

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-BUSMTG-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	2024 Business Meeting Agendas, Transcripts, Minutes, and Public Comments
<b>TN #:</b>	257727
<b>Document Title:</b>	Transcript of the June 26, 2024 Business Meeting
<b>Description:</b>	Transcript
<b>Filer:</b>	Blanca Camberos
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	7/12/2024 2:25:05 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	7/12/2024

BUSINESS MEETING

BEFORE THE

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
 )24-BUSMTG-01  
 *Business Meeting* )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

In-person at (2 locations):

California Natural Resources Agency Building  
 715 P Street  
 First Floor Auditorium  
 Sacramento, California 95814  
 (Wheelchair Accessible)

Newport Beach Public Library  
 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
 (Wheelchair Accessible)  
 Remote Access via Zoom™

The California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda proposed. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors. Commissioners may attend remotely in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2(j).

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to two minutes or less per person.

Reported by:  
 M. Nelson

APPEARANCES (\*Present via Zoom)

Commissioners

David Hochschild, Chair  
Andrew McAllister  
\*Patty Monahan

Staff Present:

Drew Bohan, Executive Director  
Lisa DeCarlo, Acting Chief Counsel  
Mona Badie, Public Advisor  
Dorothy Murimi, Public Advisor's Office

Agenda Item

Elizabeth Huber 3

Interested Parties:

Jana Ganion, Senior Offshore Wind Advisor, 3  
Office of Governor Newsom

Public Comment: (\*Present via Zoom)

\*Ysabelle Yrad, Blue Lake Rancheria 3  
\*Russell (Buster) Attebery, Karuk Tribe 3  
\*Heidi Moore-Guynup, Blue Lake Rancheria 3  
\*Alex Mesher, Yurok Tribe 3  
\*Violet Sage Walker, Northern Chumash 3  
Tribal Council  
\*Cathie Buchanan, Bear River Band of 3  
Rohnerville Rancheria  
\*Virgil Moorehead, Big Lagoon Rancheria 3  
Steven King, Environment California Research 3  
and Policy Center  
Jacqueline Moore, Pacific Merchant Shipping 3  
Association  
Jeff Hunerlach, Humboldt/Del Norte Building and 3  
Construction Trades  
Jim Jacobs, Operating Engineers Local No. 3 3  
Cary Leider, Self 3  
Kelly Boyd, Equinor 3

APPEARANCES Cont. (\*Present via Zoom)

Agenda Item

Public Comment: (Cont.) (\*Present via Zoom)

John Matos, Operating Engineers Local No. 3	3
Rick Umoff, Vineyard Offshore	3
Sharon Golden, Operating Engineers Local No. 3	3
Megan Murray, RWE Clean Energy	3
Molly Croll, American Clean Energy Association	3
Carmen Guzman, Self	3
Julia DeGraw, National Wildlife Federation	3
Alexis Sutterman, Brightline Defense	3
Adam Stern, Offshore Wind California	3
Mike Lynes, National Audubon Society California	3
Logan Reding, NCIC	3
Jennifer Fearing, Monterey Bay Aquarium	3
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Oceantic Network	3
Dan Jacobson, Self	3
*James Vernon, Port of Long Beach	3
*Ken Bates, California Fishermen's Resilience Association	3
*Vanessa Rivas Villanueva, EarthJustice	3
*Susan Jordan, California Coastal Protection Network	3
*Sheri Hafer, Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association	3
*Lucia Marquez, Central Coast Alliance for a Sustainable Economy	3
*Amy Jester, Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub	3
*Azsha Hudson, Environmental Defense Center	3
*Julia Dowell, Sierra Club	3
*Mariza Sullivan, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation	3
*Eli Vargas, Self	3
*Erin Lehane, State Building and Construction Trades Council	3
*Arthur Mandel, Port of Los Angeles	3
*Mike Conroy, West Coast Fishery Consultants, LLC	3
*Jocelyn Leon, National Resources Defense Council	3
*Nancy Rader, California Wind Energy Association	3
*Laura Lane, California Association of Port Authorities	3
*Naweed Kawusi, Elected Officials to Protect America	3

APPEARANCES Cont. (\*Present via Zoom)

Agenda Item

Public Comment: (Cont.) (\*Present via Zoom)

*McKinley Thompson-Morley, Golden State Wind	3
*Sean Quincey, County of Humboldt Board of Supervisor	3
*Andrea Lueker, REACT Alliance	3

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7. Chief Counsel's Report	--
a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another person or employee.	
b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following pending litigation:	
i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. vs. Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).	

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7. Chief Counsel's Report (cont.)	--
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUNE 26, 2024

9:35 a.m.

3 (Start of Introductory Video.)

4 MS. MURIMI: Welcome to the California Energy  
5 Commission Business Meeting. Closed captioning via Zoom is  
6 available for today's meeting. Attendees can use this  
7 feature by clicking "CEC Closed Caption" or "Live  
8 Transcript" and then selecting either "Show Subtitle" or  
9 "View Full Transcript."

10 You can find the agenda for today's meeting,  
11 presentation materials, and other links on the business  
12 meeting event page. A Zoom recording of today's business  
13 meeting will also be made available on the event page.  
14 Please visit [energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings](https://energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings) to  
15 find the event page for this business meeting.

16 Approved orders, resolutions and court reporter  
17 transcripts will also be made available in this year's CEC  
18 business meeting docket.

19 The CEC welcomes public comment at its business  
20 meetings. To ensure the orderly and fair conduct of  
21 business, public comments will be limited as announced and  
22 a timer will be shown on the screen. To make a comment  
23 please follow the instructions provided by the Public  
24 Advisor's Office during the meeting. We ask that all  
25 commenters spell their name and state any affiliation for

7



1 the record before making their comment.

2 Welcome to the California Energy Commission's  
3 business meeting. The meeting will now begin.

4 (End of Introductory Video.)

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, good morning friends and  
6 welcome. I'm David Hochschild, the Chair of the California  
7 Energy Commission. Today is June 26. I call this meeting  
8 to order. Joining me are Commissioner Andrew McAlister  
9 here in Sacramento and Commissioner Monahan is joining from  
10 Newport Beach.

11 Let's begin by standing for the Pledge of  
12 Allegiance.

13 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: So we're going to begin by  
15 taking public comment on things other than Offshore Wind.  
16 We provide that opportunity at the beginning of every  
17 meeting. For public comment on Offshore Wind, please wait  
18 for that opportunity following the presentation.

19 So Mona if we could go to public comment.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you. Good morning. My name is  
21 Mona Badie. I'm the Energy Commission's Public Advisor and  
22 will be facilitating the public comment portions of our  
23 meeting today.

24 The Commission welcomes comments. And if you  
25 would like to comment on Offshore Wind, again we're asking

8

1 for folks to reserve those comments for the dedicated  
2 public comment period for Item 3 on the agenda. And this  
3 public comment period will be for any items that are not on  
4 the agenda today, or do not have a dedicated public comment  
5 period.

6 And we've got two in-person locations: one here  
7 in Sacramento and one in Newport Beach, California. And  
8 we've also got Zoom participants. So please bear with me  
9 as we take public comment from each location and forum. So  
10 we're going to start with public comments, the open public  
11 comment period in Newport Beach.

12 Patricia Carlos, do we have any raised hands in  
13 Newport Beach for this open public comment period?

14 MS. CARLOS: We do not have any public comment.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 Okay, and then now I'm going to check and see if  
17 there's any comments in the room with us in Sacramento.  
18 All right, we have John Mattos. John, if you want to  
19 approach the podium -- (off-mic colloquy). Okay, thank  
20 you. Thanks, John. Okay.

21 And Megan Murray, we have your name down for Item  
22 1, the open public comment period if you're here with us in  
23 the room. Okay, Offshore Wind, thank you so much.  
24 Appreciate it.

25 All right, so let me transition over to Zoom now.

1 And we do not have any raised hands on Zoom, so back to  
2 you, Chair.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great, thank you so much,  
4 Mona.

5 We'll move now to Item 2, Agency Announcements.  
6 I don't have any notices. I don't have any announcements  
7 since we just had a meeting.

8 Commissioner Monahan, any announcements on your  
9 side?

10 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: No announcements for me.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Well, thank you.

12 With that we'll turn to Item 3, which is the  
13 Assembly Bill 25 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan. I wanted to  
14 begin by just thanking all of you for being here in person,  
15 and those of you joining virtually. And to all the  
16 stakeholders who have given their time, contributed their  
17 comments, and their hard work and patience in what's been a  
18 really long process. We will -- what we're going to do is  
19 hear from Elizabeth. And then we'll have a few opening  
20 comments. And then we're going to go to tribal  
21 governments, and then to general public comment. And then  
22 we'll open up for discussion.

23 So with that over to Elizabeth Huber.

24 MS. HUBER: Good morning, Chair and  
25 Commissioners. I am Elizabeth Huber, the Director of the

1 Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection  
2 Division, fondly known as STEP. On behalf of an incredible  
3 group of offshore wind technical experts I am here to seek  
4 your approval of the AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic  
5 Plan for floating offshore wind energy development off the  
6 California coast in federal waters.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Hey, Elizabeth? I'm very  
8 sorry. We're having a technical problem. We're all able  
9 to hear but the public Zoom link is not working. Could I  
10 just ask you to hold for one minute?

11 MS. HUBER: Absolutely.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Mona and Lisa, if you  
13 could just give an update? We're sending that link back  
14 out now.

15 MS. DECARLO: Yeah, we're working on trying to  
16 get it fixed.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Sorry, folks. Just  
18 stand by. While they're working on it, I will just share a  
19 few updates that I have a minute to share. And then we'll  
20 come back to Elizabeth.

21 I did have some terrific site visits recently.  
22 One of them was to yesterday, Lion Electric, which is doing  
23 electric school buses around the state. And one of the key  
24 areas of focus for us has been on electrifying that sector.  
25 One of the things that is really interesting is there's new

1 data showing that pollution from the diesel engines of  
2 conventional school buses gets into the cap and affects  
3 student health. And so we really see this as a priority,  
4 not just for climate, and air pollution, but really for  
5 student health.

6 And I just really wanted to thank our colleague  
7 Liane Randolph at the Air Resources Board, who's leading  
8 that push to get the vehicles deployed. And our team here  
9 at the Energy Commission that's funding all the Chargers  
10 and with something we really are excited to see accelerate  
11 and take off.

12 And one of the interesting things about the  
13 school bus space is the opportunity to do vehicle to grid  
14 actually, because the batteries of the school buses are a  
15 real important asset for the grid. And the duty cycle of  
16 the buses actually is such that it's a really good fit,  
17 because they're typically not in service in the summer,  
18 which is when our highest peak demand is. And then when  
19 they go out and do their route, you know, they're back and  
20 plugged in at 4:30 or 5:00. And our peak demand is really  
21 July, August, September, that sort of 4:00 to 9:00 period.  
22 So buses, being able to actually feedback to support the  
23 electric grid is a really exciting innovation opportunity.  
24 So it's some good discussion about that.

25 And then the other site visit I'll just share

1 while we're still waiting for IT to get the link up is the  
2 company called ElectricFish out of San Carlos. And what  
3 these guys do is a heavy-duty lithium ion battery that has  
4 two fast charger ports on it. And so you can do 200 miles  
5 of charge for an electric vehicle in 10 minutes. But the  
6 beauty of this system is it can get deployed, and then you  
7 don't need to have to wait a long time for the utility to  
8 do a distribution system upgrade. So that allows fast  
9 charging, without being vulnerable to a long lead time  
10 utility distribution system upgrade. So just really great  
11 to see that innovation happening.

12           And then the third and final update I'll just  
13 share is another company that's opening a new factory here  
14 in California called Moxion. And they do a battery on a  
15 chassis that it basically is replacing a diesel generator,  
16 so it's a 600 kilowatt hour battery. You can deploy that  
17 on a construction site, for events and so on, and run  
18 entirely on clean electricity, and that can also support  
19 electric vehicle charging. So they're hiring 500 people  
20 and are scaling up and building a new factory in Richmond,  
21 California -- a disadvantaged community -- supported by 15  
22 million of Energy Commission funds. So just great to see  
23 this progress.

24           And Commissioner if you want to share any other  
25 updates while we have time.

1                   COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER:  General, fill in some  
2 time there?

3                   CHAIR HOCHSCHILD:  Yeah.

4                   COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER:  Well, thanks, Chair.

5                   It's super exciting.  I got a great briefing from  
6 staff in ERDD, in the Research and Development Division,  
7 about all the different battery work that we're funding.  I  
8 mean, it's really tremendous.  The R&D grants that we're  
9 making to just like an incredible variety of battery  
10 technologies.

11                  Now, you've been really paying attention and  
12 visiting as many as you can.  I visited a few myself.  And  
13 just the duration differences, the use case differences,  
14 the chemistry differences, just that diversity that we're  
15 seeding the field for is just going to pay off hugely.  And  
16 I think it's moving far beyond just lithium ion batteries  
17 and getting lots of durations of electrochemical, but also  
18 thermal and electric thermal.  And it's a really exciting  
19 time to be filling that hole, which is really one of the  
20 key elements of our transition that's going to enable us to  
21 keep enhanced reliability.  And just use all the all the  
22 electrons that are being produced for every use across the  
23 state.

24                  So I wanted to just talk a little bit about and  
25 well let people know in November we're going to have a half

1 day, I think it's selling out, to be Load Flexibility  
2 Summit. Basically about the 7,000 megawatt load shift goal  
3 and how we're going to meet that, so Vice Chair Gunda and I  
4 are working on organizing that. So look out for that.

5 And then in March, we're going to do the second  
6 iteration of our Electrification Summit, so that is still  
7 in the planning phases. But a really great partnership  
8 with EPRI, the Department of Energy is likely going to be  
9 involved. And we're going to focus on, the last one we  
10 focused sort of more on residential. This time we're going  
11 to focus more on industrial and nonresidential buildings.  
12 And so my Chief of Staff Bryan Early is the lead contact  
13 for that, and really excited about that.

14 The hugely successful first iteration produced  
15 the sort of support from industry, and an agreement around  
16 our 6 million heat pump goal. And so we're looking to  
17 work, to develop a similar sort of impetus for other parts  
18 of our economy, and other sectors of our economy, to get  
19 those decarbonized and really try to build some momentum  
20 behind the industrial sector and local governments and  
21 other pathways. So that's really exciting.

22 I did want to also make an office announcement  
23 from my office that I have a full staff now. Really a big,  
24 big staff for the summer and two relatively new advisors,  
25 Susan Garnier (phonetic) and Maggie Deng. And of course,

15



1 my Chief of Staff, Bryan Early is still leading the charge  
2 for my office on many fronts. And then I have Bill  
3 Pennington and Diana Maneta as Advisors on the Building  
4 Code and our electrification programs, respectively.  
5 They're sort of liaising between their respective divisions  
6 in my office.

7           And then I have two interns who just started last  
8 week, Claire Peterson and Francesca Mills, who are from  
9 Stanford and Scripps College respectively, who are going to  
10 be focusing on specific issues around electrification, load  
11 shaping, load flex, and working with a whole bunch of  
12 stakeholders on behalf of my office. So really excited to  
13 kind of have a full room -- be fully staffed up and sort of  
14 firing on all cylinders for the summer.

15           I'm hoping we have some resolution to our problem  
16 here. Everyone, just hang on for one more minute. (Off-  
17 mic colloquy.)

18           Commissioner Monahan, did you have any updates  
19 you wanted to make while we're waiting for this solution to  
20 get to get fixed?

21           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I can do a quick  
22 update on a charger ribbon cutting that I attended recently  
23 in Imperial County, specifically in Calexico. One of our  
24 grantees, Comite Civico del Valle has opened up four fast  
25 chargers with eight different ports. And it really is a

1 good example of the importance of ensuring that all  
2 communities get access to chargers. This community is a  
3 border community. There's a lot of air pollution  
4 challenges it faces. It's low income and disadvantaged in  
5 terms of exposure to harmful air pollution. And this  
6 group, Comite Civico, is working very closely with the  
7 Imperial Irrigation District. That's the local publicly  
8 owned utility to build out chargers.

9           And it was a really inspirational event. The  
10 Secretary of CalEPA was there to commemorate this as well  
11 as our fellow Commissioner Noemi Gallardo. And it was  
12 really just a very inspirational event. There's an article  
13 that came out recently about how that area is a charging  
14 desert in terms of like there's no chargers there or very  
15 few. And what we're really trying to do is make sure that  
16 there are chargers in the desert and everywhere in  
17 California, so just it was a great event. And really great  
18 to celebrate that accomplishment and now we need to build  
19 out a lot more

20           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you,  
21 Commissioners.

22           So I think do we have an update, Mona, on IT or  
23 what do you recommend? Okay, so we have to have the public  
24 access line on for remote, so what do you suggest for  
25 recess? 10:15.

1           So I apologize, folks, we'll recess and restart  
2 at 10:15.

3           (Off the record at 9:51 a.m.)

4           (On the record at 10:15 a.m.)

5           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, it's 10:15. Thank you  
6 all for bearing with us through the IT situation here, and  
7 I apologize again.

8           So with that, we'll go to Elizabeth Huber to give  
9 the presentation.

10           MS. HUBER: Thank you. Good morning Chairman  
11 commissioners. I'm Elizabeth Huber, the Director of the  
12 Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division  
13 or fondly known as STEP.

14           On behalf of an incredible group of offshore wind  
15 technical experts, I am here to seek your approval of the  
16 AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan for floating  
17 offshore wind energy development off the California coast  
18 in federal waters. Next slide, please.

19           California has been assessing development of wind  
20 in federal ocean waters since 2016, and has worked closely  
21 with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management also known as  
22 BOEM in their federal process.

23           Building on the state's work to assess offshore  
24 wind, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed  
25 Assembly Bill 525. It's Chiu, Chapter 231 statutes of

1 2021, which took effect on January 1st of 2022. The  
2 strategic plan responds to the directive steps set forth in  
3 AB 525 and provides an analytical foundation outlining  
4 recommendations for moving forward with offshore wind  
5 energy in California in a responsible and timely way that  
6 maximizes benefits for California workers, communities and  
7 tribes, while protecting coastal and marine ecosystems and  
8 tribal and cultural resources.

9           The strategic plan is the fourth and final work  
10 product that CEC was directed by AB 525 to prepare in  
11 coordination with federal, state and local agencies, tribal  
12 governments, fisheries, and a wide variety of interested  
13 parties. Next slide, please.

