

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	255351
Document Title:	March 20, 2024 Hybrid Workshop on AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development
Description:	Transcript for March 20, 2024 Workshop 1 of 2 on AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan for OSW Development
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	3/29/2024 12:55:17 PM
Docketed Date:	3/29/2024

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Hybrid Workshop -)
 Draft Strategic Plan for) Docket No. 17-MISC-01
 Offshore Wind Development)
 _____)

HYBRID WORKSHOP ON
 ASSEMBLY BILL 525: DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
 OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
 AGENCY BUILDING AUDITORIUM
 715 P STREET
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

IN-PERSON AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Reported by:

Martha Nelson

APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONER

David Hochschild, Chair

CEC STAFF

Rachel MacDonald, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
Protection Division

Elizabeth Huber, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
Protection Division

Jack Bastida

Eli Harland, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
Protection Division

Elizabeth Barminski, Siting, Transmission, and
Environmental Protection Division

ALSO PRESENT

Jana Ganion, Senior Offshore Wind Advisor for California
Governor Gavin Newsom

Noaki Schwartz, Deputy Secretary for Equity and
Environmental Justice

Jenn Eckerle, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal
Policy, California Natural Resources Agency

Katerina Robinson, Chair Hochschild's Chief of Staff

Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Director, California State
Lands
Commission

Dr. Kate Hucklebridge, Executive Director, California
Coastal Commission

Becky Ota, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
APPEARANCES

ALSO PRESENT (cont'd.)

Darcy Houck, CPUC

PRESENTERS

Geneva E.B. Thompson, California Natural Resources Agency

Sierra Graves, California Natural Resources Agency

Amy Vierra, California State Lands Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathie Buchanan, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville
Rancheria, California

Mike Okoniewski, West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group

Donald Pierce, Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis
Obispo Counties

Mona Tucker, Yak Yit^vu Yit^vu Yak Tilhini Northern Chumash
Tribe of San Luis County and Region Obispoand Region

Mariza Sullivan, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation

Angela Mooney D'Arcy, Sacred Places Institute for
Indigenous Peoples

Molly Croll, American Clean Power Association

Nancy Rader, California Wind Energy Association

Sheri Hafer, REACT Alliance

Tom Hafer, Responsible Energy Acquisition for California's
Transition

Amy Wolfrum, Monterey Bay Aquarium

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd.)

Wayne Kotow, Coastal Conservation Association of California

Mike Lynes, Audubon California

Azsha Hudson, Environmental Defense Center

Dr. Allyson Dallmann

Ted Key

Matt Simmons, Environmental Protection Information Center

Georgina Quinn

Tyler Valdes, California Environmental Justice Alliance

Katie Ramsey, Sierra Club

Cristhian Tapia, Pacific Environment

Lauren Nagy, Vineyard Offshore

Chris Voss, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara

Mike Conroy, West Coast Fisheries Consultants

Larry Phillips, American Sportfishing Association

Steve Scheiblaue

Michael Cohen

Dan Jacobson, Environment California

Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Oceantic Network

Julia Chun-Heer

Dan Chia, Omni Government Relations

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd.)

Lucia Marquez, Central Coast Alliance United for a
Sustainable Economy

Jane Roschen

Adam Canter, Wiyot Tribe

Jeremy Smith, State Building and Construction Trades
Council

Melissa Smith

Adam Stern, Offshore Wind California

Anna Shepherd, Navy Region Southwest

Laura Lane, California Association of Port Authorities

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1 morning on the potential impacts of offshore wind and
2 avoidance, minimization, and mitigation strategies. We'll
3 hear about impacts, strategies and recommendations for
4 Native American tribes and peoples, marine biological
5 resources, services, underserved communities, and
6 fisheries. There will be opportunities for comments after
7 each presentation, then we'll have a lunch break.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Here's a look at this afternoon. After lunch, we
10 will dive into presentations and comment opportunities for
11 ports and waterfront facilities, infrastructure, and
12 workforce development. We will have a break and more
13 comment opportunities at the end of the afternoon.

