

**DOCKETED**

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## **Next Steps for Considering Offshore Wind Energy off the California Coast**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



**California Energy Commission Workshop to Present Next Steps for Considering  
Offshore Wind Energy off the California Coast  
Docket 17-MISC-01**

**Comments by Adam Stern, Executive Director, Offshore Wind California  
July 9, 2021**

Offshore Wind California (OWC) is a business association dedicated to the responsible development of offshore wind in our state. California needs offshore wind to reach its clean energy and climate goals. This untapped resource will complement the existing supply of solar and onshore wind, help balance the grid, and provide a major boost to the state's economy.

We want to thank the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and all the state agencies for moving forward with the environmental reviews of the first two sites for offshore wind in California. We support your efforts to make the process as transparent as possible.

We encourage you to look for opportunities to streamline the federal and state permitting processes, and potentially join them when that makes sense. We're in a climate emergency. We need to move rapidly on the planning: the state's clean energy and climate future depends on it.

In heat waves like California has experienced recently, the current mix of renewables – primarily solar plus onshore wind – has topped out each day at about 1pm before starting to decline at 4pm. Natural gas peaker plants are turned on in increasing numbers, so that by 8pm 60% of the state's electricity supply is powered by fossil fuel. More solar and battery storage will help, but they're unlikely to scale fast enough to close the gap at an affordable price. Unless procurement of additional renewables dramatically accelerates, the planned closure of the state's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in 2025 will make the situation temporarily worse. Offshore wind is an ideal resource to provide clean, reliable, utility-scale power around the clock and especially during periods of peak electricity demand.

We're looking forward to partnering with federal and state agencies to map out a path to achieve a minimum of 10 gigawatts (GW) of clean, offshore wind power for Golden State residents and workers by 2040. An interim goal of 3 GW of offshore wind for California by 2030 will contribute to President Biden's national goal of 30 GW by the end of this decade—from both the East and West coasts. To meet these ambitious goals, it's crucial to complete the environmental reviews, upgrade port infrastructure, build offshore wind's supply chain, and streamline federal and state permitting while protecting wildlife and cultural resources. Offshore wind is on track to be an important part of our clean energy future, in California and America. There's no time to lose.