14           And directing the CEC to develop the strategic  
15 plan, the California Legislature found and declared many  
16 potential benefits to offshore wind as shown on the slide,  
17 which also recognizes potential impacts. Potential  
18 benefits include developing a cost effective floating  
19 offshore wind industry, including research into emerging  
20 technologies. Scaling up California-based manufacturing  
21 and training a skilled workforce. Expanding our  
22 transmission infrastructure and planning processes to  
23 include electricity coming from offshore wind. Supporting  
24 instate and a West Coast supply chain development. And  
25 fostering economy wide decarbonization that includes

1 offshore wind energy storage, ports expansion, and clean  
2 fuel protection.

3           However, none of these benefits matter unless it  
4 promotes and supports energy justice, with sustainable and  
5 just deployment to minimize impacts to tribal governments  
6 on ocean users and marine wildlife. And benefits coastal  
7 and underserved communities, and reduces the impacts on the  
8 climate to our health and the environment. Next slide,  
9 please.

10           So how does this all work when we capture the  
11 forces of the wind and the open sea and convert it to  
12 electricity? As you see from this visual it all starts  
13 with a wind turbine. The ocean wind turns the blades  
14 around a shaft inside the turbine where energy is  
15 generated. That energy travels down hundreds of feet  
16 beneath the water surface to cables buried under the seabed  
17 connecting to an offshore substation. And then to a  
18 substation on land where that electricity created out at  
19 the sea is transmitted to homes and businesses. Next  
20 slide, please.

21           To ensure a responsible, safe and equitable  
22 deployment of AB 525 required the CEC when developing the  
23 strategic plan, to focus at minimum on five topic areas as  
24 specified chapters. These include identifying suitable sea  
25 space for wind energy areas in federal waters sufficient to

1 accommodate California's offshore wind planning goals.

2           Then, based on those sea spaces identified, the  
3 CEC was required to provide information and recommendations  
4 to improve waterfront facilities and port infrastructure in  
5 developing a workforce that could support a range of  
6 floating offshore wind energy development activities.

7           It also required us to assess the transmission  
8 investments and upgrades necessary including potential  
9 subsea transmission options to support again our 2030 and  
10 2045 offshore wind planning goals.

11           We are asked to develop a chapter for a  
12 permitting pathway to license these large offshore wind  
13 energy projects.

14           And finally ensuring the strategic plan is  
15 reflective of the state's priorities as it relates to data  
16 collection, analysis methodology, impact identification,  
17 and mitigation measures. While also identifying potential  
18 impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American  
19 and indigenous people. and national defense.

20           And then offering strategies and recommendations  
21 to address those potential impacts. Next slide, please.

22           AB 525 directed the CEC to coordinate and  
23 collaborate with specific agencies. And we did more than  
24 that. We aligned with our agency partners in developing  
25 the strategic plan. These interagency partners include the

1 State Lands Commission, who are the CEQA lead agency for  
2 environmental review and permitting for offshore wind. The  
3 Ocean Protection Council leading on environmental  
4 monitoring activities. The California Coastal Commission,  
5 who executes the coastal planning and regulatory activities  
6 for the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act and the state's  
7 own Coastal Act. The Department of Fish and Wildlife who  
8 among other provisions implements the California threatened  
9 and endangered species impacts and mitigation requirements.

10 And we also consulted with the California Public  
11 Utilities Commission, and the California Independent System  
12 Operator for offshore wind transmission infrastructure  
13 planning and technology development.

14 Finally, with regards to the needs and standards  
15 for developing California's offshore wind workforce, we  
16 consulted with California Labor and Workforce Development  
17 agencies and the Workforce Development Board. Next slide,  
18 please.

19 Even amongst the technical experts in the  
20 leadership at the agencies I just mentioned, we would not  
21 be able to have successfully drafted a strategic plan, or  
22 any of our interim reports to inform that strategic plan,  
23 if it wasn't for the engagement of those from the tribal  
24 governments, local communities, and all interested parties.

25 So with that, I'd like to start out with our

1 Outreach and Public Process the CEC aligned with the state.  
2 The communication also included more than 30 tribal  
3 governments through tribal consultations, intergovernmental  
4 roundtables, listening sessions. And we continue to hold  
5 biweekly offshore wind tribal working groups that more than  
6 15 tribes currently participate. Next slide, please.

7 Further involvement included federal working  
8 groups with BOEM and another working group with the five  
9 leaseholders. Interagency, biweekly and monthly working  
10 group meetings, multiple community stakeholders specific  
11 workshops and meetings. And one on one conversations to  
12 develop this strategic plan.

13 It is important to note here that the legislation  
14 defined "stakeholder" as the term we must use in this  
15 proceeding. Stating that for the purposes of AB 525 the  
16 term "stakeholder" includes but is not limited to fishery  
17 groups, labor unions, industry, environmental and  
18 environmental justice organizations, and other ocean users.

19 We finally engaged in meetings with local  
20 communities and underserved communities, as well as  
21 presented multiple times at the state's Disadvantaged  
22 Communities Advisory Group, who review clean energy  
23 programs and policies to ensure disadvantaged communities  
24 benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction  
25 programs and solutions. Next slide, please.



1           As a starting point for the strategic plan, the  
2 CEC began with the development of offshore wind planning  
3 goals, which you all adopted in August of 2022. And they  
4 are the 2,000 to 5,000 megawatts in 2030 and 25,000  
5 megawatts in 2045, have been foundational to all the  
6 interim reports produced, the technical reports and studies  
7 analyzed, and all communication with the offshore wind  
8 industry and interested parties, all of which were used to  
9 inform the final AB 525 Strategic Plan.

10           The draft strategic plan was published on January  
11 19th of this year, and had to be produced in three volumes.  
12 Volume I is an overview of the actual strategic plan main  
13 report. Volume II is the main report, a comprehensive  
14 strategic plan. And volume III are the technical  
15 appendices.

16           The main report, Volume 2, addresses the AB 525  
17 required chapters, as well as additional chapters on the  
18 history of offshore wind development, floating offshore  
19 wind technologies and the industry, and even a section on  
20 impacts and strategies to mitigate those impacts on  
21 underserved communities.

22           The docket remained open until April 22nd of  
23 2024. But we continued through the end of May collecting  
24 and organizing all comments received in the docket as well  
25 as in our workshops. Next slide, please.

1           As indicated the CEC received numerous public  
2 comments filed into our docket on the draft AB 525  
3 strategic plan. This includes more than 500 pages of  
4 written comments, as well as verbal comments from the  
5 workshops I already mentioned that were held on March 20th,  
6 and March 29th of 2024.

7           Most parties expressed appreciation for the  
8 comprehensive and detailed analysis and discussion  
9 presented in the three strategic plan volumes. Several  
10 environmental organizations and other stakeholders  
11 commented that offshore wind represents a promising  
12 opportunity to simultaneously address climate change and  
13 stimulate economic growth.

14           There were some tribes, local government members,  
15 and representatives from the fishing industry, however,  
16 that did express outright opposition to the offshore wind  
17 industry and deployment of offshore wind in California.  
18 Additionally, tribal, local governments, fisheries, and  
19 environmental justice groups raised concerns regarding its  
20 potential industrialization of California's coasts, unknown  
21 impacts from all the projects, ports, and manufacturing  
22 development, along with the rapid pace of proposed offshore  
23 wind development. And wanted to ensure the protection of  
24 coastal, biological, and tribal cultural resources.

25           Many parties called out the importance of port

1 development, noting the critical role of staging and  
2 integration sites to the success of the offshore wind  
3 industry.

4 Certain commenters raised concerns about the  
5 potential impacts of port development, including the  
6 implications of environmental justice communities, and air  
7 quality. They emphasized that offshore wind development  
8 must benefit underserved and tribal communities by ensuring  
9 local employment opportunities, investment in clean energy,  
10 and energy reliability improvements.

11 Several parties encouraged expeditious joint  
12 agency planning and coordination of transmission to  
13 facilitate the timely development of infrastructure that  
14 aligns with proposed offshore wind project timelines.

15 Many commenters also noted the importance and  
16 need for a coordinated and comprehensive permitting  
17 framework. And called for more specificity regarding  
18 agency responsibilities, timeframes, and milestones in the  
19 final strategic plan.

20 More details and comments relating to these  
21 topics are also addressed and summarized in each of the  
22 strategic plan chapters and sections presented in Volume  
23 II. Next slide, please.

24 In response to the comments that were received,  
25 changes made to the draft strategic plan resulting in the

1 final strategic plan before you today include: summaries of  
2 topics specific comments were added to each chapter.  
3 Recommendations were expanded with further detail to  
4 provide additional direction for the responsible and timely  
5 deployment of offshore wind industry while protecting  
6 coastal marine and tribal cultural resources. Further  
7 detail was added regarding potential impacts outlined in  
8 Chapter 4, including impacts to marine biological resources  
9 and fisheries. Expanded discussion of potential tribal  
10 impacts and comments, as well as an added section to tribal  
11 energy sovereignty.

12           Expanded discussion of strategies to reflect  
13 comments received from underserved communities, including  
14 reducing pollution and expanding community benefits  
15 agreements.

16           Also expanded discussion of needed port  
17 enhancements including emphasizing the importance of  
18 staging and integration and decarbonizing those ports.

19           And finally, we also refined our discussion of  
20 workforce development and projected job creation, including  
21 clarifying and projected job creation associated with port  
22 development. More detail was added regarding the  
23 coordinated and comprehensive permitting framework as well.

24 Next slide, please.

25           Chapter 11 of Volume II, the Strategic Plan Main

27

1 Report includes numerous recommendations that were  
2 developed during the strategic plan process. The following  
3 are a few examples of recommendations to address potential  
4 impacts of offshore wind.

5           Specific to Marine Impacts. Promote  
6 comprehensive environmental research and monitoring that  
7 uses best available science and monitoring technologies,  
8 traditional ecological knowledge, and baseline and long-  
9 term monitoring to guide project siting, assess project-  
10 level and cumulative impacts during construction and  
11 ongoing operations. Inform adaptative management  
12 strategies throughout the project lifecycle and future sea  
13 space planning and lease sales.

14           This effort should incorporate scientific advice  
15 from academia, governments, tribes, nongovernmental  
16 organizations, the offshore wind industry, and other  
17 interested entities.

18           Specific to Tribal Impacts. The state should  
19 support tribal capacity through technical assistance,  
20 including informational working group spaces and webinars.  
21 As tribes pursue federal funding, the state should support  
22 the federal government funding participation in alignment  
23 with the tribes and with the federal trust relationship.

24           Specific to Fisheries Impacts. The latest  
25 commercial, recreational, subsistence, and cultural fishing

1 data should be used to conduct analyses assessing spatial  
2 and temporal trends in fishing efforts and value metrics in  
3 the offshore and nearshore environments, in consultation  
4 with California Native American tribes and the California  
5 Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group as well.

6           These efforts will inform deployment within  
7 existing lease areas and planning for port development and  
8 sea space for future offshore wind projects.

9           Next is Specific to Underserved Communities.  
10 Offshore wind development and operation should avoid,  
11 minimize, or mitigate impacts to underserved communities,  
12 including those in and around ports. And support actions  
13 to protect already overburdened communities, such as air  
14 and water pollution burdens and considerations for those  
15 mitigations.

16           This can include coordinating among agencies on  
17 the protection of air and water quality, and longer-term  
18 planning for the transition to clean energy with  
19 considerations for decommissioning aging of other plants,  
20 fossil fuel plant facilities.

21           Specific to Department of Defense. The state  
22 should continue to coordinate with the Department of  
23 Defense Office of the Secretary of Defense's Siting  
24 Clearinghouse throughout the planning, design, permitting,  
25 construction, and decommissioning processes. With an

1 emphasis on early coordination to prevent potential  
2 offshore wind development from encroaching on military  
3 testing, training, and operations.

4 Further recommendation examples from Chapter 11  
5 are encouraging the identification of suitable sea space in  
6 a way that prioritizes least-conflict ocean areas.  
7 Participate in suitable sea space identification, research,  
8 analysis and refinement, in coordination with BOEM, United  
9 States Coastal Guard and the Department of Defense OSD  
10 Siting Clearinghouse to inform the feasibility of offshore  
11 wind development that minimizes impacts to California's  
12 coast and ocean resources.

13 Specific to Port Infrastructure Needs. Identify  
14 federal funding opportunities, tax credits, and other  
15 resources in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,  
16 the Inflation Reduction Act, and other structures, for  
17 modernization and expansion of ports. And support  
18 inclusion of local content and prevailing wage in port  
19 projects.

20 Also Specific to Workforce Development is to help  
21 California develop an equitable, skilled, and trained  
22 workforce to support the offshore wind industry. Such as  
23 encourage the development of project labor agreements,  
24 community benefits agreements, and social impact  
25 partnerships that provide local and underserved communities

1 and California Native American tribes with meaningful  
2 economic benefits from the offshore wind development  
3 industry.

4           Specific to Transmission Technology and  
5 Alternatives. Continue assessing transmission alternatives  
6 for the North and Central Coast offshore wind development  
7 to meet the offshore wind planning goals, including  
8 analyzing corridors, routes, and rights-of-way for  
9 promising transmission pathways, including land-based  
10 overhead and underground, HVAC and HVDC, and subsea cable  
11 alternatives.

12           Specific to Transmission Planning and  
13 Interconnection. Inform existing transmission planning  
14 processes by systematically identifying and prioritizing  
15 alternative points of interconnection that limit the number  
16 of landfall sites and minimize environmental impacts and  
17 long run costs.

18           And finally, Specific to Offshore Wind  
19 Permitting. Develop and implement a coordinated and  
20 comprehensive permitting for offshore wind and related  
21 projects based on the previously successful Desert  
22 Renewable Energy Action Team, REAT, which is the Renewable  
23 Energy Action Team. The Renewable Energy Action Policy  
24 Group model as well. And an Ocean REAT structure could  
25 potentially be used for offshore wind projects, and



1 possibly for additional types of offshore wind-related  
2 projects such as port and waterfront facilities,  
3 transmission, as appropriate for coordinated permitting.  
4 Next slide, please.

5           So I pause here, there is no way I can  
6 acknowledge all the staff and leadership involved in the  
7 development of this plan, but this slide is an attempt. I  
8 do want to acknowledge our planning, primary authors,  
9 Melissa, Jim, and Lorelei who managed all of the edits.  
10 And as you can see from that list, there was a lot of edits  
11 over the months. And as well as the feedback to ensure a  
12 clear, concise, and succinct strategic plan. Next slide,  
13 please.

14           I want to close with a personal story. Millions  
15 of Americans, American adults, I'm part of a group that  
16 were diagnosed as adults with asthma. And we don't always  
17 mention the CEC mission also includes our protection of  
18 public health and welfare. And just today, it's been  
19 almost a year that I've had to use an inhaler, because of  
20 bad air quality. I had to use an air inhaler today, my  
21 Symbicort, in order to be here today.

22           These are real issues. And AB 525 is a component  
23 of a larger mandate that California is leading under SB  
24 100. And how we're going to get to 2045 for a cleaner  
25 renewable future. So while we recognize the strategic plan

1 doesn't resolve every issue, it acknowledges all the  
2 concerns and captures all the feedback that we have heard  
3 over the last two-and-a-half years.

4           This plan is just the beginning and not an end.  
5 So we will continue the discussions with tribal  
6 governments, underserved communities, fisheries, additional  
7 stakeholders, federal, state and local agencies. We will  
8 continue to advance and explore the recommendations and  
9 strategies developed in the strategic plan. It is our  
10 commitment to all of you. But for today, we do ask that  
11 you adopt this final strategic plan.

12           And with that, I thank you for your  
13 consideration.

14           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Elizabeth.

15           And let me thank all of the staff who worked so  
16 hard on this. And all of the stakeholders, tribal leaders,  
17 environmental justice groups, environmental groups,  
18 fisheries, ports, and others who have provided in excess of  
19 500 pages of comments. We've done our very best to  
20 incorporate those into the plan.

21           I'll make a few remarks and then I'll pass it  
22 over to the Governor's Offshore Wind Advisor Jana Ganion.  
23 But before I do, I again want to apologize for the IT  
24 issues this morning. And just to reiterate, I'm David  
25 Hochschild, Chair of the Energy Commission. I'm joined

1 here in person by Commissioner Andrew McAllister, and  
2 Commissioner Monahan is joining us virtually from Newport  
3 Beach.

4 So we are the first generation in history to have  
5 full visibility about the threats posed by climate change.  
6 And we're the last generation that can do something about  
7 it. So that's the moment in history that we're at.  
8 Climate change is threatening every single species in our  
9 state. Certainly every single community in our state.

10 I grew up in San Francisco, we never had wildfire  
11 smoke my whole life, I'm 53, until four years ago. And  
12 we've had it every summer. My kids got sick. My wife got  
13 sick. We're seeing fatalities from extreme heat.

14 And so confronting this challenge, I really  
15 believe is the challenge of our generation. And it's  
16 extremely difficult to do, because every clean energy  
17 technology also has its own impacts. And so we have to  
18 walk this path together, we have to listen to each other.  
19 We have to chart a course towards a clean energy future and  
20 do it the right way. And that requires a lot of patience.  
21 A lot of collaboration. A lot of listening and engagement.

22 This report today we're voting on and considering  
23 for adoption is the fourth of four reports required by AB  
24 525. Just for context, the first report which was adopted  
25 in August of 2022, evaluated the maximum physical capacity

1 for offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer  
2 employment, and decarbonization. And those planning goals  
3 were set in that report. The second one was around the  
4 assessment of economic benefits for offshore wind, as they  
5 relate to sea port investments and workforce development.  
6 And the third was around the permitting roadmap and  
7 included timeframes and milestones for a coordinated,  
8 comprehensive and efficient permitting process.

9           There will be two additional reports upcoming  
10 mandated by legislation, authored by Assemblymember Zbur,  
11 AB 3, which is going to be looking really at the  
12 manufacturing jobs opportunities and different scenarios  
13 there.

14           I really wanted to extend my gratitude again to  
15 everyone. We've had in excess of 200 different stakeholder  
16 meetings over the last few years on this and we'll be  
17 continuing to do many, many more, fully committed to that.

18           And with that, what we'd like to do now is hear  
19 from the Governor's Offshore Wind Advisor, and then we'll  
20 go straight to tribal leaders. And we'll hear from them.  
21 And we're going to stay as long as it takes a day to finish  
22 hearing from absolutely everybody. And when we're done  
23 with the tribal leaders, and they've concluded their  
24 comments, we'll open up to public comment generally here in  
25 the room and online. And then we'll come back to the

1 discussion.

2 So with that, over to Jana Ganion, Governor  
3 Newsom's Offshore Wind Advisor.

4 MS. GANION: Thank you so much, Chair Hochschild.  
5 I want to thank you all for making time today to discuss  
6 the final AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan.