14 Next slide.

15 We still have people joining, so we'll come back
16 to our opening remarks.

17 Next slide.

18 At this time, I'd like to ask Director Huber to
19 present the draft Strategic Plan overview in person at the
20 CNRA auditorium.

21 MS. HUBER: Thank you, Rachel.

22 I think we will begin with introducing the Chair
23 who wants to do welcoming and then our governor's Office of
24 Offshore Wind's newest advisor.

25 So we'll start with Chair Hochschild and then

1 we'll turn it over to Jana Ganion.

2 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you.

3 MS. GANION: Alright, just testing the sound.
4 Can everyone hear me?

5 Are we waiting for Chair Hochschild to join?

6 Okay. I'll start and then I'll have the rare
7 privilege of going before him because it's very hard to go
8 after him.

9 So, I really want to welcome everyone here today,
10 both in the room and online. This is a really important
11 Strategic Plan for California's clean energy future, and we
12 get a lot of questions about why we are considering
13 offshore wind as a potential large-scale solution to our
14 energy needs.

15 And one of the answers to that is that it has
16 thirty to forty times less carbon emissions per electrical
17 unit generated than natural gas. Thirty to forty times
18 less, not percent. That's one of the reasons that we are
19 looking at offshore wind as a solution.

20 The other reason is that we have the
21 international, national, and, across California, technical
22 expertise to make this a responsible development platform
23 for our new energy needs.

24 And lastly, we need to generate three times the
25 electricity that we are generating now by 2045 to

1 transition away from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels have done
2 a lot for us in our socioeconomic spaces. But they have
3 been an abject failure, we now know, with respect to the
4 climate and with respect to the pollution that they create
5 in communities. That's another reason we're looking at
6 offshore wind and to develop it in California.

7 The Strategic Plan today has been the hard work
8 of dozens of California agencies and team members led by
9 the California Energy Commission by statute. just enormous
10 thanks to Elizabeth Huber, to Eli Harland, to other team
11 members at the California Energy Commission that have led
12 this, and to all of the agencies that have devoted
13 countless hours, nights, weekends to the development of
14 this draft plan.

15 come to this work from Arcata, California is
16 where my home is, and now I'm spending a lot of time in
17 Sacramento. But up on the North Coast where the wind
18 resource is terrific, this development is really seen as a
19 way forward for the economy and for the environment,
20 provided we have the guardrails and the resources to do it
21 well. And I think we do.

22 What it's going to mean, though, in this moment
23 is to really dig into the Strategic Plan and the strategies
24 and processes that we need to burnish to get to our goals,
25 and from what I've seen so far that holds incredible

1 promise and confidence because the best minds in the world
2 are working on this issue. Lastly, I'll just say that
3 these two workshops, today and on March 29th, and the
4 comment period through April 22nd, will give us the input
5 and the guidance that we need to finalize this plan and put
6 it in motion. That doesn't mean that, of course, the plan
7 is done and baked. That means that from there, we check it
8 against what's happening in real time and we make it better
9 where we need to.

10 So really appreciate all of your attention to
11 this. This is an era in our lives and in our evolution
12 where we need to pay close attention, and just really
13 delighted to be sharing this work with you.

14 Thank you so much.

15 And if director -- I'm sorry, if Chair Hochschild
16 is not ready --

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes, I am ready.

18 Can you hear me okay?

19 MS. GANION: Yes, I'll pass it to Chair David
20 Hochschild of the California Energy Commission.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, well thank you so much.
23 And let me just begin by saying how incredibly grateful I
24 am and the whole state family is to have you, Jana, come on
25 as the governor's offshore wind advisor to help make sure

1 this process is inclusive and thorough and fair and help
2 achieve our twin goals of advancing clean energy and
3 offshore wind and serving on our coast.

4 I wanted to just offer my thanks to all the
5 stakeholders who've been participating in the process
6 around the state and to all of our sister agencies: the
7 Postal Commission, the Lands Commission, Ocean Protection
8 Council, Fish and Wildlife, and our Natural Resources
9 Deputy Secretaries for Energy, Le-Quyen Nguyen for Tribal,
10 Geneva Thompson, and for Equity, Naoki Schwartz, and also
11 to the Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot, and to
12 the governor for his vision around getting our state to 100
13 percent clean energy.

