

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	20-EPIC-01
Project Title:	Development of the California Energy Commission Electric Program Investment Charge Investment Plans 2021-2025
TN #:	238945
Document Title:	Larry Miles Comments - OSW EPIC 4 Investment Planning
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Larry Miles
Submitter Role:	Other Interested Person
Submission Date:	7/20/2021 1:33:39 PM
Docketed Date:	7/20/2021

Comment Received From: Larry Miles
Submitted On: 7/20/2021
Docket Number: 20-EPIC-01

20-EPIC-01 OSW EPIC 4 Investment Planning

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

July 20, 2021

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 20-EPIC-01
Docket Office
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: OSW EPIC 4 Investment Planning – July 14, 2021 workshop

Thank you for the opportunity to follow-up on a couple of questions asked at the offshore wind webinar Q&A but not responded to during the workshop.

1. Has there been any comprehensive long-term planning regarding the use/deployment of ocean-based wind turbines, or ocean-based renewable energy technologies in general, off California's coast?

On July 16, a group of organizations, individuals and representatives from San Luis Obispo County requested help from President Biden and Governor Newsom to assist with and support development of a plan covering the installation wind energy off the Coast of SLO County.¹ The theme of the request was recognition that absence of a plan would increase the likelihood that economic benefits of offshore wind installation and operation that could or should accrue to SLO County and California likely would occur elsewhere.

The same could be said about the entire coast. There are obviously many considerations to take in account regarding offshore wind deployment in California, but it is a big ocean and there is a lot of wind. The State is the only party in this endeavor that can (could) focus on the many diverse interests of all Californians including ratepayers and attempt to arrive at an optimal solution.

Has the State developed a Grand Plan?

2. In the interest of improving the understanding of what the State and ratepayers might get, or be saddled with, has the CEC considered possible paths wind generating technology might take? Once installed, these machines will be around for some time.

The wind industry will tell you the case is closed, but the Department of Energy's Advance Research Projects Agency-Energy – ATLANTIS program website states "the current state of the art for FOWT (floating offshore wind turbine) *technology* is too massive and expensive for practical deployment."²

I'm not advocating letting the perfect solution stand in the way of the good-enough, but someone will have to pay the price. Perhaps ARPA-E can provide some insight to the State regarding the above statement. Maybe there is a new business opportunity to build lower-cost ARPA-E wind turbines in California?

Sincerely,

Larry Miles

¹ See <https://reachcentralcoast.org/coalition-seeks-state-federal-funds-for-offshore-wind-planning/>

² <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/technologies/programs/atlantis>