7 My name is Jana Ganion. I am the Senior Advisor  
8 for Offshore Wind in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom.  
9 This is my fourth month on the state's team and almost a  
10 decade focused on the potentials of offshore wind. This  
11 strategic energy offshore wind energy plan has been  
12 developed spanning over the last two-and-a-half years as  
13 you've heard, and is the result of staggering efforts. The  
14 CEC team has worked expertly and around the clock,  
15 particularly recently, coordinating and managing the  
16 technical details of a large, complex and rapidly evolving  
17 set of industries.

18 The California Natural Resources Agency the  
19 Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, the Ocean  
20 Protection Council, the California Department of Fish and  
21 Wildlife, and dozens of other state agencies and team  
22 members have contributed their expertise mightily to this  
23 work product.

24 As importantly, this plan has been shaped and  
25 improved by tribes and tribal governments, local

1 governments, federal agencies, community-based  
2 organizations, environmental organizations, justice  
3 organizations, labor unions, ports, climate and energy  
4 experts, fisheries, industry representatives, and many  
5 others. These hundreds of thought partners have devoted  
6 their time and expertise to focus on the development of  
7 offshore wind energy and its related sectors, which include  
8 ports, transmission, ecosystem adaptive management,  
9 workforce development, supply chains, and others in  
10 California for its many potential benefits: greenhouse gas  
11 reductions and decarbonization, reliability, diversity in  
12 the electrical generation mix, opportunities for employment  
13 innovation, and as a part of California's progress to 100  
14 percent clean electricity by 2045.

15 Strategic plans provide directional priorities to  
16 guide the lion's share of the work that is still in front  
17 of us. This plan now includes summaries of common themes  
18 of comments received, additional details on many of the  
19 technical topics as you heard Elizabeth describe,  
20 recommendations on identification avoidance, minimization  
21 and mitigation of effects, both in the environment and in  
22 communities. And it provides a basis for benefits, labor  
23 agreements, community benefits, public-private  
24 partnerships. And all of these things together provide a  
25 strong foundation for advancing actions from here with

1 strength, ingenuity, and equity.

2 I'll end by saying that the climate crisis and  
3 the unsustainable warming of our oceans, air and lands,  
4 provides the overarching context and the increasing sense  
5 of urgency for this work. So I want to thank you all for  
6 joining us today. Thank you all for your prior work.  
7 Thank you all for your work in the future. And will look  
8 forward to today's discussion. Thanks so much.

9

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much. So Jana,  
11 let's go over to Mona to invite the tribes.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair.

13 Good morning, again. Thank you for joining us  
14 today. I'm the Energy Commission's Public Advisor, Mona  
15 Badie. I'm going to be facilitating the public comment  
16 portion for Item 3.

17 The Commission welcomes public comments. The  
18 business meeting today is being held in two in-person  
19 locations here in Sacramento. And we also have a publicly  
20 accessible in-person location in Newport Beach today. And  
21 then of course, we have our Zoom participants online and by  
22 phone. And I want to extend my appreciation for folks  
23 patience as we fixed the technical issues that we  
24 experienced earlier today.

25 So for this item we're going to take public

38

1 comments or comments, excuse me, in three different groups.  
2 So please bear with me, because we're going to go through  
3 the two in-person locations and then we're going to go to  
4 Zoom for each of these three groups.

5 We are asking for all comments to be limited to  
6 two minutes or less, and there'll be a timer on the screen.  
7 This time limit helps us make sure that everyone has equal  
8 time and the opportunity to be heard today. So we're  
9 asking folks to please respect that time limit.

10 And first, we're going to start with state  
11 government, and then we're going to move to tribal  
12 government. And then we're going to open it up to general  
13 public comment. And we're going to use the honor system.  
14 So folks, if you're in the room with us in Newport Beach,  
15 and you are with state government leadership, then now is  
16 the time to notify if you'd like to make a comment. And  
17 Patricia, do we have anyone that is state government at  
18 Newport Beach?

19 MS. CARLOS: We do not.

20 MS. BADIE: Okay, thank you.

21 And then how about in Sacramento with us today in  
22 the CNRA auditorium, do we have any state government in the  
23 room with us today that would like to make a comment? If  
24 so will you please raise your hand or approach the podium?  
25 All right, I'm not seeing anyone.



1           So we can turn to Zoom and I'm looking. If you  
2 are with state government can you also raise your hand on  
3 Zoom? All right. And if you're joining us by phone,  
4 you'll press \*9 to raise your hand. And we're not seeing  
5 state government folks on Zoom.

6           So next, I'm going to move to tribal government.  
7 So if there is tribal government leadership in Newport  
8 Beach, in Sacramento, or on Zoom, we would like to hear  
9 comments now.

10           And Patricia, do we have any tribal government  
11 leadership? That would be tribal nations starting with  
12 elected officials, tribal government staff representatives  
13 in the room with you?

14           MS. CARLOS: I have Ysabelle with Blue Lake  
15 Rancheria.

16           MS. BADIE: Okay, thank you.

17           Ysabelle, if you'd like to approach the  
18 microphone in Newport Beach.

19           MS. YRAD: Can you hear me?

20           MS. BADIE: Yes.

21           MS. YRAD: Hello, I'm Ysabelle Yrad. It's  
22 spelled Y-S-A-B-E-L-L-E, Yrad is Y-R-A-D. I'm a West Coast  
23 Ocean Alliance Fellow at Blue Lake Rancheria. And I'm also  
24 a recent graduate from a sustainability and development  
25 master's program. And I'm speaking towards an approval for

1 the strategic plan to responsibly plan for offshore wind in  
2 California with the partnership and meaningful  
3 participation of tribes and underserved communities, Native  
4 American tribes including federally and non-federally  
5 recognized tribes, exercise sovereignty self-governance.

6           And not speaking on behalf of any one tribe, but  
7 many have submitted comments and concerns and opposition  
8 for offshore wind in California, as mentioned in the  
9 strategic plan. And my hope is that with the overview of  
10 marine, tribal, fishery for transmission impacts and  
11 strategies outlined in the strategic plan, that state staff  
12 understand the interconnectedness of such issues. And hold  
13 themselves with the moral obligation of enacting such  
14 strategies and supporting efforts outlined in the strategic  
15 plan as tribes and other interested parties have put  
16 thoughtfulness to comment and participate in ways they have  
17 seen fit.

18           I would also be remiss not to emphasize the  
19 strategic plan, the mention of tribes' direct role in  
20 decision making, as well as the need for better research,  
21 such as the Pacific Offshore Wind Consortium, which Blue  
22 Lake Rancheria is an advisor to.

23           And speaking on again behalf of Blue Lake  
24 Rancheria, the tribe hopes for continued state  
25 responsibility relative to environmental and cultural

1 protections, opportunities to advance economic prosperity,  
2 and community growth through engagement with this energy  
3 emerging industry.

4 And lastly, assurances that environmental  
5 protections, cultural protections in CEQA is not  
6 compromised including for processes and imports from all  
7 development. Thank you.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment.

9 Patricia, are there any other tribal governments  
10 or leadership with you in Newport Beach that would like to  
11 comment at this time?

12 MS. CARLOS: No, we do not have any additional  
13 commenters.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

15 All right. We're going to go to the room in  
16 Sacramento. We're asking for if there's any tribal  
17 government or leadership that would like to make a comment  
18 here in person in Sacramento. If you could raise your hand  
19 or approach the podium, okay.

20 We don't have anyone in the room with us and  
21 we're going to transition to Zoom now. And I see that we  
22 have Chair Buster Attery joining us. I'm going to open  
23 your line. One moment, please. All right, Chair Attebery,  
24 I've opened your line if you could unmute on your end. And  
25 we're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

1 CHAIR ATTEBERY: Okay, can you hear me?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes. Thank you so much.

3 CHAIR ATTEBERY: Okay. Yes, Buster Attebery,  
4 Karuk Tribal Chairman. The Karuk Tribe is located in the  
5 very northern part of California just below the Oregon  
6 border.

7 First of all we ought to thank you for the  
8 consultation. It was very important to the tribes. I  
9 truly believe that when we just had a big project with the  
10 dam removal and had a consultation happen, we wouldn't have  
11 had the all the issues that came along with that, with  
12 proper consultation. So appreciate it.

13 The Karuk Tribe is well aware of the climate  
14 change and the need to adjust as evidenced by our  
15 Comprehensive Climate Adaptation Plan that is found on our  
16 website at [www.karuk.us](http://www.karuk.us). And it speaks to the need to  
17 combine modern science with tribal ecological knowledge.

18 So a couple of concerns as we move forward with  
19 the project. As I've previously stated, we certainly  
20 understand the need for clean energy. We want to bring  
21 those two best practices, or in some cases worst practices.  
22 So we don't have any 11-hour decisions that tribes don't  
23 know about. We want to be and stay informed ahead of time  
24 of the progress for things like how it's going to affect  
25 the fish that is the lifeblood of three of the largest

1 tribes in California that reside along the Klamath River.  
2 And the lifespan of these wind turbines, and so those  
3 questions stand out. We want to make sure we have proper  
4 updates on the progress as we move forward, so we don't  
5 have any limits at 11th-hour decisions. Thank you for your  
6 time.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair Atterbury.

8 Next we're going to hear from Heidi Moore-Guynup.  
9 I'm going to open your line, Heidi. And we're asking for  
10 comments to be two minutes or less and you'll unmute on  
11 your end after I've opened.

12 MS. MOORE-GUYNUP: My name is Heidi Moore-Guynup  
13 and I'm the Director of Government and Tribal Affairs at  
14 the Blue Lake Rancheria. Thank you for allowing me to  
15 speak.

16 I believe that it's important for us all to  
17 remember that California has adopted ambitious climate  
18 goals to combat the ever-present climate crisis. Climate  
19 activist Tom Steyer says, "We need better tech, better  
20 ideas, better rules, and better metrics." Offshore wind  
21 may be an important opportunity to advance those goals.

22 This said, there are three converging processes  
23 happening simultaneously. AB 525, transmission planning,  
24 and a proposed bill to not require CEQA during the scoping  
25 process. I want to be sure that all processes honor the

1 need for meaningful tribal and community engagement if we  
2 are to win the will of the people for this project. I  
3 appreciate that marine species and tribal impacts are  
4 priorities within the strategic plan, along with other  
5 important areas.

6 I hope that this plan will serve as a litmus test  
7 for all decision making moving forward. It nicely  
8 articulates the what, but does not yet include the how, the  
9 action plan if you will.

10 Blue Lake Rancheria asked the Commission to move  
11 forward as responsibly as possible by being both  
12 environmentally and culturally responsive with decision  
13 making. BLR also recognizes the opportunities associated  
14 with offshore wind for workforce development and commercial  
15 prosperity for historically disadvantaged communities.

16 Further, BLR wants to uplift the continuing need  
17 to support scientific inquiry and an understanding around  
18 floating offshore wind. And is pleased to be part of the  
19 Pacific Offshore Wind Collaborative or POWC. Such  
20 collaboratives require dedicated resources and I'm  
21 confident that with the right support will help the  
22 Commission and others to more comprehensively and deeply  
23 understand more about the many priorities indicated in the  
24 strategic plan.

25 With that I thank you for your time.

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Heidi.

2 And next we'll hear from Alex Mesher. Alex, I'm  
3 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be  
4 two minutes or less.

5 MR. MESHER: Good morning to Chair Hochschild and  
6 the California Energy Commission. Thank you for your time.  
7 My name is Alex Mesher. I'm Associate General Counsel for  
8 the Yurok Tribe.

9 The Yurok tribe is the largest federally  
10 recognized tribe in California with more than 6,500  
11 enrolled members. The Yurok Reservation is on the North  
12 Coast of California, along the lowermost portion of the  
13 Klamath River and the unseeded ancestral territory of the  
14 Yurok Tribe, which includes areas of the Pacific Ocean  
15 includes portions of the Humboldt leases as well as the  
16 recently proposed Donor Area One. (phonetic)

17 The Yurok tribe recognizes the importance of  
18 combating the climate crisis, and understands the  
19 substantial potential of offshore wind to decarbonize  
20 California's energy system. However, there is also  
21 potential for offshore wind in Northern California to  
22 perpetuate a harmful cycle of extraction from the Yurok  
23 Tribe, to take away from the tribe's ability to determine  
24 its future, and to irreversibly harm cultural and natural  
25 resources that are vital to the tribes existence. For this

1 reason, the Yurok Tribe has engaged closely with the AB 525  
2 process over the last year and a half, consistently and  
3 repeatedly imploring the Commission to include robust and  
4 detailed recommendations to recognize and incorporate a  
5 mechanism for the exercise of tribal sovereignty, including  
6 regulatory authority over the Yurok Tribe's ancestral  
7 waters, in particular with respect to permitting and sea  
8 space planning.

9           The tribe is pleased that the Commission has  
10 included a summary of the tribe's comments in the final  
11 plan and the tribe's recommendations regarding averting  
12 MMIP impacts from offshore wind. However, the tribe was  
13 disappointed to see that the Commission did not ultimately  
14 adopt specific recommendations regarding travel,  
15 permitting, and sea space planning. The plan does not  
16 provide nor recommend explicit inclusion of tribes in the  
17 recommended Ocean Reef permitting process. And does not  
18 address the tribes grave concern regarding the  
19 identification of the Donor Area One is suitable sea space,  
20 nor acknowledge the lack of consultation with the tribe  
21 regarding conflicting tribal uses.

22           It is imperative that the Ocean Reef process  
23 explicitly include a process for inclusion of tribal  
24 sovereignty, and the tribe will continue to engage in the  
25 implementation of AB 525. Thank you for your time.



1 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Alex.

2 I just wanted to remind folks again before we go  
3 to the next commenter, that if you would like to comment  
4 and you are with a tribal government or tribal leadership,  
5 please use the raise hand feature on your screen. It looks  
6 like an open palm or press \*9 to raise your hand. We've  
7 reserved this time for tribal governments and leadership.  
8 But also the open public comment period is another time  
9 where we can call on folks from anywhere, including tribes.

10 Okay, so next I have Violet Sage Walker. I'm  
11 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be  
12 two minutes or less and you'll unmute on your end. One  
13 moment please. Your line is open. Good

14 CHAIR WALKER: Hi, good morning. Thank you.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My  
16 name is Violet Sage Walker. I'm with the Northern Chumash  
17 Tribal Council. And we have been actively engaged in  
18 offshore wind going back almost a decade. And I just  
19 wanted to say this morning that we appreciate the notice  
20 that the plan was out. I did get a chance to obviously not  
21 review in detail the whole document, but I do want to just  
22 say that our tribe is appreciative at the robust inclusion  
23 of the tribes' input, tribal input in general, and the  
24 opportunities for tribes to work in all phases of offshore  
25 wind.

1           We do believe that this is a great opportunity  
2 for California and California tribes to go into the future  
3 of renewable energy together. We have a lot of experience  
4 working on renewable energy projects in the past that have  
5 not had the best mitigation, and not had the best outcomes  
6 for tribal communities around California. And we hope that  
7 the early inclusion of the tribes can change that dynamic.

8           One of the things that I would like to say is  
9 that there was not language in the document that  
10 specifically had measurable milestones that we needed to  
11 achieve with tribal consultation, tribal inclusion, and  
12 some of these other issues that we're facing, which is the  
13 lack of resources available to tribes to participate. And  
14 so one of my only real critique of this moment is that we  
15 need to have some type of measurable milestones and  
16 benchmarks that we look at. And how do we assess those  
17 milestones? And how do we determine whether or not they're  
18 working now and into the future for the next, you know, 40  
19 years, the next four decades.

20           One of the other concerns that we had is that  
21 community benefits and mitigation measures really go to  
22 work on the items, the issues, the ocean, the animals that  
23 are being affected. And so I think a lot of times when we  
24 talk about mitigation we really need to talk about the  
25 animals that we're protecting in the ocean. And so I would

1 just like to see a more robust plan to really be inclusive  
2 of wildlife habitat and management, supporting of marine  
3 sanctuaries and research.

4 And also just a really thoughtful plan as to how  
5 to make this all work together, so that we can collaborate  
6 together and so that we can make this an example instead of  
7 a tragedy. And I really look forward to getting to dive  
8 into this process. And really would like to just say that  
9 I think that the Commission has gone above and beyond what  
10 we've ever seen with tribal outreach.

11 So that being said, this is the most tribal  
12 outreach that we've ever had. While it's not perfect, it  
13 is a really good example of what we can do when tribes are  
14 included. And I just want to leave it at that and say thank  
15 you for your time today. Thank you for putting this  
16 together. And although it's not perfect, it is a good  
17 example of what happens with early and often consultation.  
18 Thank you.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair Walker.

20 Next, we are going to go to someone who has  
21 identified themselves as tribe on Zoom.

22 I'm going to open your line. If you'd be willing  
23 to share your name before making your comment that would be  
24 very helpful for us for the record. And we're asking for  
25 comments to be two minutes or less. Your line is open.

1 (No audible response.)

2 For the Zoom attendee who has identified  
3 themselves as tribe and raised their hand, your line is  
4 open and we're showing you as unmuted, but we cannot hear  
5 any audio from you. (Pause.) What we'll do is we'll move  
6 on to the next commenter, and if you want to, and then  
7 we'll come back to you and see if you can resolve your  
8 audio issues.

9 All right, next we will hear from Cathie  
10 Buchanan. Cathie, I'm going to open your line. We are  
11 asking for comments to be two minutes or less so that  
12 everyone can have equal time and we can hear from  
13 everybody. I'm going to open your line at this time.

14 MS. BUCHANAN: Can you hear me?

15 MS. BADIE: Yes, but the volume is very low,  
16 Cathie.

17 MS. BUCHANAN: I will try to speak louder. Thank  
18 you, that works. My name is Catherine Buchanan. I'm the  
19 Environmental Natural Resources Director for the Bear River  
20 Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. I have an environmental  
21 resources engineering and chemistry degrees from Humboldt  
22 State University and a master's in biology ecology with an  
23 emphasis in sustainable engineering from University of  
24 Toledo, Ohio.

25 To remind everyone in the room, excuse me if I

1 offend people but I have to say this, the definition of  
2 fascism as stated by the grandfather of fascism, Mussolini,  
3 "Fascism is the marriage of government and industry." The  
4 exemption of the electricity businesses from CEQA is the  
5 marriage of our California state government and business to  
6 usurp the environmental process. CEQA is for the  
7 protection of the people of the State of California. And  
8 to propose to exempt any industry from the CEQA process is  
9 to open the door for future business exemptions.

