

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	255863
Document Title:	Kathleen McCollum Comments - Offshore Wind Opposition Letter
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Kathleen McCollum
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/22/2024 3:19:19 PM
Docketed Date:	4/22/2024

*Comment Received From: Kathleen McCollum
Submitted On: 4/22/2024
Docket Number: 17-MISC-01*

Offshore Wind Opposition Letter

Please read my attached document. Thank you

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Off Shore Wind Opposition Letter

Kathleen McCollum

April 22, 2024

To consider moving forward with a project, when the high decibel ocean testing for this project alone already can deafen and potentially kill marine mammals, as well as undoubtedly kill many fish, is environmental exploitation. It is illogical to move forward with a project that, from start to operational, will be a significant contributor to environmental degradation.

The installation of offshore wind from testing all the way to operational will be a source of significant noise pollution for the underwater marine ecosystems. Noise due to impact pile driving, detonations, surveys, drilling, vibratory pile driving, vessels traffic, vessel activity, air crafts, cable laying, trenching, dredging and turbine operations and electromagnetic field affects from power cables. Underwater noise will be persistent throughout all phases of this project. There would also be increased chance for vessel strikes as the noise will interfere with the animal's echolocation abilities. Furthermore, there would be noise associated with decommissioning of the turbines.

This underwater noise has sufficient capability to cause adverse effects on marine mammals and other ocean inhabitants. The effects on marine mammals include physiological effects including injury and death, disturbances, displacement, avoidance, decreases in vocal activity, heightened physiological stress, inhibited breeding and feeding opportunities and negatively impacting migration and birthing. This noise would also increase acoustic masking, which would inhibit marine mammals ability to reduce ability to communicate and detection as well as echolocation. Any of these impacts could cause injury and or mortality. These adverse effects would likely be persistent and would be caused by the noise due to the construction and operations of wind turbines.

Furthermore, and many of the effects on numerous species remain unknown. The wind farms would put hundreds of migratory birds at risk for death. Why are we willing to consider doing something that can be catastrophic for innumerable species land and air? And, the southern sea otter is still a threatened species, and this project could severely threaten their ability to fulfill their life processes. Have we come to a point that we are willing to sacrifice whales, marine mammals, fish, birds, otters, and so much more to save the planet? This is surely madness. The offshore wind installation would be planned to be located within and/or very near the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A SANCTUARY for marine wildlife including seals, sea lions, sea otters, whales, dolphins and birds. These animals are protected and it's against federal law to disturb them or cause them to change their behavior.

These animals do not have energy to spare to be panicking and trying to escape the constant overwhelming noise caused by the testing, building and ongoing maintenance and operational noise.

Lets remember that we have an Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Marine Mammal Act states that it: protects marine mammals against activities that would harass, hunt, capture or kill. Furthermore, it protects marine mammals against any activity that would have the POTENTIAL to disturb a marine mammal in any way that would disturb their behavior patterns including their migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

However why can the The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) apply for permits to be approved to cause incidental harassment to marine mammals? Especially when there is grave cause for concern for the marine mammals and birds and other marine creatures.

Here is a project that is planning the industrialization of our small local ports, will devastate fisheries and local communities, and cause negative impacts to our local marine ecosystem which is one of the richest and most biologically productive on earth.