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Summary of 2/22/24 OSW TWG Comments (Comments provided after the AB525 draft release on January 19, 2024).

Tribal representatives had the following concerns and recommendations:

- The strategic plan should include potential negative impacts to land and sensitive microclimates and biodiversity.
- The strategic plan should contain a more robust discussion of how offshore wind development will help reduce fossil fuel reliance and greenhouse gas emissions. They worry that offshore wind development will amount to an energy grab, which will increase total electricity rather than reducing the use of fossil fuels.
- Tribes should have a consolidated section of the report at the very beginning. This strategic plan presents an opportunity for the state to highlight tribal voices. While they note that tribal concerns occur occasionally throughout the report, they state that tribal voices are being buried since the report is hundreds of pages. An appendix dedicated to elevating tribal voices could be another option, but it would be less preferable because it would not be in the main body of the report. They also raised the possibility of including tribal comment letter(s) in the report itself.
- Many tribal people are opposed to offshore wind. Tribes see the offshore wind project as an affront to cultural and spiritual connections that they have historically had with their waters and lands, but believe the project will continue in spite of their concerns and heritage. This is inconsistent with President Biden's mandate related to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) ([White House Releases First-of-a-Kind Indigenous Knowledge Guidance for Federal Agencies | CEQ | The White House](#)).
- Many tribes are concerned that offshore wind development will be a repeat of settler colonialism resource extraction, and developers will profit while tribal homelands are ruined.
- The state needs to ensure that tribes receive economic benefits from offshore wind development. The strategic plan should address how tribes will be financially compensated and better included in the process.
- Tribes requested information on lessee permitting and sonar testing, as well as where the accountability is in the permitting process and communication plans.
- Concerns were raised about active state legislation for a \$1 billion dollar bond to support port development viewing this as another rush to develop without understanding the environmental impacts and costs.

Comments Collected from Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 2/22/24 Date.

Summary Approved by Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 3/7/24 Date.