14 So, a few points I wanted to make. This process
15 has been very thorough and, you know, one of the things I
16 will say: I think that, you know, it's an incredibly
17 complex process, but one good thing I think has come out of
18 this is the agencies themselves getting to understand their
19 roles and responsibilities better and kind of work out the
20 architecture of how this process can move forward the right
21 way. And, you know, that's not something that happens
22 quickly, but I do think it definitely has been a point of
23 progress as we've all kind of gotten greater clarity on how
24 the pieces of the puzzle fit together. This really is sort
25 of an all-of-government approach, I would say.

1 And then I also just wanted to highlight the
2 challenges ahead of us are very steep. We're facing a
3 climate crisis that threatens everything, all of the
4 species we've worked so hard to protect. The livability of
5 our planet is at stake. And we are, as has been said, the
6 first generation to really have full visibility on the
7 threats posed by climate change, and then the last
8 generation that can really do something about it. And so
9 this transition point we're at is, you know, a point of
10 very, very tough choices. We're really mindful that 40
11 percent of the gas fleet in California is in low-income and
12 disadvantaged communities that have borne the brunt of the
13 pollution, and there's a level of urgency there about
14 retiring those facilities and transition to clean power.
15 And also that offshore wind is new, and there are a whole
16 bunch of questions, you know, still to be answered about
17 deployment and all the impacts and so forth.

18 So as we go forward, just to recognize we're
19 having to tangle with some really, really significant
20 challenges. But that I think if we work together and move
21 forward in the spirit of collaboration and openness and
22 receptivity to each other's perspectives, we can make
23 things better.

24 I especially wanted to thank Elizabeth Huber, who
25 runs the Siting Division at the Energy Commission, and her

1 team, who've been working so hard on this report and the
2 process of the outreach. Thank you, Elizabeth, to you and
3 all of your terrific team.

4 Thanks as well to Vice Chair Gunda, who's been my
5 partner on offshore wind here at the Energy Commission, his
6 team, and to my terrific Chief of Staff, Kat Robinson,
7 who's been working especially hard on this the last few
8 years.

9 So I also want to say you know while the report
10 is out there, a lot of work has gone into it, you know, the
11 whole purpose of this outreach is to receive feedback and
12 make public comment, and we very much look forward to that,
13 and to seeing, you know, how we can make the report better
14 and stronger and more fair.

15 And so with that, I would kick it back to, I
16 guess, you Elizabeth to move us through the agenda.

17 Thanks, everybody.

18 MS. MACDONALD: Good morning. This is Rachel at
19 the Energy Commission.

20 Thank you for your opening remarks. I'm glad we
21 were able to start the morning with your remarks.

22 Next slide, please.

23 MS. HUBER: And while we are going to the next
24 slide, we are honored to have several principals from our
25 CNRA partner agencies here today, who without them, we

1 would not have a Strategic Plan draft to even present
2 today.

3 So with that, I will start out to my near right
4 with Noaki Schwartz.

5 DEPUTY SECRETARY SCHWARTZ: Hi, good morning. So
6 I'm Noaki Schwartz. I'm the Deputy Secretary for Equity
7 and Environmental Justice.

8 DEPUTY SECRETARY ECKERLE: Good morning. I'm
9 Jenn Eckerle. I'm the Deputy Secretary for Oceans and
10 Coastal Policy for the Resources Agency. I'm also the
11 Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning. I'm Katerina
13 Robinson. I'm Chair David Hochschild's Chief of Staff, and
14 happy to be joining you all today. Looking forward to the
15 presentations.

16 EXECUTIVE OFFICER LUCCHESI: Good morning. My
17 name is Jennifer Lucchesi. I'm the Executive Officer of
18 the California State Lands Commission.

19 I'm really happy to be here and look forward to
20 the comments, and now I'll turn it over to Dr. Kate
21 Hucklebridge, who is participating online with the Coastal
22 Commission.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HUCKLEBRIDGE: Good morning,
24 everybody. I'm trying to get my -- there we go -- my video
25 to start.