10           There are mining companies such as US Copper in  
11 this named Canadian mining company, that is chomping at the  
12 bit to begin open pit mining for copper in our mountains in  
13 Plumas County. The high-voltage transmission lines that  
14 will be connecting the offshore turbines to the end user  
15 will be made of copper. Will that industry be the next to  
16 be granted exemptions?

17           To date there has been no evidence presented that  
18 definitively supports the theory that offshore wind is the  
19 absolute best solution for the State of California that  
20 will not exacerbate the conditions of climate change.  
21 Where is the best available science that definitively  
22 states that offshore wind is the absolute best solution in  
23 lieu of diversification of a plethora of alternative  
24 generating resources? What are the raw material  
25 requirements for the manufacturing of the turbines? The

1 blades of the turbines are learned with balsa wood that are  
2 from the Amazon and Ecuador rainforests. How many hundreds  
3 of miles of high voltage lines will be made from copper  
4 that will be coming from mining? How many towers are going  
5 to need steel that will be made from mined ore? Each tower  
6 will have a 900 gallon diesel tank to be used for  
7 lubricant.

8           There is also no mention of the 20 sea ports that  
9 will be required to service the fields of turbines. Well,  
10 where are those? Where will those sea ports be located?  
11 Thank you.

12           MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

13           All right, and next. Sorry, one moment.

14           Chair Moorehead I see that your hand is raised.  
15 I'm going to open your line. We are asking for comments to  
16 be two minutes or less. One moment, please. Chair  
17 Moorehead, your line is open.

18           CHAIR MOOREHEAD: Okay, can you hear me?

19           MS. BADIE: Yes. Thank you.

20           CHAIR MOOREHEAD: Hi, I'm Chairman Moorehead from  
21 Big Lagoon Rancheria. We're a small rancheria located in  
22 Northern California. We're Yurok and Tolowa descendants.  
23 We're a small tribe.

24           I guess I come from this, you know, supporting  
25 the project. I come from a little different viewpoint that

1 my dad was a retired longshoreman in the Bay at Humboldt,  
2 so I kind of am the beneficiary of a thriving economic  
3 project in the Humboldt Bay. You know, they used to ship  
4 logs, chips, pulp. That industry is no longer here, so I  
5 welcome this project.

6 I understand there's quite a bit of a long ways  
7 to go from a tribal standpoint. I guess, you know, we're  
8 all kind of interrelated here on the coast. And the  
9 Chairman from Karuk Tribe mentioned the fish and he's 120  
10 miles east, and he's concerned about the fish. And I've  
11 sat in on meetings where the tribal representatives have  
12 asked for the impact on the fish. I guess to be true and  
13 honest, I don't think we have a concrete answer for the  
14 effects of this project 20 miles off, and how it's going to  
15 impact the fish, which is the blood lifeline of the local  
16 tribes. So I think in trying to get the tribes involved is  
17 to be transparent in and get them included in the process  
18 of studying what is known, you know, or what is not known.  
19 And addressing that major question.

20 I believe this is a project that's great. I  
21 mean, I own a hotel in Arcata. The last two or three weeks  
22 have been kind of our busiest period in years. And it's  
23 because of the heat inland. You know, during the week we  
24 never used to be filled up like this, but because of the  
25 heat over in the Valley people are coming to the coast. So

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1 I support this. I know it's in its initial stages. I  
2 appreciate all the work that's been done.

3 I just I just implore on both sides. I think the  
4 tribes got to get a little more aggressive in trying to  
5 keep track of what's going on. And the planners of this  
6 have to reach out and include them in the process of  
7 developing. That one question I think that the local  
8 tribes here is a thread for everybody, is how is this going  
9 to affect our fisheries, our aboriginal fishing?

10 So I appreciate all the work and look forward to  
11 keeping track on this project. Thank you for the time  
12 allowing me to speak.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair Moorehead.

14 And just a reminder we've reserved this time for  
15 tribal governments, tribal leadership, tribal government  
16 staff representatives. And it's -- I'm not able to find  
17 folks on Zoom unless you raise your hand, because we have a  
18 lot of names on the screen. So if you're with any of those  
19 groups, if you could please raise your hand and help us  
20 out. And also, you can raise your hand during the open  
21 public comment period too. That is another option for  
22 comments.

23 Okay, so I'm not seeing any other tribal  
24 government or leadership or staff representative hands on  
25 Zoom. If you're on the phone, a reminder to press \*9. And



1 we're going to now open it up to the open public comment  
2 period. So if you are joining us for this meeting and  
3 would like to comment on Item 3, this is the last public  
4 comment period for Item 3.

5 If you're joining us in the room, we're asking  
6 folks to raise their hand or use the QR code if you're in  
7 Sacramento with us. And if you're joining by Zoom, you  
8 will use the raise hand feature on your screen or press \*9  
9 if joining us by phone to raise your hand. We're going to  
10 start in Newport Beach in person, then we'll move to  
11 Sacramento in person and then we're going to transition to  
12 Zoom.

13 Patricia Carlos at our Newport Beach location, do  
14 we have any in-person commenters?

15 MS. CARLOS: Yes. Hi, we have Steven King,  
16 Environment California Research and Policy Center.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

18 Steven, if you could please approach the  
19 microphone in the room. We're asking for comments to be  
20 two minutes or less. And if you could also state and spell  
21 your name for the record that will help our court reporter  
22 as well.

23 MR. KING: Yes, hello, my name is Steven King.  
24 That's S-T-E-V-E-N K-I-N-G. And I'm the Clean Energy  
25 Advocate with Environment California Research and Policy

1 Center. Thanks so much for taking this time today,  
2 Commissioners.

3 I'm here today urging you to adopt the AB 525  
4 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan to provide California with a  
5 critical roadmap for responsible offshore wind development.  
6 Back in 2021 Environment California sponsored and supported  
7 AB 525 to develop this much needed strategic plan. We're  
8 pleased that the Commission has completed such a  
9 comprehensive plan that sets us on the right path towards  
10 offshore wind development.

11 Tapping into California's vast offshore wind  
12 resources is essential for meeting our climate goals and  
13 phasing out dirty fossil fuel power. Offshore wind can be  
14 a major contributor to a 100 percent clean electric grid,  
15 enhancing our ability to provide around the clock clean  
16 energy and helping us avert the worst impacts of climate  
17 change.

18 The strategic plan provides crucial analysis and  
19 information as we embark upon deploying enough offshore  
20 wind turbines to power over 25 million homes by 2045. For  
21 example, the plan identifies which of California's ports  
22 are able to accommodate different activities to support  
23 offshore wind development. And estimates that \$11 to \$12  
24 billion is needed to upgrade port infrastructure and meet  
25 our ambitious goals.

1           There's still much to do in order to get offshore  
2 wind up and running. But we're confident that this  
3 strategic plan gives us the roadmap to go big on offshore  
4 wind. It's time to implement solutions to realize our  
5 offshore wind potential, like investing in much needed port  
6 infrastructure and monitoring marine ecosystems to minimize  
7 environmental impacts.

8           Please adopt this plan so we can start to take  
9 advantage of all that offshore wind energy has to offer.  
10 Thank you.

11           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Steve.

12           Patricia Carlos in Newport Beach, do we have  
13 other in-person commenters with you today?

14           MS. CARLOS: Yes, our next speaker is Jacqueline  
15 Moore with Pacific Merchant Shipping Association.

16           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

17           Jacqueline, if you could please approach the  
18 microphone. We are asking for comments to be two minutes  
19 or less and it would be very helpful if you could state and  
20 spell your name for the record before making your comment.  
21 Thank you.

22           MS. MOORE: Good morning. My name is Jacqueline  
23 Moore, J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E, last name Moore, M-O-O-R-E. I  
24 represent PMSA. We are a nonprofit trade association that  
25 represents owners and operators of vessels that operate

1 along the West Coast.

2           And I'd first like to take the opportunity to  
3 thank Commissioner Monahan for hosting this remote meeting,  
4 and so I can make comments in person without being in  
5 Sacramento. So thank you for that.

6           PMSA is supportive of offshore wind in practice.  
7 We simply want to make sure the industry is seen as a  
8 stakeholder and participating in this entire process. We  
9 are concerned about the insufficient noticing and improper  
10 publishing of the relevant meeting materials, namely the  
11 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan. The three volumes  
12 were released yesterday after 1:00 p.m. And the resolution  
13 was not available or posted to the CEC website until after  
14 2:00 p.m. It's deficient and contradictory to the public  
15 process. It's imperative that the concerned stakeholders  
16 be provided with the opportunity to review, consider, and  
17 be able to put together comprehensive comments for the CEC.

18           It's incredibly important to do this, because  
19 it's expected to lead California in its offshore wind  
20 generation future. The strategic plan documents total over  
21 600 pages. And I for one was not able to review these  
22 plans in detail. It's very likely that our previous  
23 considerations were included in the plan. I don't know,  
24 because I haven't had time to review 600 pages. Again,  
25 these are offshore wind in practice.

1           So as such I respectfully request the Commission  
2 to reschedule the adoption of the resolution for the August  
3 14th business meeting. And to direct stakeholders that  
4 they may submit written comments on the final strategic  
5 plan volumes. And I look forward to reviewing that was in  
6 providing comments at a later time. That concludes my  
7 comments. Thank you.

8           MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment.

9           Patricia Carlos, do we have any more commenters  
10 in person from Newport?

11           MS. CARLOS: Those are all the commenters we have  
12 here in Newport.

13           MS. BADIE: Great. Thank you so much. We will  
14 now transition to in-person commenters at our Sacramento  
15 location. So there's a few ways you can let us know.  
16 We've got a lot of folks that have used the QR code that's  
17 posted in the back of the room, or visit the Public Advisor  
18 table in the back of the room. And also we will take hands  
19 as well.

20           So first, we'll go to the folks that have signed  
21 up in advance with the QR code this morning. Jeff  
22 Hunerlach, if you could please approach the podium? If you  
23 could please spell your name for the record and we are  
24 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. There'll be  
25 a timer on the screen. After Jeff, we'll hear from Jim

1 Jacobs.

2 MR. HUNERLACH: Hello, my name is Jeff Hunerlach,  
3 J-E-F-F H-U-N-E-R-L-A-C-H. Today, I'm an Operating  
4 Engineer first and foremost, but I'm here as the Secretary  
5 Treasurer for the Humboldt Del Norte Building and  
6 Construction Trades. I'm here today speaking on behalf of  
7 our 15 affiliates, and we support fully the strategic plan  
8 and AB 525 especially for port development for offshore  
9 wind. We support the floating offshore wind aspect,  
10 transmission for offshore wind. We also support the PLAs  
11 that are in place for offshore wind, which provides a  
12 skilled and trained workforce.

13 We believe the plan provides a roadmap for  
14 responsible construction and projects in the renewable  
15 energy industry. We fully are committed to all renewable  
16 energy projects and for protecting our environment. That's  
17 why this plan is so meaningful today.

18 I want to thank the Board, Chair Hochschild,  
19 everybody that's worked so diligently, the staff on this  
20 strategic plan. And I would ask and move that you approve  
21 this strategic plan today, so we can get on with our  
22 offshore wind and port development and be able to help our  
23 environment. So thank you so much for your time today.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment.

25 Next we'll hear from Jim Jacobs. Jim, we're all

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1 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. There'll be  
2 a timer on the screen. And as a reminder to spell your  
3 name before making your comments. After Jim, we'll hear  
4 from Carrie Leider. Thanks, Jim.

5 MR. JACOBS: Good morning, Chairman and Members  
6 of the Commission. I really appreciate and respect your  
7 time. I'm Jim Jacobs, J-A-C-O-B-S. I'm here with the  
8 Operating Engineers Union Local Number 3. I am the  
9 Treasurer and the Officer in charge of the North Coast.  
10 I'm here to say that I fully support 525 And the strategic  
11 plan.

12 I heard you say earlier that we are the stewards  
13 of the environment here and it's time to make a roadmap to  
14 get to clean energy and try to combat global warming. This  
15 is the roadmap. I think your staff did a beautiful job on  
16 the report that they did this morning. Nothing is ever  
17 perfect. I know there's a lot of questions about the  
18 fisheries. I would like those people to ask themselves the  
19 question, what happens if we don't act? What happens if we  
20 don't act and don't try to combat and go to a cleaner,  
21 greener earth? Because it could be devastating, which I  
22 think we're seeing the effects of today. Heat Waves,  
23 flooding, it's a mess.

24 So I appreciate your work. I appreciate your  
25 time. And I support everything about this project. Thank

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1 you very much.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we'll hear from Cary Leider. I apologize if  
4 I've mispronounced your name. Just a reminder, we're  
5 asking for comments to be two minutes or less, and there'll  
6 be a timer on the screen. And also, please state and spell  
7 your name before making your comments.

8 MR. LEIDER: Good morning. My name is Cary  
9 Leider, C-A-R-Y L-E-I-D as in David-E-R. I've been an  
10 Operating Engineer for 28 years. I am a graduated  
11 apprentice of the Operating Engineers Program and we  
12 support the strategic plan and especially harbor  
13 redevelopment for offshore wind, and floating offshore wind  
14 projects.

15 AB 525 allows these projects to be done in a  
16 responsible manner. We support project labor agreements,  
17 which provides a quality for skilled and trained workforce.  
18 We are fully committed to renewable energy and for  
19 protecting the environment. Thank you so much for your  
20 time.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22 And next we'll hear from Kelly Boyd in the room.  
23 And then after Kelly, we'll hear from John Matos.

24 Kelly, do you want to approach the podium. Thank  
25 you. And then just a reminder to please spell your name



1 for the record. And we're asking for comments to be two  
2 minutes or less.

3 MR. BOYD: Thank you. Good morning. My name is  
4 Kelly Boyd, B-O-Y-D. I'm with Equinor and our Atlas Wind  
5 Project off the Central Coast. I wanted to thank you,  
6 Chair Hochschild and Commissioners, and Elizabeth Huber,  
7 and all the staff for many years of work on this, but  
8 incredibly comprehensive work over the last six months with  
9 a lot of input from a lot of stakeholders through a great  
10 deal of process.

11 We support you in the passage of the strategic  
12 plan. We think it's the beginning of the next important  
13 phase. The just transition is incredibly important. This,  
14 we need to make bold steps as you're outlining here. The  
15 transmission planning, the permitting roadmap that's going  
16 to help guide this process through an ocean rate, which was  
17 a successful model previously. Now apply it to the ocean.  
18 Workforce and supply chain incredibly important to local  
19 economies and to generational wealth being built around  
20 this process.

21 And the ports, it's very important we get moving  
22 on these ports. It really helps with the decarbonization  
23 there, but also great opportunity both for economic  
24 expansion, but environmental justice in regions that are  
25 really hard to hit there. I will conclude my comments at

1 this point, again thanking all of you, all the staff, the  
2 tribal governments and everyone else. We intend to be  
3 working with you for years to come. Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

5 Next we'll hear from John Matos in the room with  
6 us. After John, we'll hear from Rick Umoff. John, if you  
7 could please spell your name for the record before making  
8 your comments. And we're asking for comments to be two  
9 minutes or less.

10 MR. MATOS: Hi, my name is John Matos. That's J-  
11 O-H-N M-A-T-O-S. I'm with Operating Engineers Local 3.  
12 Specifically, I work for "Engineers News," which is our  
13 internal publication that reaches up to 40,000 of our  
14 members. We're right around that number.

15 So I've been actually reporting on --  
16 specifically my job is to report on any efforts that are  
17 underway for our membership to have their core needs met.  
18 And those core needs are employment with good wages, fair  
19 compensation in the form of benefits that allows them to  
20 have a dignified retirement, opportunities for them to  
21 receive job training either coming into the industry or as  
22 professionals who need to advance that knowledge in their  
23 careers.

24 And I've been, like I said been reporting on our  
25 efforts to secure this offshore wind work in a way that

1 makes sure that our membership, as well as working people  
2 in general in that area, have those core needs met at all  
3 times. And I'm here to speak in support of AB 525 and the  
4 strategic plan for that reason.

5 I know that our staff, like again I've been  
6 working with them for a long time, I know that they've put  
7 a lot of work and effort into making sure that the needs of  
8 working people in Humboldt County and the North Coast in  
9 general are met when this work comes to the area.

10 And I also just want to add that I think that  
11 that's a key to making sure that as we move forward with  
12 clean energy projects, that we win over the support of  
13 working people. That they see the direct benefits of these  
14 projects in their own lives. And that it's not just an  
15 abstract concept when they read the newspaper. That they  
16 understand that bringing these renewable jobs to their area  
17 is going to benefit them personally. And with the  
18 strategic plan I feel like they're doing that. And that's  
19 all I wanted to say today is just I really support that.

20 And I think that that will help our membership,  
21 and working people in general, meet the needs that we all  
22 have for employment, good wages, strong benefits, a  
23 dignified retirement, and opportunities for career  
24 advancement through training. Thank you.

25 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

1           Next we'll hear from Rick Yumoff, and then after  
2 a break we'll hear from Sharon Golden. Rick, just a  
3 reminder to spell your name for the record before making  
4 your comments and we are asking for comments to be two  
5 minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

6           MR. YUMOFF: Great, thank you. Rick Umoff, R-I-  
7 C-K U-M-O-F-F. Chair and Commissioners, my name is Rick  
8 Umoff. I am with Vineyard Offshore. We are a lease holder  
9 off the coast of Humboldt, California. We also are  
10 operating Vineyard Wind 1, which is a project off the coast  
11 of Massachusetts that will power 400,000 homes with clean  
12 reliable energy.

13           We're here today to support the AB 525 plan and  
14 urge adoption of the plan. The plan puts forward a roadmap  
15 for California to achieve its offshore wind targets, to  
16 meet its reliability in clean energy and economic needs.  
17 And we applaud the CEC and the staff for the hard work and  
18 the very robust process and input that has gone on over the  
19 last several years in development of the plan. It sends a  
20 very important and strong signal to the industry that  
21 California is committed to offshore wind. And we do look  
22 forward to working with the Commission, stakeholders,  
23 tribal governments, to implement the plan in an equitable  
24 manner once approved. Thank you very much.

25           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

1           Next we'll hear from Sharon Golden. And then  
2 after Sharon we'll hear from Megan Murray. Sharon, just a  
3 reminder to spell your name before beginning and we're  
4 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

5           MS. GOLDEN: I'm Sharon Golden. That's S-H-A-R-  
6 O-N, last name Golden, G-O-L-D-E-N. I'm a Labor Researcher  
7 for Operating Engineers Local 3. I wanted to thank the  
8 Board and the staff for taking their time on this issue  
9 today.

