

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Elected Officials to Protect America (EOPA)*  
*Submitted On: 6/26/2024*  
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## **Support for AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan**

Dear Commissioners,

Elected Officials to Protect America (EOPA) California write to you today in support of the California Energy Commission's AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan.

Renewable energy is now cheaper and more reliable than fossil fuels for power. The possibility of transitioning our entire economy to run on 100% renewable energy will become a reality when floating offshore wind turbines off our coast begin feeding the grid. We need this large-scale renewable energy to transition from our dependence on fossil fuels that continue to fuel the climate crisis.

The intensity and frequency of wildfires, drought, and torrential rains show us that we are in a climate emergency. We need to decarbonize the electric power sector to hold extreme weather and the climate disasters they create at bay.

The more we electrify our transportation, the more we will appreciate how offshore wind energy can power them. Along with the other clean energy sources we will be able to power our buildings, and raise the quality of life for all Californians as environmental justice takes root.

All this depends on the California Energy Commission's Offshore Wind Strategic Plan. Its assessments and recommendations related to marine resources, sea-space planning, tribal, and fishery relations, permitting, workforce development, port development and transmission give us the guidance needed to achieve our state's climate goals, and will help stakeholders who are waiting to invest the confidence to do so. The port infrastructure improvements alone will create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

We appreciate the hard work of the commissioners and staff and urge that while the plan is implemented transparency and knowledge sharing should always be first and foremost at every stage. The public must be kept in the loop in order for the equitable and responsible development of California offshore wind, port infrastructure and the necessary transmission. The mapping of benthic habitats, and natural resources research should be easily accessible to the public. Elected officials and the people they represent must be given the knowledge to understand the progress of offshore wind development, and the implementation of workforce development programs.

We are looking forward to California investing more in workforce training and education in partnership with labor unions and training providers for the construction and operations jobs.

As we are moving towards a 100% clean energy economy it's only logical that no dirty energy sources should be used in port development. This is an opportunity to help ports transition their infrastructure, equipment and transportation as they expand to clean energy.

Monitoring offshore wind's potential impacts to ocean environments before, during, and after development and operations activities will be crucial to ascertain impacts and generate recommendations for adaptive management. This is an important issue of reporting that will enable the CEC to keep the good will of the communities directly affected by the build out of offshore wind.

The CEC Offshore Wind Strategic Plan is an important roadmap to help realize the potential of California offshore wind energy, and gives us an understanding of the potential impacts to our workforce, biodiversity, and impacted communities.

Offshore wind power will improve our health as this never-ending resource cleans our air of toxins created by fossil fuels. This is the future. We are grateful for the comprehensive road map the CEC commissioners and staff have given us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Meghan Sahli-Wells  
California Director, Elected Officials to Protect America (EOPA)  
on behalf of EOPA California