1 I'm Kate Hucklebridge. I'm the executive
2 director of the California Coastal Commission.

3 MS. HUBER: And also online, hopefully, is Becky
4 Ota with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HUCKLEBRIDGE: I believe Becky
6 might be an attendee, so we may need to pull her in as a
7 panelist if that's possible.

8 MS. HUBER: Thank you, Dr. Hucklebridge.

9 And Geneva Thompson with the California Natural
10 Resources Agency.

11 DEPUTY SECRETARY THOMPSON: Well, Osiyo everyone.
12 My name is Geneva E.B. Thompson, citizen of the Cherokee
13 Nation. She/her pronouns. Very honored to serve as the
14 deputy secretary for Tribal Affairs of the California
15 Natural Resources Agency.

16 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, everyone.

17 Let me just again say good morning and welcome to
18 the California Energy Commission's and its partner
19 agencies' workshop on offshore wind energy. We will be
20 presenting the chapters within the draft Assembly Bill 525
21 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan and updates on the ongoing
22 efforts, next steps, and additional public input
23 opportunities as the CEC works to meet the statutory
24 requirements of AB 525 for its safe and reliable offshore
25 wind energy in Federal Waters Offshore California.

1 For those of you who don't know me, and many
2 thanks to Chair Hochschild for the kind remarks, I am
3 Elizabeth Huber, and I'm the Director of Siting,
4 Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, or
5 what we fondly call in-house STEP.

6 The CEC team assigned to work on offshore wind
7 and those that will present today are part of the STEP
8 Division's Climate Initiatives Branch. Their efforts in
9 coordination with several state agencies have led to this
10 draft Strategic Plan that was published on January 19th and
11 which sets the analytical framework for offshore wind
12 energy development in California.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Enacting AB 525, the legislature found and
15 declared many things as they relate to offshore wind. The
16 findings shown on this slide are just some of the findings
17 underpinning the statutes of AB 525: providing economic and
18 environmental benefits, advancing progress toward
19 California's renewable energy and climate goals, and
20 increasing the diversity and lowering overall costs of the
21 state's resource portfolio, among other findings.

22 Next slide, please.

23 AB 525 tasks the CEC, in coordination with an
24 array of specified local, state, and federal partners,
25 tribal governments, with input from stakeholders to develop

1 a Strategic Plan for offshore wind energy development
2 installed off the California coast and federal waters. The
3 legislation further identifies priority considerations in
4 developing this Strategic Plan. The legislation states
5 that the Strategic Plan shall emphasize and prioritize
6 near-term actions, particularly related to port retrofits
7 and investments, and the workforce to accommodate the
8 probable immediate needs for jobs and economic development.
9 In considering port retrofits, the Strategic Plan shall
10 strive for compatibility with other harbor tenants and
11 ocean users to ensure that local benefits related to
12 offshore wind energy construction complement other local
13 industries.

14 The Strategic Plan shall emphasize and prioritize
15 actions that will improve port infrastructure to support
16 land-based work for the local workforce, and the
17 development of the Strategic Plan regarding workforce
18 development shall include consultation with representatives
19 of key labor organizations, apprenticeship programs that
20 would be involved in dispatching and training construction
21 workers. And finally, working with our tribal governments
22 who have been an instrumental partner throughout the last
23 two years.

24 The statutory language of AB 525 requires the
25 Strategic Plan shall include at least a minimum of five

1 chapters addressing: one, identification of suitable sea
2 space to meet our 2045 offshore wind goal, which we know is
3 25 gigawatts; development of a plan for port infrastructure
4 and workforce development; access transmission needs to
5 meet offshore wind goals; establishment of a coordinated
6 and efficient permitting process, and identification of
7 potential impacts and mitigation and minimization
8 strategies to address those impacts on coastal resources,
9 fisheries, Native American indigenous peoples, and national
10 defense; and the strategies for addressing all those
11 potential impacts.