10           I'm here in support of the adoption of the  
11 strategic plan. California has established climate goals  
12 and reduction targets. And the offshore wind project is a  
13 significant step in reaching those goals. But along with  
14 the transition to clean energy comes the need for a just  
15 transition, ensuring that the jobs created by such clean  
16 energy projects and the port development, are high road  
17 construction careers. The strategic plan before you is an  
18 exemplary example of a just transition to clean energy  
19 jobs.

20           I mean, the Workforce Development Plan includes a  
21 state's encouragement of a PLA, which would ensure that the  
22 people from the community work there. This project has an  
23 opportunity to create sustainable careers that can prop up  
24 working families and the economy at large for a generation.  
25 Please approve the strategic plan today. Thank you.

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

2 Next we'll hear from Megan Murray. And then  
3 after that we'll hear from Molly Croll. Megan, just a  
4 reminder we're asking for comments to be two minutes or  
5 less. And if you could please spell your name before  
6 making your comment for the court reporter that would be  
7 great. Thank you.

8

9 MR. MURRAY: Sure. Good morning. Megan Murray  
10 on behalf of RWE. That's M-E-G-A-N, last name Murray, M-U-  
11 R-R-A-Y. And like I said I'm making the statement on  
12 behalf of RWE.

13 RWE would like to express appreciation to the  
14 Chair Hochschild, Commission staff, supporting agency  
15 consultants, tribal nations, fisheries, EJ organizations,  
16 NGOs and all other stakeholders who have contributed their  
17 time and effort to this final strategic plan for offshore  
18 wind for the State of California. This final plan  
19 represents robust collaboration and will be a living  
20 document that will guide successful and responsible  
21 deployment of offshore wind in our state.

22 As a lease holder on the North Coast, RWE looks  
23 for forward to working collaboratively to develop a project  
24 that will help the state meet its ambitious clean energy  
25 goals. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this

1 statement of support. We appreciate it. Thank you.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we'll hear from Molly Croll. And after  
4 Molly we'll hear from Carmen Guzman in the room with us.  
5 Molly, just a reminder to please spell your name for the  
6 record, and we're asking for comments to be two minutes or  
7 less.

8 MS. CROLL: Thank you. I'm Molly Croll, C-R-O-L-  
9 L, with the American Clean Power Association. We are a  
10 clean energy trade association representing diverse clean  
11 energy developers, including all five of the California  
12 offshore wind leaseholders.

13 I want to thank the CEC for the effort to pull  
14 this together, especially Chair Hochschild and the STEP  
15 team for this presentation, and for producing the final  
16 plan. Thank you also to the many agency partners who  
17 participated in development. This plan represents nearly  
18 three years of work and thoughtful contributions from  
19 multiple stakeholders during development and each of the  
20 chapters as well as the draft plan.

21 We appreciate the efforts of the CEC to pull  
22 together expertise and input from multiple disciplines  
23 capturing considerations for infrastructure, permitting,  
24 siting workforce development, and energy system needs in a  
25 way that only the CEC is really able to do. The

1 recommendation includes thoughtful recommendations that are  
2 sound first steps in implementing the state's offshore wind  
3 ambition and sets forth a vision for a sustainable, robust,  
4 offshore wind industry in the state while acknowledging the  
5 considerable time and investment and work still ahead.

6 We hope this strategic plan will remain a living  
7 document that the state can build upon as policies evolve,  
8 science improves, and as the industry and market matures.  
9 We urge the CEC to remain at the nucleus of this effort to  
10 move offshore forward to achieve our shared climate,  
11 economic development, energy system reliability and  
12 affordability, and environmental protection goals.

13 With that ACPE supports the adoption of this plan  
14 today. Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 Next we'll hear from Carmen Guzman. After Carmen  
17 we'll hear from Julia DeGraw. Carmen, just a reminder to  
18 please spell your name for the record and we're asking for  
19 comments to be two minutes or less.

20 MS. GUZMAN: Hi, my name is Carmen Guzman, and  
21 it's spelled C-A-R-M-E-N G-U-Z-M-A-N. Good morning,  
22 Commissioners. My name is Carmen Guzman, and I'm a student  
23 at the University of California Berkeley and an intern this  
24 summer for Environment California's Clean Energy Campaign.

25 I'm here today to remind you of the urgency of



1 adopting AB 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan to provide  
2 California with a critical roadmap for responsible offshore  
3 wind development. For the sake of students like myself,  
4 and for future generations I'm pleased to see that the  
5 Commission has completed such a thorough plan that sets us  
6 on the right path for offshore wind development.

7           Much of the climate action taken today is  
8 primarily done to remediate the pollution and reliance on  
9 fossil fuel development of the past, something which few of  
10 us had a hand in deciding. Approving the strategic plan is  
11 an opportunity to provide future Californians with  
12 something different, clean and reliable energy, which will  
13 help us avoid the irreversible impacts of the climate  
14 crisis.

15           By tapping into California's vast offshore wind  
16 resources, we can provide abundant renewable energy that  
17 could be a major contributor to 100 percent clean energy  
18 grid. This plan provides crucial information as we embark  
19 upon deploying enough offshore wind turbines along our  
20 coast to power over 25 million homes by 2045. There's so  
21 much to do in order to meet our offshore wind -- sorry --  
22 there is so much to do in order to get offshore wind off  
23 the ground. But this plan gives us a roadmap to go big on  
24 offshore wind.

25           It is time to implement solutions to maximize our

1 offshore wind potential. As a young person who is proud to  
2 call California her home, I urge you to adopt AB 525  
3 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan, so we can support a  
4 sustainable future for all by taking advantage of all that  
5 offshore wind has to offer. Thank you.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

7 Next we'll hear from Julia DeGraw. And after  
8 Julia, we'll hear from Alexis Sutterman. Julia, as a  
9 reminder to please spell your name and we're asking for  
10 comments to be two minutes or less. Hello,

11 MS. DEGRAW: My name is Julia DeGraw, J-U-L-I-A  
12 D-E-Capital-G-R-A-W. And I want to thank you for your  
13 attention and opportunity to testify today. I am the Senior  
14 West Coast Manager for Offshore Wind Development with the  
15 National Wildlife Federation. The National Wildlife  
16 Federation is one of America's oldest and largest  
17 conservation organizations with over 6 million members and  
18 supporters dedicated to uniting all Americans to ensure  
19 wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.

20 Rooted in our understanding that climate change  
21 is among the greatest threats to wildlife habitat and  
22 communities we have long advocated for the responsible  
23 development of clean energy solutions like offshore wind  
24 energy. We work on all three US coasts to advocate for the  
25 large scale development of offshore wind energy that meets

1 our very high standards of responsible development. And  
2 push for an approach that is tailored to the unique  
3 conditions, needs, and concerns of each individual place.

4 While I am personally based in Portland, Oregon  
5 it is my privilege to work in Oregon, Washington, and  
6 California to help make responsible offshore wind  
7 development a reality on the West Coast. And I can say  
8 we're very interested in learning from and coordinating  
9 with California, up in Oregon.

10 It is in that spirit that I'm here to say that we  
11 at the National Wildlife Federation, along with our  
12 numerous partners in the state who are participating this  
13 hearing later today, greatly appreciate the Commission's  
14 leadership in advancing responsible offshore wind  
15 development. And support the Commission moving forward  
16 with approving the version of the plan released in January  
17 '24.

18 In particular, we appreciate the plan provides an  
19 overview of the various potential environmental effects of  
20 offshore wind development. We also appreciate the plan  
21 includes potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation  
22 strategies that could be used to manage those risks.  
23 Including robust environmental monitoring, research design  
24 features that reduce bird and bat collision risks, and  
25 adaptive management protocols.

1           We at NWF also agree with the California partners  
2 that the Commission groups, organizations, tribes, and  
3 members of the public, and any other interested parties  
4 have not had adequate time to fully review the latest draft  
5 of this extensive plan that came out less than 24 hours  
6 ago. Because of that inadequate timeline for review, we  
7 request the Commission delay the voting on this item at  
8 least until the next business meeting, so everyone has a  
9 chance to really look at all the changes.

10           At the end of the day, we believe this strategic  
11 plan will serve as a helpful reference in the years to  
12 come. And as noted, this is a new technology with unknown  
13 impacts and we encourage the Commission to update the plan  
14 with new information and technologies and management  
15 measures periodically throughout this multiyear process.  
16 We specifically request that it be updated in three to five  
17 years.

18           Just to wrap up quickly because I know I'm out of  
19 time, renewable energy including offshore wind provides an  
20 important opportunity to combat climate crisis, reduce air  
21 pollution, and support the growth of a greener economy.  
22 And the Commission's plan is a valuable document that we  
23 believe will help support responsible development of the  
24 industry. Thank you so much.

25           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Julia.

1           Next, we'll hear from Alexis Sutterman. And  
2 after Alexis, we'll hear from Adam Stern. Alexis, just a  
3 reminder to please spell your name for the record and we're  
4 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

5           MS. SUTTERMAN: Great. Thank you. My name is  
6 Alexis Sutterman. It's A-L-E-X-I-S, and Sutterman is S-U-  
7 T-T-E-R-M-A-N. Good morning Chair, Commissioners, and  
8 staff. I'm Alexis Sutterman speaking on behalf of  
9 Brightline Defense.

10           We first want to thank the Commission for their  
11 work drafting the AB 525 strategic plan and recognize that  
12 this has taken an unprecedented amount of agency  
13 collaboration, research, writing and stakeholder  
14 engagement. While it was not ideal that the very final  
15 version of the plan was just published yesterday, we do  
16 appreciate the Commission's thoughtfulness in incorporating  
17 significant amounts of feedback submitted in response to  
18 the January draft.

19           Brightline applauds that the plan emphasizes the  
20 importance of meaningful engagement with local communities  
21 and tribes, and the need to identify resources and capacity  
22 to make sure that this engagement happens. We also support  
23 many of the Commission strategies to reduce harms and  
24 enhance benefits for underserved and tribal communities,  
25 including developing enforceable community benefits

1 agreements, promoting project labor agreements, social  
2 impact partnerships, and other important training  
3 opportunities. Prioritizing infrastructure projects with  
4 co-benefits for communities, and proactively finding ways  
5 to mitigate and reduce pollution.

6 In implementing the plan we respectfully request  
7 to see the prioritization of these strategies, so that  
8 local communities and tribes can be real partners in  
9 development, and that tribal sovereignty is honored every  
10 step of the way.

11 Further, we request to see greater cross agency  
12 planning and collaboration to strategically site and  
13 develop offshore wind at the scale pacing, and the  
14 locations necessary to guarantee the retirement of  
15 California's fossil fuel gas plants.

16 Finally, we request the Commission to turn this  
17 wealth of knowledge and information in the final plan into  
18 an actionable set of activities, roles, and timelines.  
19 This will help us be on track to meet our ambitious  
20 commitments and move with urgency toward a cleaner,  
21 healthier, and more reliable grid.

22 Brightline looks forward to continuing to partner  
23 with the Commission, tribes, local communities, and other  
24 stakeholders on these issues. Thank you for your time.

25 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

1           Next we'll hear from Adam Stern. And after Adam,  
2 we'll hear from Mike Lynes. Adam, just a reminder to spell  
3 your name and we're asking for comments to be two minutes  
4 or less.

5           MR. STERN: I'm Adam Stern, Executive Director of  
6 Offshore Wind California. That's A-D-A-M S-T-E-R-N. Thank  
7 you, Chair Hochschild and Commissioners. I want to just  
8 recognize that the plan that's before you, which I hope you  
9 will approve, is probably the most comprehensive floating  
10 offshore wind plan in the world. The thoroughness with  
11 which the staff and the other agencies approached this has  
12 produced something that has been well worth the wait.

13           And the real challenge that now begins is to turn  
14 the plan into steel in the water, clean energy in the grid,  
15 and thousands of family jobs, among other benefits, all  
16 while protecting marine life and other natural resources.  
17 I'm confident that the process that you've produced here in  
18 terms of this initial plan, if the approach of  
19 consultations to all the stakeholders that are represented  
20 in the room, and who have participated for three-plus years  
21 in this process, this is the way to get this done  
22 responsibly. Caring for the terrific natural legacy that  
23 we have here in California, and providing many other  
24 benefits that generations will be grateful for. Thank you  
25 for your support, and we encourage you to vote and approve

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1 the plan.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we'll hear from Mike Lynes, and after Mike  
4 we'll hear from Logan. Mike, just a reminder to spell your  
5 name and we're asking for comments to be two minutes or  
6 less.

7 MR. LYNES: Thank you. Good morning. My name is  
8 Mike Lynes, that's M-I-K-E L-Y-N-E-S. I'm the State Policy  
9 Director for the National Audubon Society in California.  
10 And I wanted to start with joining in with what many of the  
11 comments have already said. Audubon really does appreciate  
12 -- first of all, we've always been supportive of AB 525  
13 since its passage and the implementation of strategic plan.  
14 And have been working on it each step of the way. And we  
15 look forward to the successful implementation of the plan.

16 We definitely appreciate the robust language  
17 around identifying biological impacts, particularly to  
18 birds. And including, you know, robust language around  
19 avoidance and mitigation measures that are in the plan.

20 Globally, seabirds have declined about 70 percent  
21 just since the 1950s. And probably 90 percent closer in  
22 the last couple 100 years. And we know that that will  
23 worsen with climate change. And with that understanding,  
24 Audubon understands that offshore wind is an important tool  
25 if it's well cited, includes adequate process, and



1 identifies impacts and has reasonable avoidance and  
2 mitigation measures.

3           That said, Audubon hasn't had a chance to review  
4 the final plan that was released yesterday. And so we have  
5 joined other groups and asking that the vote on this be  
6 delayed by a couple of weeks until the next business  
7 meeting, in order to make sure that all interested parties  
8 have time to review the final plan. We do appreciate that  
9 staff has done some outreach to explain some potential  
10 changes there. But for those of us on the advocacy side,  
11 it's difficult to fully grasp the full content of the plan  
12 until we've had a chance to really dive into it. That  
13 said, we've already provided comments on the draft plan.  
14 We've liked the direction where the draft plan is going.  
15 But we just need to be able to take -- you know, sort of do  
16 our due diligence to make sure that the final plan is all  
17 that we expect it to be.

18           So with that I want to say we would continue to  
19 appreciate the effort being made by the Commission and  
20 their staff. I join in what others have said already that  
21 this is really, I think, a global leading effort. And we  
22 look forward to the successful implementation of the plan  
23 going forward. Thank you.

24           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25           Next we'll hear from Logan in the room with us in

1 Sacramento, and then we'll go to Jennifer Fearing. Logan,  
2 if you could please state and spell your name. And also  
3 we're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

4 MR. REDING: Yeah. That's Logan Reding, L-O-G-A-  
5 N R-E-D-I-N-G. I'm a Compliance Agent with NCIC. I'm also  
6 supporting the Operating Engineers. I've been an operator  
7 for 15 years.

8 On the compliance side, I really want to see this  
9 kick off. I see we've got a bunch of workers here today.  
10 I'm here for them. That's pretty much all I do is try to  
11 support the workers. Yeah, I support 525. That's it.  
12 Keep it short. Thank you.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14 Next we'll hear from Jennifer Fearing and after  
15 that we'll hear from Nancy Kirshner. Jennifer, just a  
16 reminder to please spell your name for the record. And  
17 also we're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

18 MS. FEARING: Sure, no problem. Jennifer  
19 Fearing, J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R, Fearing, F-as in Frank-E-A-R-I-N-  
20 G. Good morning, Mr. Chair and Members, Jennifer Fearing.  
21 I am here on behalf of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. We echo  
22 all of the appreciation of the effort and thoughtfulness  
23 that doubtlessly the development of this strategic plan has  
24 required. But the final plan was just released yesterday,  
25 and in light of the complexity and significance of the

1 issues addressed in the plan, and to ensure that all  
2 parties have adequate time to review, we respectfully  
3 request that the Commission delay the vote to approve the  
4 plan by two weeks to its next business meeting. That  
5 extension would allow for more thorough public engagement  
6 and ensure that the final plan benefits from the most  
7 comprehensive and informed feedback possible.

8           The Aquarium appreciates the potential role of  
9 offshore wind and transitioning to a renewable energy to  
10 combat climate change impacts. However, addressing climate  
11 change also includes protecting biodiversity and the  
12 capacity of ecosystems to adapt. In order for offshore  
13 wind to be done right this process cannot be rushed.  
14 Development of floating offshore wind off California is a  
15 new use for our ocean waters and the CEC must ensure that  
16 it is done in an environmentally responsible and  
17 sustainable manner. The complexity of this new source of  
18 renewable energy and the unknown environmental effects  
19 require careful consideration. It is essential therefore,  
20 that the CEE take the time needed to fully review and  
21 incorporate input from the environmental community and  
22 other impacted parties. Thank you for the consideration.

23           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Jennifer.

24           Next we'll hear from Nancy Kirshner. And then  
25 after that, we have our final in-person commenter, Dan

1 Jacobson. And Nancy, just a reminder to please spell your  
2 name and we're asking for comments to be two minutes or  
3 less.

4 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Nancy, N-A-  
5 N-C-Y, Kirshner, K-I-R-S-H-N-E-R, Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-  
6 E-Z. And I'm the Senior Director for Policy and Outreach  
7 with the Oceanic Network.

8 On behalf of the Oceanic Network and its West  
9 Coast Supplier Council, we want to thank the California  
10 Energy Commission for their extensive work to lay the  
11 groundwork for offshore wind in the Golden State. And we  
12 look forward to building upon and putting the final AB 525  
13 plan into action.

14 Floating offshore wind provides reliable, clean  
15 energy, at a time and at a scale needed for California's  
16 clean energy transition. And already California's  
17 ambitious goal to deploy 25 gigawatts of offshore wind by  
18 2045 has positioned the state as a global leader in this  
19 emerging energy sector.

20 But achieving this bold goal requires scaling a  
21 new industry quickly. The state has a critical role to  
22 play in developing a viable industry, and attracting a  
23 robust local supply chain, by prioritizing immediate  
24 investments import, and transmission infrastructure, by  
25 providing a long-term predictable pipeline of projects.

1 And by targeting local supply chain investments that are  
2 globally cost competitive.

3 The network's West Coast Supplier Council members  
4 are veterans of the early development of offshore wind on  
5 the East Coast, and are eager to support California  
6 stakeholders as they work to build a viable scalable supply  
7 chain needed to achieve the state's great ambitions.

