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Filer:	Kim Todd
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Ocean Energy Resources Tribal Working Group. Summary of 2/13/2025 and 3/27/25 Comments on SB 605 Wave and Tidal Energy Resources Suitable Sea Space Presentation by CEC staff

Tribal representatives had the following concerns and recommendations:

- Tribal representatives echoed their long-standing message that consultation with state agencies on policy documents does not equal consent or support of related energy resource development.
- Tribal representatives had several questions and concerns about the draft suitable sea space maps shared by CEC staff during working group meeting. First, there was significant concern about the possibility of projects in sanctuaries, cultural heritage locations, and marine stewardship areas. Second, tribal representatives asked that the use of the word “potential,” be removed as it applies to conflicts or impacts to tribes because it creates the opportunity for change. Tribal representatives seek acknowledgement of offshore tribal sovereignty and territory.
- Tribal representatives raised the issue that with climate change impacts and sea level rise, that current mapping of migratory areas may change.
- Species interruptions are a potential impact in various areas including the deep-water refuges.
- There needs to be research to make the determinations on energy developments. More modeling and research are needed around ocean energy development.
- Adaptive management is needed for ocean energy developments. Monitoring strategies and adaptive management should include offramps and/or a total stop if negative impacts from these projects occur.
- The question on feasibility is not the correct question, the question should be in the energy policy in alignment with what the community wants.
- The Ocean Energy Tribal Working Group wants to acknowledge there are others who may not be able to participate due to capacity and resources, and there may be other concerns not captured by this group. Resources to assist and develop the capacity are needed for this.

Comments Collected from Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 2/13/2025 and 3/27/25. Summary Approved by Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 3/27/2025. Submit to Docket SB-24-605