12 Next slide, please.

13 In addition to developing the Strategic Plan, AB
14 525 included a number of interim work products to inform
15 the Strategic Plan, and they included evaluating and
16 quantifying the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind
17 to achieve reliable ratepayer employment and
18 decarbonization benefits in establishing our offshore wind
19 planning goals for 2030 and 2045. The legislation also
20 required the CEC to submit and complete to CNRA and the
21 California legislature a preliminary assessment of the
22 economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to
23 seaports, investments in workforce development needs and
24 standards, and a permitting roadmap.

25 AB 525 further required specific analyses by the

1 CEC in coordination with our partner agencies to also
2 inform the Strategic Plan. These included identifying
3 suitable sea space for wind energy areas; developing a plan
4 to improve waterfront facilities that could support a range
5 of floating offshore wind development activities, including
6 construction and staging, manufacturing, assembly and
7 operations and maintenance; and also assessing the
8 transmission investments and upgrades, including potential
9 subsea transmission options. AB 525 also prioritized
10 engagement, and it's clear that all stakeholders and tribal
11 governments should be and have been invited to participate
12 in this process.

13 The legislation, we want to put on record,
14 defined stakeholders, stating that the purpose of AB 525,
15 the term stakeholders will include but is not limited to
16 fisheries groups, labor unions, industry, environmental and
17 environmental justice organizations and other ocean users.
18 These interim reports and full intergovernmental and
19 fishing community engagement meetings and other
20 consultations are all located on the CEC website and the
21 link is in the bottom left corner.

22 Next slide, please.

23 We couldn't have done it alone. And as
24 represented here and also virtually, the CEC consulted and
25 coordinated with the following CNRA agency partners and

1 other state agencies. The State Lands Commission, they are
2 the CEQA lead agency for environmental review and
3 permitting. The Ocean Protection Council, the lead on
4 environmental monitoring among other responsibilities. The
5 California Coastal Commission, who executes the coastal
6 planning and regulatory activities for the Federal Coastal
7 Zone Management Act and State Coastal Act. The Department
8 of Fish and Wildlife who, among other provisions,
9 implements the California Threatened and Endangered Species
10 Impact and Mitigation Requirements. And regarding
11 transmission infrastructure and technology, the CEC
12 consulted with the California Public Utilities Commission
13 and the California Independent System Operator.

14 With regards for a plan to develop California's
15 workforce, we also consulted with the Labor and Workforce
16 Development Agency and the Workforce Development Board.

17 The CEC in collaboration with these multiple
18 state agencies held more than 200 roundtables and meetings,
19 biweekly and monthly working group meetings, and one-on-one
20 conversations in the development of the Strategic Plan.

21 Next slide, please.

22 These are the three volumes of the Strategic
23 Plan.

24 Volume 1 is an overview of the actual Strategic
25 Plan. Volume 2 is the full comprehensive Strategic Plan.

1 And Volume 3 are the technical appendices.

2 This slide shows the 11 chapters found within
3 Volume 2's main report, addressing the AB 525 required
4 chapters, as well as additional chapters on the history of
5 offshore wind development, floating offshore wind
6 technologies and the industry, and a section on impacts and
7 strategies to mitigate those impacts to our underserved
8 communities in California.

9 In the following slides, I will provide a brief,
10 and I mean brief, highlight of each chapter which will be
11 discussed during today's workshop by the subject matter
12 experts and on part two on March 29th.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Chapter 3 addresses economic and workforce
15 benefits.

16 At a high level, offshore wind presents the
17 opportunity to realize economic workforce benefits and
18 attract investment capital to California. As shown on this
19 slide, there are direct, indirect, and induced economic
20 benefits that are expected from activities like
21 construction and maintenance that we've mentioned and also
22 increased demand regionally for components, creation of new
23 small businesses and the expansion of existing businesses,
24 and ultimately increasing spending back into the local
25 economy.

1 Next slide, please.

2 Benefit key takeaways include developing and
3 preserving a local skilled and trained workforce and long-
4 term job creation, as shown in this slide by job- and
5 sector-specific supply chain, construction, and operations
6 and maintenance. Ports and waterfront facilities will be
7 an important driver of potential economic benefits and are
8 essential to developing a local supply chain that is
9 estimated to provide the majority of the workforce
10 benefits. Community benefits agreements, or what we call
11 CBAs, are important tools to ensure that California Native
12 Americans and underserved communities are involved early in
13 the state in federal permitting process and receive
14 benefits that are realized.

