLB released the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation on November 30, 2023, and will be engaging our community in a robust public process as we move through the environmental review phase.

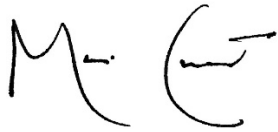
With the potential for significant new jobs in offshore wind in California, the POLB plans to prepare the workforce through its education and labor partnerships. POLB staff recently met with individuals from California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach City College, and Long Beach Unified School District to discuss offshore wind education requirements and ways we may build on existing education programs to include offshore wind elements. POLB is also looking to learn from other states that have implemented offshore wind training and education programs on the East Coast. Through continued conversations with our local and national workforce partners, POLB will assist in preparing the future workforce for offshore wind deployment in California.

Thus far, the POLB has not received any State or federal funding support for Pier Wind. The POLB is currently evaluating various business, finance and delivery models and has determined S&I is complex and difficult to finance, particularly within the aggressive timeline needed to meet our goals. We believe the State will play an important role in the funding and financing needed to develop S&I in order to enable other federal and/or private investments. An important first step in this process will be the administration of the AB 209 funding, of which the POLB looks forward to competitively bid expeditiously. This funding will allow the POLB to continue the planning, permitting and robust community engagement processes while we partner with the State on various longer-term and more sustainable options to fund and finance the development of Pier Wind.

The Port of Long Beach is a strong supporter of a multiport strategy to develop offshore wind in this state, and recognizes the important role the many different ports and harbors in California will play in developing offshore wind. In order to launch this new green industry and realize the benefits across those many ports and harbors, California must first start by establishing robust staging and integration facilities. Therefore, the Port of Long Beach encourages the CEC to send a strong signal to industry and the world on the future of offshore wind development in California by prioritizing the AB 209 funding for S&I development at ports, such as the POLB and the Humboldt Bay Harbor District, that have demonstrated their commitment to helping the state achieve its offshore wind goals.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration, and we look forward to continuing to work with the CEC on a holistic strategy to develop offshore wind that will achieve our environment, energy, economic, and equity goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a 'C' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mario Cordero
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Chair Hochschild
Commissioner Gunda
Commissioner Monahan