8 And just as a moment of personal privilege, it's  
9 been six years since I joined this organization. And I  
10 want to thank you, Chair Hochschild, the CEC Commissioners,  
11 Advisor Ganion, the amazing and dedicated CEC staff, and  
12 many other agency leaders for getting us to this place.  
13 And I hope we can take a minute to recognize how momentous  
14 it is that we are all working on lifting up a new and  
15 incredibly innovative, reliable, renewable energy source.  
16 Thank you.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

18 Next we'll hear from Dan Jacobson. And after  
19 Dan, I will ask for any additional in-person commenters  
20 from Sacramento. So if anyone changed their mind, and they  
21 want to comment, we'll take those comments after Dan.

22 MR. JACOBSON: Thank you very much. My name is  
23 Dan Jacobson, D-A-N J-A-C-O-B-S-O-N. Climate change is  
24 making a mess, and the impacts of climate change are  
25 frustrating, tragic and sad. It's frustrating because

1 we're being asked to move incredibly quickly, even when we  
2 don't have all the information that we would normally want  
3 to have. And that's very difficult to do.

4           Tragic because the impacts of climate change are  
5 already impacting the way that we live. Recent information  
6 is showing that we have the hottest ocean that we've ever  
7 had on record.

8           And said, because many of these impacts are  
9 already wiping out species, changing the living environment  
10 that we're in. And sadly, most of all, taking lives.

11           The bottom line is, is that we have to move with  
12 speed and with information. And it's very difficult to do  
13 both of those things at the same time. And that's why this  
14 plan is so important. Because this plan takes a look and  
15 says let's lay out a map, a roadmap of how we have to do  
16 both of those things. And I think it's important that this  
17 plan get approved. We would support that, but that we also  
18 take the opportunity to take amendments to it as we go  
19 forward. As we get more information, we should adopt the  
20 plan so that we can go forward.

21           I think in particular that the report section,  
22 that that chapter is very good. And if there's anybody  
23 from the Legislature who's hearing this, I would encourage  
24 them to include money in the climate bond for ports,  
25 because we're going to need that going forward.

1 I also think that there's three things that we  
2 need to be careful on. The first is going forward where we  
3 site these in the oceans is important. And we've heard  
4 from the conservation groups on that.

5 Two, we should look to as we move forward with  
6 offshore wind, how can we retire power plants that use  
7 fossil fuels? As we go good with clean, how can we retire  
8 the stuff that's exacerbating the problem?

9 And third, and as is clearly demonstrated here,  
10 we have an opportunity to build a really powerful new  
11 workforce on clean energy. In closing, we have the goals  
12 and the plans, we need to build smartly and to retire  
13 quickly. Thank you.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

15 Is there anyone else in the room with us who  
16 would like to comment?

17 Okay, I'm not seeing any raised hands. I'm going  
18 to go over to Zoom now. And just as a reminder if you are  
19 joining us via Zoom online you'll use the raise hand  
20 feature on your screen that lets us know you'd like to  
21 comment. And if you're joining us by phone, you'll press  
22 \*9 to raise your hand. And I'm going to go on the order of  
23 the raised hands.

24 So first, we'll hear from James Vernon. James,  
25 I'm going to open your line. We already have the spelling

1 of your name, so you can just begin but we are asking for  
2 comments to be two minutes or less.

3 MR. VERNON: Okay, can you hear me?

4 MS. BADIE: Yes.

5 MR. VERNON: Good morning, Chair Hochschild,  
6 Members of the California Energy Commission. My name is  
7 James Vernon. I'm the Acting Director of Environmental  
8 Planning at the Port of Long Beach. And I'm calling in  
9 support of today's item. And we'd like to thank the State,  
10 the CEC, and your staff for the work on the AB 525 report  
11 and leadership and recognizing the importance of floating  
12 offshore wind and ensuring that California can meet its  
13 2045 goal of 100 percent renewable energy.

14 Now the state has goals of generating 25  
15 gigawatts of energy of offshore wind by 2045. And we at  
16 the Port of Long Beach know that California's ports will  
17 play a critical role in making this goal a reality. The  
18 Port of Long Beach along with Humboldt is identified in the  
19 report as a key site for staging and integration. We've  
20 invested our own resources in developing our pier wind  
21 project, which would be a 400-acre terminal dedicated to  
22 staging and integration of turbines.

23 Pure wind would be ideally situated as Long Beach  
24 is a deep water port with no air height restrictions, which  
25 is necessary as offshore wind turbines can be taller than



1 the Eiffel Tower.

2 Staging and integration at the scale that we're  
3 offering would ensure that California would not just reap  
4 the environmental benefits of offshore wind, but also  
5 capture a new market for manufacturing assembly in ONM  
6 (phonetic), which would bring tens of thousands of good  
7 paying jobs to California.

8 Now these projects do have a considerable lead  
9 time and requires the state's leadership and investment, so  
10 we look forward to continuing to work with the CEC and  
11 other state leaders to make sure that California can lead  
12 on floating offshore wind.

13 Now we are conducting significant community and  
14 industry outreach as we go through the environmental review  
15 for the project. And we're glad to have the Chair recently  
16 visit and would like to extend an invitation to the  
17 Commission to come out to the Port of Long Beach, and see  
18 our wind project site firsthand.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to come to comment  
20 today.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22 Next we'll hear from Ken and Linda Bates. I'm  
23 going to open your line and we're asking for comments to be  
24 two minutes or less.

25 MR. BATES: Good morning. This is Ken Bate, K-E-

1 N B-A-T-E-S. I'm the Executive Director of the California  
2 Fishermen's Resiliency Association. The CFRA is a 501(c)6  
3 nonprofit. It's funded by OSHA Protection Council. It was  
4 put together exactly for dealing with fishermen and  
5 fishermen's concerns in the wind power projects. Our  
6 Association members go from Ventura to Crescent City.

7           The CFRA has written extensive common written  
8 comments, so I'm not going to bore you with more facts. In  
9 2020, we asked where are the brakes, the rational and  
10 logical thinking requiring taking small incremental steps  
11 instead of just rushing headlong to industrialize the  
12 oceans? We have repeatedly asked that these five lease  
13 projects be pilot projects. That they have to prove that  
14 they work. That they can supply energy to the grid, you  
15 know, before we go ahead and put more leases in  
16 California's oceans.

17           Five years ago at an informal meeting with state  
18 agency staff, I mentioned that my wife and I had bought  
19 folding aluminum lawn chairs. And that I said I was going  
20 to convert my lawn chair into a rocket powered lawn chair.  
21 And I was thinking to make 100 of them before we went ahead  
22 and actually tried it, and everybody laughed. But we need  
23 to try this stuff first and see if works. At this point,  
24 from a fisherman's perspective, it's becoming crystal clear  
25 that there is no level of cumulative negative impact that

1 will even slow down these projects. We would like to ask  
2 that you rethink this expedited approach to ocean  
3 industrialization. Use the five leases as pilot projects,  
4 you know, and go forward. Thank you for the time to  
5 comment today.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

7 Next we'll hear from Vanessa Rivas Villanueva.  
8 I'm going to open your line. We are asking for comments to  
9 be two minutes or less. Thank you.

10 MS. VILLANUEVA: Thank you. Good morning. My  
11 name is Vanessa Rivas Villanueva, V-A-N-E-S-S-A R-I-V-A-S  
12 V-I-L-L-A-N-U-E-V-A. I am a Research and Policy Analysts  
13 with Earthjustice. We are also members of the Impact  
14 Project, which focuses on protecting communities in  
15 Southern California from air pollution.

16 I want to first thank you all for the ongoing  
17 efforts to collaborate with various agencies to strengthen  
18 the strategic plan. It's been a few hours since the  
19 release of the updated plan, so we have yet to review it  
20 entirely. But I want to acknowledge the addition of a  
21 section on tribal energy sovereignty.

22 I appreciate the various references to the  
23 significance of clean air that were made earlier this  
24 morning, and want to specifically acknowledge the  
25 importance of engaging harbor communities. The proposed

1 pier one staging and integration facility at the Port of  
2 Long Beach will be in an area with some of the worst air  
3 quality in the nation that has been known to reach  
4 pollution levels 90 times what the US Environmental  
5 Protection Agency considers safe. The existing port  
6 infrastructure is inadequate and will require significant  
7 construction, as well as movement of goods and traffic,  
8 which all contribute to the increased pollutants that  
9 harbor communities will breathe.

10           Considering that the release of the updated  
11 strategic plan was less than 24 hours ago, we request that  
12 the Commission reschedule the adoption of the proposed  
13 strategic plan. We respectfully request an extension of 30  
14 days to allow an adequate and timely review of the revised  
15 plan before final adoption and honor the commitment to  
16 meaningful community engagement. Thank you.

17           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Vanessa.

18           Next we'll hear from Susan Jordan. Susan, I'm  
19 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be  
20 two minutes or less. Sorry, Susan, your line is open.  
21 Susan, you'll need to unmute on your end.

22           MS. JORDAN: Sorry, I did unmute. Oh, can you  
23 hear me now?

24           MS. BADIE: Yes, thank you.

25           MS. JORDAN: Thank you for your patience. Good

1 morning. It's Susan Jordan, J-O-R-D-A-N. I'm the Executive  
2 Director of the California Coastal Protection Network. I'd  
3 like to thank your staff for the very thorough draft  
4 strategic plan released back in January of 2024. The  
5 initial draft was a strong visionary document charting the  
6 path to implementing offshore wind in California, just as  
7 AB 525 instructed.

8           In response, we submitted written comments along  
9 with other NGOs to further strengthen and refine the plan.  
10 One such element we felt needed further attention was the  
11 decommissioning of the offshore wind infrastructure. This  
12 is a planning element that must be addressed before the  
13 structures go into the water.

14           Today, I'd like to call your attention to the  
15 need to retain the environmental protection such as vessel  
16 strike and secondary entanglement mitigation measures and  
17 other considerations detailed in the draft plan. You might  
18 hear from others asking you to preclude these protective  
19 measures, to leave them up to the permitting agency, but  
20 they are in fact called for by AB 525 and thus belong in  
21 the strategic plan.

22           AB 525 also instructs you to work with  
23 stakeholders. Needless to say as many others have  
24 mentioned, today releasing a 500 page report with your  
25 final changes less than five business hours before the

1 meeting today makes it next to impossible for many  
2 stakeholders, if not all, to review and comment. CCPN  
3 respectfully asks that you delay finalizing the plan until  
4 at least your next business meeting only two weeks from  
5 now. I'm also cognizant of the previous 30-day request,  
6 which also seems reasonable to me.

7           While it's still a short timeline, it will least  
8 give stakeholders more time to review, digest, and provide  
9 meaningful input. A redline document would also be  
10 helpful.

11           And lastly, we would also ask for a commitment to  
12 update this plan periodically. Updating this plan ideally  
13 every three to five years can help address existing  
14 unknowns while incorporating new information as it becomes  
15 available and allowing you to address any remaining  
16 deficiencies.

17           Thank you. And I really do hope you delay this  
18 vote. It's a signal for the future on how the CEC will  
19 handle this process moving forward. Thank you.

20           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Susan.

21           Next, we'll hear from Sheri Hafer. Sheri, I'm  
22 opening your line. We're asking for comments to be two  
23 minutes or less.

24           MS. HAFER: Can you hear me?

25           MS. BADIE: Yes.

1 MS. HAFER: Good morning. My name is Sheri  
2 Hafer, and I'm representing the Morro Bay Commercial  
3 Fishermen's Organization.

4 This strategic plan's recommendations for site  
5 survey monitoring and mitigation is too late. The Coastal  
6 Commission has already allowed Atlas Wind to begin federal  
7 surveys April 19th. And Golden State is set to begin July  
8 2nd. And there's also a plan for the State Waters to  
9 begin, be approved July 12th. So we will soon have three  
10 survey boats pounding on our coastline 24/7. Two of them  
11 are 24/7 with 300 plus boats with vessels, using up to 240  
12 decibels at frequencies as low as 2 kilohertz. And their  
13 positioning thrusters are using 150 to 190 decibels at 9  
14 hertz.

15 There are studies showing that this type of work  
16 has impacts on the base of the food chain through plankton,  
17 krill, larva and baitfish. So these impacts can affect  
18 everything up the food chain. However, there is no  
19 independent biological or acoustic monitoring in place.  
20 There are no scout boats or safety corridors in place. And  
21 they have come out from the wind energy area three times  
22 now with no warnings to fishermen. They should be halted,  
23 these surveys, until the Seven Sea Working Group (phonetic)  
24 and Senate Bill 286 requirements are completed for best  
25 practices for site surveys.

1           So you do a fairly good job describing all the  
2 impacts and I appreciate all the work you did. You did  
3 describe a lot of horrible things that are going to happen,  
4 but you don't do a very good job discussing where are the  
5 mitigations, especially for these larger concerns. It is  
6 analogue to saying you're going to amputate our legs, but  
7 it's okay because we will put a small band aid on one leg.

8           We think the economic benefits are overestimated  
9 and don't include costs such as the loss of commercial  
10 fishing opportunities and cost of expensive operation and  
11 maintenance. Thank you.

12           MS. BADIE: Thank you, Sheri.

13           Next we'll hear from Lucia Marquez. I'm going to  
14 open your line. We are asking for comments to be two  
15 minutes or less.

16           MS. MARQUEZ: Good morning, Chair Hochschild,  
17 Commissioners. My name is Lucia Marquez. I'm the  
18 Associate Policy Director with the Central Coast Alliance  
19 United for a Sustainable Economy or CAUSE. We're based in  
20 the Central Coast in Ventura and Santa Barbara County.

21           As an organization that represents environmental  
22 justice communities, our advocacy is often focused on  
23 fighting industrial fossil fuel pollution from harming the  
24 health of our neighbors. But it's important for our  
25 communities to also be part of the conversation for



1 building new technology and infrastructure to ensure that  
2 they bring benefits to our communities.

3           Offshore wind gives us the opportunity to avoid  
4 repeating the extractive practices of fossil fuels, but  
5 only if it is done responsibly through responsible siting  
6 and equitably developed.

7           Offshore energy projects need to decrease  
8 California's reliance on gas fired power plants, especially  
9 those located in environmental justice communities, central  
10 tribal consultation, and consent for projects that will  
11 impact ceded and unceded tribal territories, center robust  
12 and early engagement, consultation and consent for portside  
13 and EJ communities, provide meaningful benefits for  
14 impacted tribal and EJ communities, and do no harm in  
15 tribal and portside communities and especially undergoing  
16 thorough permitting process.

17           Given that the update was just released less than  
18 24 hours ago, it's clear that this has been a really  
19 overwhelming process not only for this Commission and  
20 staff, but especially for community stakeholders. We  
21 appreciate the efforts from the CEC to connect with folks  
22 once the updated plan was released, but this isn't enough.  
23 If we continue to rush this plan/s approval the impact will  
24 be that most impacted communities will not have the chance  
25 to be meaningfully engaged.

1           When it comes to the comments that were received  
2 and incorporated into the plan, the CEC needs to move from  
3 community recommendations, past the acknowledgement phase  
4 and into real commitments and concrete benchmarks.  
5 Everything in this plan really reads as vague. Some of the  
6 gaps that need to be addressed is changes transmission  
7 planning that evaluates reliance on gas plants.

8           Offshore wind is strongest in the afternoons and  
9 an evening, so combined with energy storage it could be  
10 best addressed to the state's reliability needs without  
11 causing harm and injury in environmental justice  
12 communities.

13           And the last thing I'll say is making sure that  
14 we do not rush environmental review for port development.  
15 Centralizing the process in one agency makes sense, but  
16 streamlining review doesn't. We hope you take these  
17 recommendations. Thank you.

18           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19           Next we'll hear from Amy Jester. Amy, I'm going  
20 to open your line. We're asking for comments to be two  
21 minutes or less. There's going to be a timer on the  
22 screen.

23           MS. JESTER: Can you hear me?

24           MS. BADIE: Yes.

25           MS. JESTER: Excellent. Hello, my name is Amy

1 jester and I'm here with the Redwood Region Climate and  
2 Community Resilience Hub or CORE Hub. And we're based in  
3 the far north Redwood region. And I'm calling today from  
4 unceded (indiscernible).

5 Good morning, honorable Commissioners and staff.  
6 Thank you for the presentation, update, and opportunity for  
7 comment. We appreciate the incredible work that's gone  
8 into developing the strategic plan and the significant  
9 effort it's taken to coordinate across agencies and  
10 synthesize and integrate all the comments you've received.

11 We also appreciate that summaries of the comments  
12 were included in each section of the final plan. And the  
13 further detail that was added on issues that so many in our  
14 region are interested in or concerned about.

15 The final plan was posted at 1:11 yesterday  
16 afternoon. Perhaps you all were able to review it  
17 beforehand. But I have to imagine like our team and  
18 several of our partners that I've spoken with since the  
19 final plan was published yesterday, that most people have  
20 not had an opportunity to review the final plan. I  
21 appreciate that the staff team worked hard to squeeze in  
22 short briefing meetings to help some of your constituents  
23 across the state understand what shifted between the draft  
24 and final versions. However, it's also critical that  
25 communities hosting offshore wind be provided an

1 opportunity to respond and share comments with  
2 Commissioners prior to a vote going before the Board.

3           It's important that host communities and tribal  
4 nations be considered key partners. When we have less than  
5 24 hours to review a plan of such significance, it  
6 demonstrates and sends a message that decision makers do  
7 not value the interests and perspectives of potential  
8 offshore wind host communities. That's a dangerous message  
9 to send especially with growing concern and opposition in  
10 potential host communities. And I know that that's not the  
11 intention of the deeply committed staff and honorable  
12 Commissioners, but that's the impact.

13           Procedural justice, the abilities for communities  
14 potentially hosting offshore wind to help inform your  
15 decision making is absolutely critical for this path of  
16 offshore wind to go differently than large scale  
17 infrastructure projects of the past. Unfortunately, such  
18 a big decision and advanced in the urgent way with less  
19 than 24 hours' notice is counter to a commitment to  
20 procedural justice and do public process. We ask that the  
21 vote be postponed to July or August. Thank you.

22           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

23           Next we'll hear from Azsha. Azsha, I'm going to  
24 open your line. We're asking for comments to be two  
25 minutes or less.

1 MS. HUDSON: Hi, can you hear me?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes.

3 MS. HUDSON: Great. Thank you. This is Azsha  
4 Hudson, A-Z-S-H-A H-U-D-S-O-N. Good morning or rather good  
5 afternoon, Chairman and Commissioners. Again, this is  
6 Azsha Hudson, Marine Conservation Analyst and Program  
7 Manager at the Environmental Defense Center, a public  
8 interest law firm that defends nature and advances  
9 environmental justice along the California Central Coast  
10 through advocacy and legal action. We primarily work in  
11 San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

12 I would like to first thank CEC and CNRA staff  
13 for all their hard work and effort on the AB 525 strategic  
14 plan. We appreciate the inclusion of many of our previous  
15 comments that went into the draft. It is of the utmost  
16 importance that as California seeks to meet our clean  
17 energy goals that we do that in a responsible and just  
18 manner, protective of marine coastal resources, and  
19 uplifting traditional impacted communities.