15 Next slide, please.

16 Chapter 4 addresses potential impacts of offshore
17 wind on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and
18 indigenous peoples, and national defense, and the
19 strategies for addressing those potential impacts per
20 statute.

21 Additionally, the chapter discusses impacts to
22 underserved communities. While the chapter evaluates
23 numerous potential impacts for various tribal governments
24 and local groups, this image is a good example of the
25 potential impact of mitigation strategies specific to

1 marine life, which concerns many of all of us.

2 Next slide, please.

3 This chapter itself goes into great detail about
4 potential impacts and strategies to address them, and
5 during today's workshop, the specific lead agencies will be
6 presenting on their specific topic areas.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Chapter 5. AB 525 required that the CC work with
9 specified agencies, stakeholders, state, local, and federal
10 agencies and the offshore wind energy and industry to
11 identify suitable sea space for wind, energy areas, and
12 federal water sufficient to accommodate the offshore wind
13 goals for 2030 and 2045. The floating offshore wind
14 megawatt planning goals were established by the CEC in
15 August of 2022, and they are 2,000 to 5,000 megawatts by
16 2030 and 25 megawatts by 2045.

17 In fulfilling the requirements of this section,
18 the CEC incorporated the information developed by the BOEM
19 California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force
20 that was established in 2016. Several key considerations
21 in identifying potential sea space included: wind
22 characterization, such as wind speed and wind consistency;
23 ocean characteristics such as seafloor depth ocean bottom
24 slope, distance to shore -- these are the areas identified
25 that are at least 20 miles from the shore; the existence of

1 sanctuaries and protected areas; the incidence of marine
2 resources such as marine habitats, marine mammals, birds
3 and turtles; and existing ocean users' impacts from
4 fishing, shipping lanes, military operations, and cultural
5 resources; and finally, existing infrastructure such as
6 cable lines and pipelines.

7 The CEC has identified six areas in federal
8 waters which are sufficient sea space areas to meet the
9 2045 25-gigawatt goals. However, finally the CEC used the
10 California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway, a functionally
11 equivalent publicly accessible commission-approved internet
12 website to provide relevant information developed pursuant
13 to this section of AB 525.

14 Next slide, please.

15 Suitable sea space and significant impacts in
16 ports and waterfront infrastructure we know are needed for
17 staging and integration, manufacturing and fabrication, and
18 operation and maintenance styles on ports to support the
19 offshore wind industry. Key takeaways related to sea space
20 include sufficient sea space needed to accommodate our
21 goals, recognizing that up to 50 percent of the sea space
22 may not be suitable due to conflicts, and we are developing
23 assurances that fits at least 20 miles offshore to avoid
24 potential conflicts. And ocean users, species, and
25 ecosystem conflicts will be addressed and required

1 additional evaluation to determine suitability.

2 Our recommendation here is to continue the
3 suitable sea space identification, research, analysis and
4 refinement, and continue coordination with the Bureau of
5 Ocean Energy Management who has oversight in federal waters
6 for these types of projects.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Chapter 6 on ports and waterfront infrastructure.
9 The Chapter 6 and waterfront infrastructure chapter
10 addresses port needs and costs, port sites by activity, and
11 environmental considerations and the challenges behind
12 them.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Key takeaways from this chapter include those
15 that you can see on the screen. And speaking of
16 significant investment, we want to highlight the Humboldt
17 Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District in
18 receiving a \$425 million grant for the construction and
19 maintenance of offshore wind infrastructure provided by the
20 United States Department of Transportation. We'll hear
21 more about ports and waterfront facilities infrastructure
22 this afternoon.

23 Next slide, please.

24 Chapter 7 on workforce development addresses
25 looking at workforce development needs and standards, and

1 this included significant outreach to California's unions
2 and labor organizations, and we discuss workforce training
3 programs and apprenticeships and varying types of jobs
4 expected and needed to support offshore wind development.
5 More will be spoken on this on March 29th.

