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AB 525 Comments - CWDB HRTP High Road to Offshore Wind Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

February 10, 2023

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 17-MISC-01
Docket Office
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Submitted Electronically via CEC website to Docket 17-MISC-01

Subject: Comments on Draft Assembly Bill 525 Report: Preliminary Assessment of Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind Related to Seaport Investments and Workforce Development

The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Commission's draft report in response to the requirements of Assembly Bill 525: *Preliminary Assessment of Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind Related to Seaport Investments and Workforce Development*.

The CWDB is the State's agent for the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce development system. California and the CWDB are committed to a High Road vision for the state's workforce development system that embodies the principles of job quality, worker voice, equity, and environmental sustainability. A key element of this vision is the CWDB's High Road Training Partnership (HRTTP) initiative, which increases access to good jobs, create pathways for job growth, meet regional industry needs, and center worker voice. The CWDB currently is funding over 50 industry-specific HRTTPs in topics ranging from public transit to water systems to energy storage and microgrids. One of these HRTTPs is the High Road to Offshore Wind program.ⁱ The CWDB suggests this is directly relevant to the AB 525 planning process and should be discussed in the Final Report.

The High Road to Offshore Wind HRTTP, which commenced in 2021 and extends to 2024, is pioneering a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process for the offshore wind industry in future years. This offshore wind HRTTP is using as its point of reference the CADEMO offshore wind project in state waters off Vandenberg Space Force Base. CADEMO is expected to be the state's first floating wind farm, operational in 2027. The HRTTP has resulted in signing of a Project Labor Agreement, Outside Line Agreement and Maintenance Agreement for CADEMO with the State Building and Construction Trades Council and IBEW 1245. These agreements are expected to serve as precedents and models for future labor-management negotiations in the offshore wind industry. The HRTTP also includes applied research into supply chain sourcing alternatives, port infrastructure options, and workforce training standards, curricula, and facilities.

The HRTTP is planning to issue a report on its findings and recommendations in April 2023. The CWDB is committed to engaging with the California Energy Commission and all stakeholders to discuss this HRTTP and to help develop a framework for high labor standards and workforce training in the AB 525 Strategic Plan.

The CWDB appreciates the CEC's commitment to creating a durable domestic floating offshore wind industry in California that provides good paying jobs and career paths for Californians. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on AB 525.

Sincerely,

Rafael Aguilera
High Road Training Partnerships
Field Specialist
California Workforce Development

¹ California Workforce Development Board, "High Road to Offshore Wind," n.d., https://cwdb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2021/04/2021.HRTP_SLOCOE_ACCESSIBLE.pdf?emrc=2860c0.