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April 28, 2021

Commissioner Karen Douglas
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner Douglas

We are members of the environmental community in Humboldt County. 350 Humboldt is a local, grassroots climate activist organization affiliated with the National and International 350.org. The North Group of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club is part of the well known Sierra Club whose mission is to explore and protect the planet. Both of our organizations are working on preventing the dire consequences of climate change and we have been closely following the discussions about offshore wind energy in Humboldt County. Our organizations have strong histories of supporting renewable energy, although each proposed project is reviewed on a local level.

The State of California has very ambitious goals for building 25-37 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. To be able to accomplish such a goal, it is urgent to move ahead expeditiously with building offshore wind projects.

What we are requesting today is that rather than having BOEM put out for bid all of the offshore wind call areas of the California Coast at one time, to consider each of the call areas separately because of the unique environmental and social justice impacts and proposal dimensions.

Very significant differences exist between the Redwood Coast Offshore Wind Project in Humboldt Bay and the Castle Wind Offshore Project in Morro Bay. The Castle Wind Offshore Project is still working with DOD over maintaining the area for testing and training. The project in the Humboldt call area isn't facing that concern. Hopefully, the Morro Bay issues can be resolved soon, but while that is being negotiated, the Redwood Coast Project should be allowed to move forward.

The Redwood Coast Offshore Wind Project should also be considered first because plans and community engagement are well under way. Our local CCA, Redwood Coast Energy Authority

has developed a strategic plan for developing wind energy. They have invested in the CAISO process and have reached out to the community at large and are communicating with local stakeholders. In addition, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District has been working on port infrastructure designs to prepare for the needs of the offshore wind industry.

The Redwood Coast Offshore Wind Project could serve as a prototype, helping to demonstrate how other projects could be best developed. By moving ahead with the lease for this project, so much will be learned about the technology, the environmental impacts, and the ways that communities adapt to the renewable energy future that can inform subsequent projects.

More than 11,000 scientists have declared that our planet is experiencing a climate emergency. Communities around the globe need to work together on solutions. We look forward to hearing more from you as this project progresses. We will continue to review and comment on more specific scenarios for the California offshore wind projects as they become available.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Cordially,

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