6 Next slide, please.

7 Key takeaways from Chapter 6 include: the most
8 needed near-term skills are in trades, technicians, and
9 construction sectors; the long-term jobs are in the supply
10 chain and manufacturing sector; and a workforce with the
11 right skill sets require specialized training for the
12 different types of workers. Recommendations out of this
13 area include identifying workforce needs; establishing
14 equitable hiring standards, fund training, and education;
15 and recruiting entry-level and experienced workers. We
16 also recommend coordinating to create career opportunities,
17 workforce training, and economic development benefits in
18 this area, and support project labor agreements that
19 provide local communities and tribal governments with
20 meaningful economic benefits. We'll hear more about the
21 workforce development as well throughout the workshop.

22 Next slide, please.

23 Chapter 8. AB 525 required the CEC to assess
24 transmission investments and upgrades to support our goals
25 for offshore wind in consultation with the California

1 Public Utilities Commission and the California ISO.
2 Chapter 8 covers the transmission technology and
3 alternative assessment and discusses the transmission
4 infrastructure needed to bring generation to shore. This
5 includes existing and emerging transmission technologies,
6 interconnection, and looking at the existing limited low-
7 voltage North Coast transmission system, which was a study
8 by the Schatz Renewable Energy Center at Cal Poly Humboldt
9 on transmission alternatives for the area.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Key takeaways from this chapter include what you
12 see on the screen, and includes transmission technologies
13 that are still emerging that include dynamic and higher
14 capacity cables and floating substations, large investments
15 which are required to deliver electricity to local
16 communities and the larger grid. Potential transmission
17 pathways for the North Coast will require detailed corridor
18 planning, and the recommendations around this understanding
19 is to continue assessing transmission alternatives for the
20 North and Central Coast offshore wind development areas to
21 meet our planning goals, and consider phased approaches to
22 transmission development that examine needs, costs, and
23 benefits in both short-term and long-term.

24 Next slide, please.

25 Chapter 9. Chapter 9 addresses transmission

1 planning processes, corridor planning and interconnection
2 issues, including process enhancements.

3 Next slide, please.

4 Key takeaways from this chapter include what you
5 see on the screen, and proactive planning and innovative
6 interconnection approaches will be needed for timely
7 transmission development; landscape-level planning for
8 transmission corridors, which could provide a smoother path
9 for transmission projects from planning to permitting; and
10 assessing transmission needs to host communities and other
11 rural communities along transmission routes can help
12 address reliability and equity issues. Recommendations
13 from these outcomes include foster regional bulk
14 transmission planning to support West Coast offshore wind
15 development that can benefit the Western Inland Connection.
16 We want to explore innovative approaches such as network or
17 backbone to efficiently bring offshore wind energy to shore
18 in meeting California's planning goals, and identify and
19 prioritize alternative points of interconnection that limit
20 the number of landfall sites and minimize environmental
21 impacts along and long-running costs associated with the
22 implementation of transmission development.

23 Next slide, please.

24 Finally, Chapter 10, offshore wind permitting.
25 Chapter 10 provides an overview of permitting roadmap,

1 which identified several approaches for coordinated and
2 consolidated permitting of offshore wind projects. The
3 chapter also considers other approaches for environmental
4 review and looks at permitting processes that have worked
5 for other infrastructure programs in the past, such as the
6 success of the 2008 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation
7 Plan, which also was a coordinated effort by state, local,
8 federal, tribal governments and interested parties in
9 developing renewable and clean energy projects.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Key takeaways from this chapter include what you
12 see on the screen before you, and that is the permitting
13 process for any large infrastructure such as offshore wind
14 is complex and involves numerous state, federal, and local
15 agencies. To streamline the permitting for large renewable
16 projects in California's desert, a coordinated multi-agency
17 permitting approach was developed, as I just spoke about.
18 The permitting approach created the Renewable Energy Action
19 Team, or fondly known as the REAT, to ensure timely
20 coordination and keep the lines of communication open for
21 all of the invested state, local, and federal agencies with
22 our tribal governments and local partners. The
23 recommendation is to consider a developed, coordinated,
24 comprehensive, and efficient permitting process model and
25 engage early and consistently with BOEM on its offshore

1 wind programmatic environmental impact study to ensure the
2 state's priorities are reflected in their work.

