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Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	248692
Document Title:	Public Comment
Description:	Public Comment from Morro Bay Resident: Pam Dougherty
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	2/8/2023 9:58:16 AM
Docketed Date:	2/8/2023

To: Miina.Holloway@energy.ca.gov

Subject: Public Comment

California Energy Commission

Dear Commissioner Siva Gunda,

I am a resident of Morro Bay, California, a small coastal town situated on the last remaining natural estuary in California. Local residents, including myself, are deeply invested in preserving our way of life and protecting the complex ecosystem of marine life that is unique to our area. We are a designated Marine Protected Area and also part of the National Estuary Program.

I am deeply concerned about conversations taking place regarding building infrastructure on the Embarcadero of Morro Bay to serve the offshore wind-farm leases. This will disrupt our natural ecosystem where seals and otters thrive, where thousands of birds migrate and nest, and monarch butterflies overwinter to rest before their journey north in the spring.

We are proud of helping once endangered otters recover to sustainable population levels, a result of ongoing local stewardship and national protections. Estuaries remain in danger of declining eelgrass beds which are essential to water quality, and new research shows that sea otters help with eelgrass recovery. Our ecosystem is robust, yet fragile. A large building project on the Embarcadero will reverse so much that has been gained.

Our community has formed a grassroots community organization, "Preserve Estero Bay," which I am a member of. I very much hope that you and the California Energy Commission consider our concerns on behalf of our cherished community and the marine life that depends on us.

The mandate to ensure sufficient power for California residents into the future is a huge responsibility. How best to protect our natural coastal habitats will also have far-reaching impact for future generations. Please allow the residents of Morro Bay, who will be most closely affected by pier infrastructure developments, an opportunity to share our concerns and have our voices heard.

Sincerely,

Pam Dougherty

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