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Brightline Defense Comments - Offshore Wind Will Benefit California's Environmental Justice Communities and Bring Green Jobs

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



July 7, 2021

Executive Director Drew Bohan
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Number: 17-MISC-01 California Offshore Renewable Energy

Dear Executive Director Bohan,

Brightline Defense Project, an environmental justice nonprofit organization, supports offshore wind development in California. Offshore wind will both bring clean, renewable energy to the state, and advance environmental justice. Brightline Defense is joined by a coalition of other environmental and labor groups in supporting these proposals.

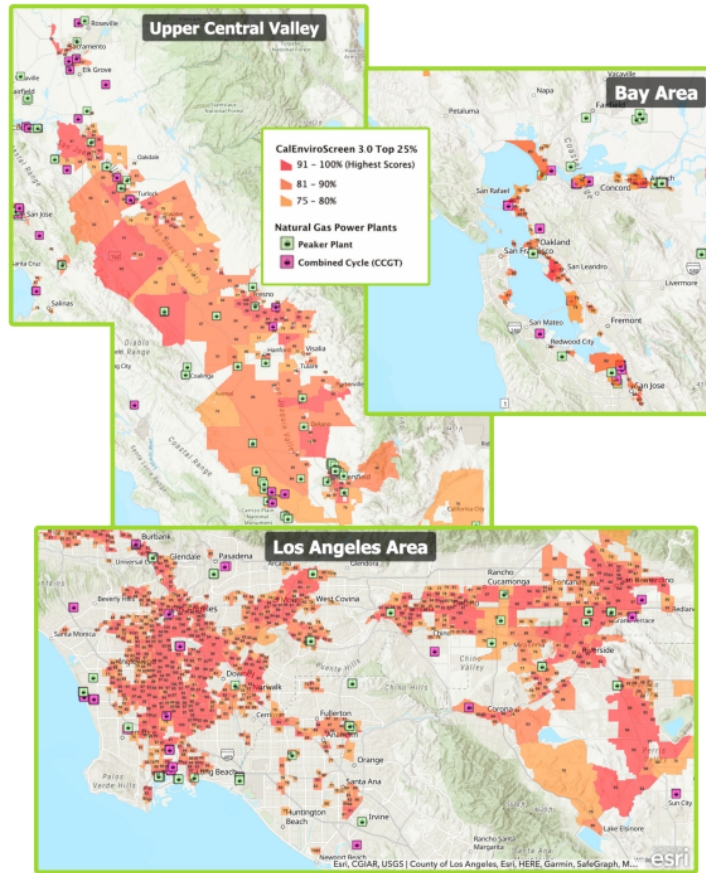
Offshore wind creates local jobs for years to come

Deployment of offshore wind will generate significant demand for construction and maintenance work in California. Offshore wind deployment can generate 6,000 FTE jobs in short-term siting and transmission, 17,500 FTE jobs in mid-term construction, and 5,000 FTE jobs in long-term operation and maintenance. When coupled with local hiring policies and robust job training pipelines, offshore wind-related jobs can create quality jobs for local residents and revitalize communities. To ensure equity-driven outcomes, the CEC should also continue to uplift local and targeted hiring commitments as well as labor standards on each proposal for California offshore wind.

Offshore wind helps California's disadvantaged communities and diversifies its energy portfolio

Currently, California's reliance on natural gas plants to provide energy for both baseload and peak demands has led to a greater need for California to diversify its renewable energy portfolio with large-scale clean energy sources like offshore wind.

Proximity to natural gas plants has been linked to a plethora of negative health effects including increased instances of respiratory illness and cancer. These health impacts are not evenly distributed across the state as low-income communities are often located within 5 miles of peaker power plants. Utility-scale clean energy generation sources ensure environmental health benefits as well as strengthen California's energy portfolio.



Source: Brightline Defense

Further equity and community engagement will bring further benefits to offshore wind development in California

Additionally, Brightline supports further government-to-government consultations with both Federally Recognized Native American Tribes and California Native American Tribes throughout the California coastline. Native communities have important interests in the marine and cultural resources that could be impacted by the deployment of offshore wind.

Brightline Defense supports the investment and development of offshore wind, which will provide excellent environmental justice and green job growth for California.

Sincerely,

Eddie Ahn
Executive Director, Brightline Defense