20 The inclusion of specific guidance on timelines  
21 required for data transparency in the strategic plan is  
22 necessary for informed engagement. In particular, data on  
23 entanglements, vessel strikes and fatalities, and turbine  
24 collisions, should be promptly made publicly available.

25 This strategic plan is meant to be a guidance

1 document laying out a path forward. Regular reviews and  
2 updates to check progress and reassess the validity of the  
3 plan in light of changing conditions should occur, as often  
4 when it is a nascent industry there will be need for  
5 legislative fixes and other changes required in the future.  
6 Thus the strategic plan should be evaluated as a living  
7 document.

8           With that said, I would also like to plus one to  
9 some of my other partners in the field where we ask that  
10 due to the late release of the updated documents, that the  
11 vote be pushed to the next business meeting in July, to  
12 better allow meaningful public engagement. Thank you.

13           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14           Next, we'll hear from Erin. Erin, I'm going to  
15 open your line if you could state your full name, if you'd  
16 like to share that on the record. And we're asking for  
17 comments to be two minutes or less.

18           Oh Erin, we lost you. If you could please raise  
19 your hand again if you wanted to speak.

20           And for now we'll move on to the next raised  
21 hand, which is Julia Dowell. Julia, I'm going to open your  
22 line. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less,  
23 and there'll be a timer on the screen.

24           Julia, your line's open. You'll have to unmute  
25 on your end.

1 MS. DOWELL: Hello, can you hear me?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes.

3 MS. DOWELL: Great. Thank you. Good morning,  
4 Commissioners, or good afternoon. My name is Julia Dowell  
5 and I'm a Senior Organizer at Sierra Club. Thank you for  
6 the opportunity to comment on this Offshore Wind Strategic  
7 Plan. And for all the work that went into creating this  
8 plan.

9 Sierra Club is supportive of offshore wind in  
10 California as a renewable energy resource that can and  
11 should retire polluting fossil gas plants across the state.  
12 While we all assume that offshore wind energy will pressure  
13 gas plants to run less frequently that doesn't just happen  
14 without intentional planning.

15 It is vital that the CEC coordinate with the PUC  
16 and CAISO to ensure alignment of offshore wind targets and  
17 transmission planning. We know that the PUC and CAISO will  
18 do the bulk of the work on transmission planning, but CEC  
19 leadership is key. So we want the plan to say transmission  
20 planning for offshore wind must reduce our reliance on gas  
21 plants, and PUC and CAISO are responsible for ensuring that  
22 happens.

23 We also want to amplify the need for equitable  
24 and responsible port development of offshore wind  
25 infrastructure. This means electrifying all equipment

1 possible at ports ensuring ample environmental review and  
2 more. It is vital that environmental review include  
3 analysis of offshore wind impacts from cradle to grave, and  
4 offshore wind specific impacts on indigenous cultural  
5 resources.

6           Lastly, engagement of tribes and EJ communities  
7 in offshore wind planning and implementation is key to  
8 ensuring just and equitable offshore wind development.  
9 This includes meaningful benefits for these communities and  
10 community engagement that provides adequate time and  
11 resources for proper engagement.

12           As such, we would like to ask for an extension of  
13 today's vote since the final AB 525 report was not released  
14 until yesterday afternoon. And many communities and  
15 stakeholders have not had a chance to review this report  
16 given the short timeline. Thank you for your time.

17           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

18           Next we're going to hear from Mariza Sullivan.  
19 I'm going to open your line. We're asking for comments to  
20 be two minutes or less. Mariza Sullivan, your line is  
21 open.

22           MS. SULLIVAN: Hello, this is Mariza, can you  
23 hear me?

24           MS. BADIE: Yes.

25           MS. SULLIVAN: Hello, everybody. My name is



1 Mariza Sullivan. I'm the former Chair of the Coastal Band  
2 of the Chumash Nation. I was also the Coastal Band's  
3 Representative for the Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group.

4 I'd like to say I appreciate the efforts made on  
5 the part of the CEC to include the state recognized tribes  
6 as well as a federally recognized tribes in this process.  
7 My hope is that there's a very strong commitment to  
8 continue to listen, and to address the concerns of the  
9 tribal representatives, and the voices that have been  
10 shared with you already and that were included in the  
11 strategic plan.

12 Having listened to many of the comments today  
13 earlier, and from the representatives of the different  
14 industries whose workers need jobs, from the different  
15 environmental communities, from the different entities that  
16 have asked you to approve this today, and then from the  
17 ones that have asked you to wait to your next business  
18 meeting to approve the final report that apparently was  
19 just released yesterday, apparently.

20 I would like to ask respectfully, and join those  
21 voices. That you have spent so much time already on this  
22 report that it would seem to me that it would not harm you  
23 in any way to wait to your next business meeting to give  
24 people another month or two as they have requested to look  
25 this over. That way you would feel better about the vote

1 that you might be doing.

2           Finally, what I'd like to say is I'm really  
3 struck by the fact that all of this is being done to create  
4 a new industry. And that's been said more than once. It's  
5 the new industry, the wind energy, offshore wind, and all  
6 that it entails. All of this has been done to create a new  
7 industry to address the devastating and life threatening  
8 effects of the last one that we're coming out of which is  
9 the oil, the fossil fuel industry.

10           And I bring this up only because I just want us  
11 to keep that in mind as we go forward. And think about the  
12 long-term effects of this new one that you're considering  
13 voting on, the strategic plan. Just think about the long-  
14 term effects of this one, of what we leave behind. Thank  
15 you. I wish that you hope,-- hope that you have a good  
16 rest of the day. Thank you for your time.

17           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

18           Next we'll hear from Eli Vargas. I'm going to  
19 open your line, Eli. We're asking for comments to be two  
20 minutes or less.

21           MR. VARGAS: Hello, my name is Eli Vargas and I  
22 come before you today as a concerned member of the Morro  
23 Bay community.

24           Firstly, I must say the release of the final  
25 strategic plan the afternoon before this discussion denies

1 community partners adequate time to review and respond,  
2 which ultimately privileges other stakeholders and  
3 sidelines community concerns. It is imperative that the  
4 Commission commits to concrete benchmarks for community  
5 engagement that are clear, specific, and actionable.

6           Additionally, we need to move from merely  
7 acknowledging community recommendations to actively  
8 implementing them. My recommendations to the Commission  
9 are straightforward yet critical.

10           One, implement a thorough and respectful  
11 permitting process that prioritizes local community  
12 interests.

13           Two, ensure inclusive stakeholder processes and  
14 public engagement in the procurement of offshore wind  
15 energy.

16           Three, center the needs and voices of tribal  
17 nations and environmental justice communities in all  
18 discussions and decisions.

19           Four, prioritize the retirement of gas plants and  
20 minimize air pollutant emissions and offshore wind  
21 transmission planning.

22           I'd also like to pose a few questions to the  
23 Commission. Will there be assurances that community  
24 partners receive more substantial notice before future  
25 votes and decisions are made? And what measures will be

1 taken to ensure that community recommendations are not just  
2 heard, but actively integrated into the planning and  
3 execution of offshore wind initiatives?

4 The path we choose today defines our tomorrow.  
5 Let's ensure it is one of meaningful engagement, equitable  
6 development, and genuine accountability. Thank you.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

8 Okay, we're going to go back and try Erin again.  
9 Erin, I'm going to open your line if you can unmute on your  
10 end. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

11 MR. LEHANE: Hello, Erin Lehane, E-R-I-N L-E-H-A-  
12 N-E, here today on behalf of the nearly half a million hard  
13 working members of the State Building and Construction  
14 Trades Council of California. We have been working on AB  
15 525 implementation since early days with then  
16 Assemblymember Chiu. We're excited to see the strategic  
17 plan move forward and appreciative of the Commission and  
18 all the staff, both at the Commission and in the  
19 Legislature who have gotten us this far.

20 The members of the building trades have fought  
21 for the entitlements, and the policy, and then built the  
22 vast majority of the renewable power production in  
23 California that has made us a global leader. We see  
24 offshore wind as the next new frontier in renewable energy.  
25 It is extremely exciting for us as a policy issue as well

1 as for our members who are planning to build the  
2 infrastructure, the port infrastructure, the transmission,  
3 the turbines, the barges, everything that's going to go  
4 into deploying offshore wind in a utility scale manner.

5 We appreciate the continued support of crucial  
6 labor standards in offshore wind and all energy production,  
7 including the support of project labor agreements and a  
8 skilled and trained workforce.

9 This strategic plan is a giant step forward, of  
10 which we are wildly supportive of. You've heard from some  
11 of our local unions and crafts today about their  
12 involvement locally, representing not only their trades,  
13 but as community members in the various coastal communities  
14 that will be benefited by offshore wind in an economic  
15 sense. In California, we have the opportunity to use the  
16 highest trained construction workers to transform  
17 California's energy future. We see the strategic plan as  
18 one big step in that and we again thank everybody for their  
19 hard work. Thank you.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

21 Next we'll hear from Artie Mandel. I'm going to  
22 open your line, Artie. We're asking for comments to be two  
23 minutes or less.

24 MR. MANDEL: Hi, good morning. My name is Arthur  
25 Mandel. I'm the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the

1 Port of Los Angeles. I want to commend and congratulate  
2 the Commission staff and other collaborators for this  
3 thorough and detailed report and support its adoption.

4 The Port of Los Angeles appreciates the  
5 opportunity to comment as one of the three ports alongside  
6 Humboldt and Long Beach identified as a suitable location  
7 for staging and integration activities. The Port of LA is  
8 excited about the opportunity to play a role in the  
9 multiport strategy that the report identifies will be  
10 needed to meet California's ambitious offshore wind goals.

11 The Port has several sites that we are actively  
12 exploring that could be a candidate for offshore wind  
13 development, including for staging and integration. This  
14 includes Pier 500, which is 160-acre \$2 billion plus land  
15 creation project. And we are currently expected to have an  
16 updated assessment for the site for a traditional  
17 infrastructure project soon.

18 However, we also wanted to highlight the need to  
19 move quickly. Without quick action the report finds that  
20 port infrastructure may be a major bottleneck towards the  
21 state meeting its goals. "It may not be possible to meet  
22 the 2030 planning goal of 2 to 5 gigawatts as it takes  
23 several years to complete planning, engineering,  
24 permitting, and regulatory approval and construction." To  
25 that end, the Port is exploring a new and innovative

1 project that can take advantage of the Pier 500 site and  
2 its submerge field to enable an early activation project  
3 using floating dock technology. This project would allow  
4 for faster, less expensive, and a more certain option that  
5 both complements existing strategies and projects and Alas,  
6 offshore wind developers to begin deployment of their  
7 projects at the timescales envisioned by the state perhaps  
8 as soon as 2028.

9           Unfortunately, due to the timing of this project,  
10 the Commission's report does not include it in its analysis  
11 of the Port of Los Angeles's capabilities, overall port  
12 development strategy, and example port development  
13 investment. The Port of LA looks forward to discussing  
14 this project and our broader capabilities with the  
15 Commission and staff in more detail, as well as other  
16 interested parties, to see what role this project could  
17 play in California's offshore wind future. Thank you.

18           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19           Next, we'll hear from Mike Conroy. I'm going to  
20 open your line, Mike. We're asking for comments to be two  
21 minutes or less.

22           MR. CONROY: Confirming you can hear me?

23           MS. BADIE: Yes.

24           MR. CONROY: Perfect. Yeah, my name is Mike  
25 Connery. I'm the Principal of West Coast Fishery

1 Consultants, a boutique consulting business working with  
2 and for fishing communities along the West Coast.

3 I just want to start by agreeing with the public  
4 comments asking to hold off final approval to a later date.  
5 Like others, I didn't have sufficient time to review the  
6 final document. Having said that, I do want to thank your  
7 staff for their outreach, engagement, and actually  
8 listening. I'm comforted that the plan is identified as a  
9 living document given the lack of information and our  
10 knowledge on the scope and severity of potential impacts to  
11 ocean users, tribal and coastal communities, the marine and  
12 terrestrial environments and ecosystems, et cetera.

13 As you're well aware, BOEM recently published a  
14 five-year leasing schedule with additional lease sales off  
15 California scheduled to take place in late 2027 or early  
16 2028. The Commission should ask BOEM to delay that. With  
17 your goal of 25 gigawatts by 2045 there is no need to do  
18 lease sales within the next three or four years. Let the  
19 current lease holders develop those areas and operate for a  
20 few years, so we can begin to get the information and  
21 knowledge needed to determine the scope and scale of the  
22 impacts I mentioned before.

23 In taking a big picture to energy development  
24 tradeoffs must be considered. As the Chair said earlier,  
25 we must do this the right way. The degree to which large



1 scale wind farms will impact upwelling remains unknown. No  
2 one can tell you any different. The only responsible thing  
3 to do is to slow down.

4 I do want to speak with regard to the suitable  
5 sea space chapter. NOAA's National Fishery Service in  
6 coordination with the California Department of Fish and  
7 Wildlife is currently gathering information to develop  
8 fishery data sets for inclusion into a spatial suitability  
9 model developed by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal  
10 Ocean Science. Unless and until those data sets and others  
11 are developed and considered, we really don't know whether  
12 or not the sea space is actually suitable. A fear held by  
13 many is that BOEM is going to take space identified as  
14 suitable and run with it. I hope you would see the value  
15 in taking a holistic approach to siting and revisit  
16 suitable sea space when more refined data is available.  
17 Thank you.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 Next we'll hear from Jocelyn Leon. Jocelyn, I'm  
20 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be  
21 two minutes or less. Jocelyn, you'll need to unmute on  
22 your end.

23 MS. LEON: Hi, good afternoon. My name is  
24 Jocelyn Leon, J-O-C-E-Y-L-Y-N, last name is Leon, L-E-O-N.  
25 I'm here today on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense

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1 Council and I'm a member of the Impact Project Coalition.

2 NRDC and the Impact Project believe that everyone  
3 has the right to a safe and healthy environment regardless  
4 of zip code. That frontline communities, tribal nations,  
5 and environmental justice advocates should lead the  
6 offshore wind planning process. For this reason, we are  
7 deeply concerned that the California Energy Commission did  
8 not provide the public enough time to review the revised AB  
9 525 plan that was released yesterday. Approving this  
10 revised plan without granting adequate time for public  
11 review undermines the public engagement and environmental  
12 justice principles that CEC has committed to advancing.

13 NRDC supports responsible development of offshore  
14 wind off the coast of California to meet the state's energy  
15 and climate goals. And we welcome the work of CEC to  
16 develop strong guidelines that minimize negative ecological  
17 consequences and maximizes benefits to port adjacent  
18 communities, communities that are already  
19 disproportionately burdened by industrial operations, and  
20 extreme air pollution from truck and ship emissions.

21 We urge CEC to delay today's vote on the revised  
22 AB 525 plan, and commit to a transparent and accessible  
23 community engagement process before final adoption. The  
24 voices of those most affected by offshore wind development  
25 should be prioritized and actively included in the AB 525

1 planning process, including granting people a reasonable  
2 amount of time to review and comment on the revised plan  
3 before it is approved. We urge CEC to strengthen community  
4 protections and Community Benefit Agreements such as 100  
5 percent, zero emission mandates for offshore wind project  
6 development, maintenance and operation.

7 I'd like to thank CEC for facilitating today's  
8 meeting, organizing listening sessions with community  
9 members, and reaching out to tribal nations to discuss the  
10 benefits and potential risks associated with offshore wind  
11 development.

12 Finally, NRDC would like to applaud CEC staff's  
13 tireless work, updating the AB 525 plan, and carefully  
14 reviewing community comment letters, and integrating  
15 recommendations. Thank you for considering our request to  
16 one, delay today's vote and two, provide people more time  
17 to review the recently revised plan.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 Next we'll hear from Nancy Rader. Nancy, I'm  
20 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be  
21 two minutes or less. Nancy, if you could please unmute on  
22 your end. Okay, your line is open.

23 MS. RADER: Yes, thank you. Good afternoon,  
24 Nancy Rader, Executive Director of the California Wind  
25 Energy Association. I too want to thank Elizabeth Huber

1 and her entire interagency team who toiled over this report  
2 over the last few years. It presents a wealth of  
3 information on the many complex issues that will play out  
4 over the next decade. No doubt it has fostered a great  
5 deal of learning among the agencies and all participants.

6 I can't fully comment on the changes that were  
7 made to the draft report, because as noted less than a  
8 day's review time was provided and we don't have a redline  
9 copy. We had hoped to see a more complete discussion of  
10 the many benefits that offshore wind will bring to the  
11 state's overall energy resource portfolio. And of the  
12 progress that the Cademo project has made on several  
13 critical fronts. While Cademo is in state waters, it offers  
14 much to inform and hasten the federal projects.

15 Nevertheless, CalWEA supports the Commission's  
16 approval of this report today. The report is only a first  
17 general step. Everyone had a chance to comment on the  
18 draft report, which the changes respond to. And most  
19 importantly, all project analyses and critical agency  
20 decisions lie ahead, and it's time to move on.

21 We need next a detailed plan for state and  
22 federal permitting coordination. In our comments. W we  
23 highlighted the state federal bureaucratic quagmire that is  
24 delaying the Cademo Project, and that left unresolved could  
25 also seriously delay the federal projects.

1           But we need more than interagency coordination.  
2 We need leadership. We urge the state to identify a point  
3 person or at least a point agency that has the authority to  
4 make day to day decisions to avoid the bureaucratic delays  
5 that could thwart timely achievement of California's  
6 offshore wind goals. That job and its slivers of authority  
7 should be identified in an interagency Memorandum of  
8 Understanding that we hope will be the state's next work  
9 product following the adoption of this report.

10           Thanks, and again we really appreciate the  
11 tremendous amount of work that went into this valuable  
12 report.

13           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14           Next we'll hear from Laura Lane. Laura, I've  
15 opened your line. If you could please unmute on your end  
16 and make your comment.

17           MS. LANE: Thank you. Sorry about that. Laura  
18 Lane on behalf of the California Association of Port  
19 Authorities, which is comprised of California's 11 public  
20 ports.

21           I just want to sincerely appreciate the work that  
22 the California Energy Commission has done on this and thank  
23 your staff for their diligent work on the strategic plan.

24           As an association CAPA recognizes the importance  
25 of partnership and appreciates the collaboration that's

1 gone into this report. And that will be required to  
2 realize California's ambitious vision for offshore wind,  
3 because of the scale of these turbines bases, with  
4 footprints is large as Oracle Park and towers taller than  
5 the Golden Gate Bridge in a ports are going to be critical  
6 to staging and integration, manufacturing, and the ongoing  
7 operations.

8 CAPA agrees with the assessment in the plan that  
9 no single port will be able to serve all the needs of the  
10 offshore wind industry. It's going to be a collective  
11 effort amongst all of our ports.

12 That said, we also recognize the extraordinary  
13 costs that are going to be required for infrastructure at  
14 our ports, and this new green energy supply chain.

15 While the port upgrades may be significant, once  
16 the offshore wind projects are built at scale, they're  
17 going to become a source of reliable, cost effective clean  
18 energy and provide significant workforce opportunities by  
19 creating and sustaining thousands of jobs in the state.

20 CAPA looks forward to continued collaboration to  
21 realize this opportunity and supports the AB 525 strategic  
22 plan. Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

24 And next we'll hear from Naweed Kawusi. Naweed,  
25 excuse me if I mispronounced your name. I'm going to open

1 your line. And we're asking for comments to be two minutes  
2 or less.

3 MR. KAWUSI: Good afternoon. Thank you for the  
4 opportunity to comment. My name is Naweed Kawusi. It's N-  
5 A-W-E-E-D, last name K-A-W-U-S-I. And I'm a Program  
6 Director for Elected Officials to Protect America. And I'm  
7 speaking here on behalf of 220 elected officials who have  
8 signed our statewide letter in support of responsible and  
9 equitable offshore wind development and who today expressed  
10 their support for the AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic  
11 Plan.

12 Renewable energy is now cheaper and more reliable  
13 than fossil fuels for power. The possibility of  
14 transitioning our entire economy to run on 100 percent  
15 renewable energy will become a reality when floating  
16 offshore wind turbines off our coast begin feeding the  
17 grid. We need this large-scale renewable energy to  
18 transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels that  
19 continue to fuel the climate crisis. And all of this is  
20 possible because of AB 525 for the Offshore Wind Energy  
21 Strategic Plan.

22 We appreciate the hard work of the Commissioners  
23 and staff. And urge that while the plan is implemented,  
24 transparency and knowledge sharing should always be the  
25 first and foremost at every stage. The public must be kept

1 in the loop in order for the equitable and responsible  
2 development of California offshore wind, port  
3 infrastructure, and the necessary transmission. The  
4 mapping of habitats and natural resources research should  
5 be easily accessible to the public. Elected officials and  
6 the people they represent must be given the knowledge to  
7 understand the progress of offshore wind development, and  
8 the implementation of workforce development programs.

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

13 The CEC Offshore Wind Strategic Plan is an  
14 important roadmap to help realize the potential of the  
15 California offshore wind energy and gives us an  
16 understanding of the potential impacts on our workforce  
17 biodiversity and impacted communities. Offshore wind power  
18 will improve our health as this never ending resource  
19 cleans our air of toxins created by fossil fuels.

20 This is the future and once again, we are  
21 grateful for the comprehensive roadmap the CEC  
22 Commissioners and staff have given us. Thank you so much.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

24 Next we're going to hear from McKinley Thompson-  
25 Morley. I'm going to open your line. We're asking for



1 comments to be two minutes or less.

2 MS. THOMPSON-MORLEY: Hi, there. McKinley  
3 Thompson-Morley. That's spelled M-C-K-I-N-L-E-Y T-H-O-M-P-  
4 S-O-N hyphen M-O-R-L-E-Y. I am here today to speak on  
5 behalf of Golden State Wind, a lease holder off the Central  
6 Coast, to emphasize our support of the strategic plan,  
7 which signals California support for offshore wind. Thanks  
8 so much to the Commission and staff and tribal governments  
9 for their work on the plan. And I hope you all have a  
10 great rest of your day. Thank you.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

12 Next we'll hear from Sean Quincy. I'm an open  
13 your line, Sean.

14 MR. QUINCEY: Hi, can you hear me?

15 MS. BADIE: Yes.

16 MR. QUINCEY: Thank you. My name is Sean  
17 Quincey. That's S-E-A-N Q-U-I-N-C-E-Y. I'm a Deputy  
18 County Administrative Officer with the County of Humboldt,  
19 speaking on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

20 First, I want to thank Chair Hochschild, and  
21 members of the Commission staff. And we appreciate all the  
22 work on behalf of the CEC and CNRA staff that has gone into  
23 development of this plan.

24 I must reiterate the comments of CORE Hub and  
25 others regarding timing of release of the plan, and the

1 tight timeframe to submit comments. That said Humboldt  
2 County supports development or supports efforts to develop  
3 offshore wind collaboratively with local partners to  
4 mitigate impacts of development and to provide  
5 compensation, including increasing local capacity.

6           And I'm going to focus the remainder of my  
7 comments on local capacity building to engage in wind  
8 including port development, transmission, and negotiating  
9 community benefits. As stated in Volume II of the report,  
10 additional revenue from port development is likely to come  
11 from sales tax related to purchase of construction  
12 materials and increased property taxes.

13           However, both of these things are years away and  
14 likely insufficient. And despite the fact that all the  
15 impacts of the development will be borne by local  
16 communities, property taxes related to placement of the  
17 actual turbines is nonexistent. And the federal government  
18 has not even considered property tax and a loop program.

19           That is to say that the investments to date in  
20 local communities to meaningfully engage in offshore wind  
21 have been insufficient. The final plan does note that  
22 public comments submitted noted the need for local and  
23 tribal capacity building. And the county is grateful that  
24 there is a recommendation on page 187 of Volume II of the  
25 plan to, "Evaluate and identify ways to increase capacity

1 for interested parties to engage in the permitting  
2 development and mitigation of wind development.”

3 And this is a point that I need to stress. The  
4 county has repeatedly heard from developers and local  
5 community groups, that it is essential that the county  
6 government be the signatory to meaningful enforceable  
7 community benefits, agreements with developers. These  
8 agreements are going to be vital to garnering community  
9 support. And we look forward to working with the CEC and  
10 others on identifying ways to provide ongoing funding to  
11 engage in these efforts. Thank you.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

13 Next we're going to hear from a caller that's  
14 identified as L-O-C-A-C-C-A-C. I'm going to open your line  
15 if you'd like to let us know your name, and we're asking  
16 for comments to be two minutes or less.

17 Sorry about that. Can you hear me?

18 MS. BADIE: Yes.

19 MS. LUEKER: Great. My name is Andrea Lueker, A-  
20 N-D-R-E-A L-U-E-K-E-R. I'm speaking on behalf of REACT  
21 Alliance. REACT is a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots  
22 organization, which focuses on education of the public on  
23 the impacts of the proposed offshore wind projects off the  
24 coast in San Luis Obispo County. We're happy to report  
25 that REACT Alliance has grown over 400 followers since its

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1 inception nine months ago.

2           We have been heavily involved with the AB 525  
3 process during the last year or last nine months, including  
4 providing written and verbal comments at your meetings and  
5 workshops. My comments today, excuse me are like several  
6 others regarding process. Background is 35 years in local  
7 government, and I don't think in those 35 years I've ever  
8 seen a 300-plus page document released less than 24 hours  
9 prior to the proposed adoption. This lack of notification  
10 really limits public input and participation. And  
11 additionally, I'm wondering who in the world would even be  
12 able to read such a lengthy document with such a late  
13 publication date.

14           I'm hard pressed to believe that very many of our  
15 commenters today have actually been able to have the time  
16 to read the final document thoroughly. And I understand  
17 while I'm sure it's not the case, releasing this document  
18 with less than 24 hours of view review time is really the  
19 exact opposite of transparency.

20           So our asked today from REACT Alliance is that  
21 you delay the adoption of the resolution for at least one  
22 month, preferably to two, to allow time for proper review.  
23 Thank you very much. Have a good rest of your meeting.

24           MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

25           There are no other raised hands, Chair. Back to

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1 you.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, let me just thank all  
3 the commenters for sharing their perspectives. And I think  
4 what I'd like to do at this point is have Elizabeth Huber  
5 just come up to explain the differences between the draft -  
6 - and I would want to be clear -- of the lengthy report.  
7 The draft was posted with about 15 pages of difference  
8 between what was posted, and then the new revised version.

9 I want to apologize for the late release of that.  
10 I do want to hold this item and vote on it at a future  
11 meeting. But I think it's worth, first of all, a good use  
12 of our time today to hear everybody's perspectives. And I  
13 think it's worth, Elizabeth, you just explaining what got  
14 incorporated at a high level from the draft that was posted  
15 to the updated version that posted.

16 MS. HUBER: Absolutely. Thank you, Chair.

17 I also wanted to indicate since it was mentioned  
18 several times, but existing law and recent laws such as SB  
19 286, are the statutory requirements for permitting and  
20 developing the offshore wind industry. The work is ongoing  
21 under the leadership of the State Lands Commission, the  
22 CEQA lead agency for the environmental review and  
23 permitting, and the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
24 for the piece on federal waters.

25 This strategic plan is to provide the guidance

1 understanding, concerns, and recommendations in a focused  
2 manner on this comprehensive industry to those federal,  
3 state, and local agencies with that statutory authority.  
4 The strategic plan is not a mandate. But we feel that we  
5 have captured all the benefits and impacts and what it is  
6 going to take the NEPA and CEQA agencies to mitigate those  
7 impacts through their EIS/EIR processes, as well as the  
8 infrastructure to support that industry.

9           Therefore, I want to summarize that this --  
10 again, it was docketed in January of 2024, the draft  
11 strategic plan. Formal comments, we extended it through  
12 the end of April, however we continued to accept comments  
13 up until the end of May. And with that, the major changes  
14 to this draft is incorporating all those comments,  
15 feedbacks, recommendations, into summaries for each of the  
16 respective chapters sections within the strategic plan.

17           We also acknowledge the feedback we received by  
18 taking the read recommendations and expanded them to  
19 further to include further detail, to provide additional  
20 direction for the responsible and timely deployment of  
21 offshore wind, while protecting our coastal, marine, and  
22 tribal resources.

23           We further provided detail in adding in additions  
24 regarding potential impacts outlined in Chapter 4,  
25 including impacts to marine biological resources and

1 fisheries.

2           We expanded the discussion of potential tribal  
3 impacts and comments, as well as added an additional  
4 section on tribal energy sovereignty.

5           We expanded discussion of strategies to reflect  
6 comments received from underserved communities, including  
7 reducing pollution and expanding community benefits. And  
8 highlighting the work happening in SB 100 led by Vice Chair  
9 Gunda, and my colleagues in the Energy Assessments Division  
10 on the timely, efficient, and economic transition of fossil  
11 fuel facilities to clean and renewable energy facilities.

12           We've expanded discussion of needed port  
13 enhancements, including emphasizing the importance of  
14 staging and integration sites.

15           And finally we refined discussion of workforce  
16 development and projected job creation, including  
17 clarifying projected job creation associated with port  
18 development.

19           So the final draft before you today is really  
20 just adding all the feedback that we've received over the  
21 last six months from the community of stakeholders and  
22 interested parties in offshore wind.

23           Thank you, Chair.

24           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

25           The only thing I would add, I've been in energy

1 25 years. I've been in this role a number of years as  
2 well. This is one of the single most complex processes  
3 I've been involved with, because of the number of other  
4 agencies we collaborate with, and the stakeholders around  
5 the state.

6           So and I do want to just again thank our  
7 colleagues from the Lands Commission, the Coastal  
8 Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, Fish and  
9 Wildlife, Secretary Crowfoot, Deputy Secretary for Equity  
10 Noaki Schwartz, Deputy Secretary of Energy Le-Quyen Nguyen,  
11 and Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs Geneva EB Thompson,  
12 among others. And that's just within our mothership agency  
13 here at the Natural Resource Agency, but have also involved  
14 close coordination with the PUC, CAISO and many other  
15 agencies including BOEM and, of course, many, many tribal  
16 governments.

17           So I do want to ask that we hold this for a  
18 future meeting to take the vote, just to give full time to  
19 the stakeholders. And I want to apologize as well for how  
20 late the report is. This was due a year ago. And the  
21 complexity of the process, the fact that it's coming this  
22 and not the last year is not a result of our team not  
23 working incredibly hard. Elizabeth and her amazing group  
24 have been working double time on this. This is just the  
25 nature of this effort is incredibly complex and multi-



1 dimensional. And I really want to just close with thank  
2 you to your team for all the hard work. And to just  
3 acknowledge how complex this issue we have to walk through  
4 together is.

5 With that, I would open it up for any other  
6 Commissioner discussion starting with Commissioner  
7 McAllister.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you, Chair.

9 I just want to thank Elizabeth and the team for a  
10 great presentation here, and just all the briefings along  
11 the way and the interim products. And I have been paying  
12 attention to the evolution of this strategy strategic plan.  
13 And I agree that we need to sort of respect the process and  
14 give folks time to review the final product. I think what  
15 people will find is that most of the changes were additive,  
16 and really in response to comments that already were  
17 received. And so, you know, I'm confident that the product  
18 is strong, but certainly understand folks sort of reticence  
19 to speak out in strong support not having seen the final,  
20 so that's part of good governance I think.

21 There is some urgency as the Chair said, just  
22 because this is due. It's overdue, and we want to get it  
23 out there as the Legislature asked. But I think the  
24 reasons why it's taken longer is because it's so complex,  
25 and I think the Legislature likely will understand that.

1 But you know, we'd like to get our homework in on time  
2 whenever we can.

3 So but I really think this is a new area. It's  
4 extremely complex. The offshore issues are very involved  
5 and layered and nuanced in many cases. And certainly the  
6 justice issues around this are super important to keep at  
7 the top of mind as we move forward.

8 So I'm looking forward to voting this out at a  
9 future meeting. Hopefully our next business meeting, but  
10 thanks everybody for your comments. Really hear how  
11 important this is to everyone involved. So much positive,  
12 potential positive impact, but we really need to manage it  
13 well. So appreciate everyone's involvement in helping make  
14 that happen.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner.

16 Let's go to Commissioner Monahan.

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: First, I want to say that  
18 I too am really glad that we are delaying the vote on this.  
19 I think we heard loud and clear from the stakeholder  
20 community that there wasn't time to review. And we really  
21 appreciate that 24 hours, less than 24 hours, is not enough  
22 for folks to dive into this long report, given the  
23 complexity of the issues at play.

24 And I'm going to heap on praise to the team,  
25 though that has pulled together this strategic plan,

1 because I do think it really is a model in a lot of ways.  
2 And the team: Melissa, Jim, Lorelei, that worked on it with  
3 the supervision of Elizabeth Huber, who is tireless and  
4 really dedicated to making sure that we have a robust  
5 public process. And we come up with a plan that makes  
6 sense.

7           So and I just want to say, you know, as Chair  
8 Hochschild and many of the commenters noted we're facing a  
9 climate crisis. I mean, so far this year more acres have  
10 burned through wildfires than in the past five years. And  
11 we're just at the start of the wildfire season. These  
12 wildfires and smoke are putting California's lives and  
13 their lungs at risk. And that's just one of the many  
14 manifestations that we're experiencing in California of the  
15 real life impacts of climate change. And our duty to  
16 respond in kind and make sure that we can meet California's  
17 goal for a climate safe economy while also providing safe,  
18 affordable, reliable energy and offshore wind as a part of  
19 that resource portfolio.

20           I just want to take a minute to thank and  
21 acknowledge the many tribal governments that engaged in the  
22 process, that came today to provide comments. It was I  
23 think, Chair Walker from the Northern Chumash Tribal  
24 Council, that said that this strategic plan was notable in  
25 the amount of engagement that it had with tribes. And I

1 think you can draw a direct line between Governor Newsom's  
2 apology to tribes in 2019 soon after he took office, our  
3 Tribal Energy Sovereignty Resolution in 2023, and the  
4 amount of engagement with tribal governments on this plan.

5 I am -- you know, it's clear that tribes have a  
6 good reason to be skeptical that energy development and  
7 environmental protection can go hand in hand. I think the  
8 strategic plan really did an excellent job about being  
9 transparent about both kind of the opportunities and the  
10 challenges when it comes to offshore wind. Impacts to  
11 coastal wildlife including fish, which is really the  
12 lifeblood of tribes, is particularly important to  
13 understand and protect.

14 But I just want to emphasize that I do think the  
15 strategic plan, I have read it, and I feel like as one  
16 commenter noted this is the most comprehensive plan in the  
17 world. And it addresses ports. It addresses the  
18 communities around them. It addresses the opportunity to  
19 build a workforce with good jobs. It addresses the  
20 environmental challenges. It addresses permitting and  
21 transmission planning. So it really is comprehensive.

22 And I feel like, but we want to have the  
23 stakeholder community have time to actually be able to dive  
24 in and appreciate the complexity and the amount of work  
25 that went into this. So I'm glad that we're delaying the

1 vote, and look forward to bringing it to a future business  
2 meeting.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner.

4 Let's go to Jana Ganion for any closing comments.

5 MS. GANION: Thank you. I just want to echo my  
6 gratitude for all the comments today. I think, I just want  
7 to reiterate that the Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan  
8 tries to capture a rapidly evolving set of circumstances.  
9 And so I just want to reiterate my gratitude to the CEC  
10 staff for its leadership in this, to the Commissioners for  
11 making the decision to move the vote to the July 10th  
12 business meeting. And that we look forward to working with  
13 all of you on the next steps that will come from here,  
14 which is the lion's share of the work. And just appreciate  
15 all the comments here today. Thank you so much.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

17 With that we'll turn to Item 4, Lead Commissioner  
18 and Presiding Member Reports. And if we could keep this  
19 really brief, that'd be great. No reports?

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, I feel like I did  
21 my report while we were waiting for the technical issues to  
22 get to resolved.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

24 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, I too think I  
25 covered everything when we were waiting for the technical

1 issues to be resolved.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, same here.

3 Item 5, Executive Director's Report.

4 MR. BOHAN: Nothing Commissioners, no report  
5 today. Thank you.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Item 6, Public  
7 Advisor's Report.

8 MS. BADIE: No report, thank you.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.  
10 And Item 7, Chief Counsel's Report.

11 MS. DECARLO: No report, thank you.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

13 We're adjourned.

14 (The Business Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.)

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**CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER**

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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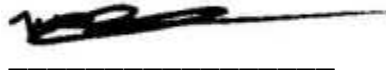
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of July, 2024.



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