3 Next slide, please.

4 And with that summary, I just want to add that
5 due to the complexity of the chapters, we are having two
6 workshops. Today's workshop is focused on Chapter 4,
7 impacts and strategies, Chapter 6, ports and waterfront
8 facilities infrastructure, and Chapter 7, workforce
9 development.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Then on Friday, March 29th, we'll have a second
12 workshop that will be 100 percent virtual and will begin at
13 9.30 and will be on Chapter 5, sea space for offshore wind
14 development; Chapter 10, offshore wind permitting, Chapter
15 8; transmission technology and alternative assessments;
16 Chapter 9, transmission planning and interconnection.

17 Next slide, please.

18 Lastly, here are the links to the AB 525
19 Strategic Plan website, where you can find the draft
20 Strategic Plan, consultant reports and interim reports, and
21 workshop event information. Within the CEC's workshop
22 notices, there is information about public participation,
23 including signing up for the service list, as well as a
24 link to file public comments. You can go directly to this
25 comment link provided and file comments directly there.

1 And you'll have until April 22nd to file those comments.

2 And then in closing, I am going to take just a
3 minute. And this is a long day, but this could not be
4 done. I get a lot of compliments, but this is a collective
5 effort by a team of CEC employees that were redirected from
6 their SB 100 in land use and transmission activities.

7 And I first want to recognize our project manager
8 that kept everybody aligned and communicating what was
9 needed, what was missing to make all this happen, and
10 that's Rachel MacDonald. We have our lead technical
11 experts. Between the two of them have more than 60 years
12 in the energy industry, and that is Melissa Jones and Jim
13 Bartridge. We were blessed during our restructuring and
14 transition at the CEC to welcome Eli Harland and his wealth
15 of knowledge to the division. And then most recently, want
16 to welcome our latest additions in the last year, which
17 include Lizzie Barminski, Danielle Mullany, and Lorelei
18 Walker. And also, all the support staff from our GIS unit,
19 our land use unit. And again, all our coordinating
20 agencies and their staff were critical to ensuring that we
21 got here within two years.

22 As I indicated, our first workshop on AB 525 was
23 actually on March 10th of 2022. So we're about close to
24 two years to the date.

25 So with that, we have a lot to go through today.

1 Welcome to those here in the auditorium, those virtual and
2 I want to turn it back over to Rachel MacDonald.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you Director Huber, and
5 thank you for the kind words. I understand we have a
6 couple of other principals who have joined us on Zoom.

7 Commissioner Darcy Houck from the California
8 Public Utilities Commission and Becky Ota from the
9 California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

10 Would you like to introduce yourself?

11 MS. OTA: Sure, thank you everyone. My apologies
12 for not being able to be there in person, and I'm in a
13 space that doesn't give me a lot of internet connection, so
14 I apologize if you can't hear me.

15 My name is Becky Ota. I am the Habitat
16 Conservation Program Manager for the Department of Fish and
17 Wildlife's Marine Region, and we are happy and have been
18 involved in this process from the very beginning since the
19 Task Force for Offshore One was formed many years ago.

20 So, we look forward to continuing working with
21 all of our colleagues and all the other agencies, with our
22 tribes in California, and with all of our valued
23 stakeholders. So happy to be here today, and my staff and
24 I are online to help answer any questions you may have for
25 us.

1 Thank you, Rachel.

2 COMMISSIONER HOUCK: I know. Thank you. I also
3 put comments in the chat, so I'm here to listen and learn
4 and look forward to the workshop.

5 And we'll turn it back over to you, Rachel.

6 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you.

7 Next slide, please.

8 And now we move to Chapter 4, Potential Impacts
9 of Offshore Wind, including Avoidance, Minimization, and
10 Mitigation Strategies. We'll begin with the presentation
11 on Native American Tribes and Peoples, Impacts, Strategies,
12 and Recommendations.

13 Next slide, please.

14 And I'll pass to Sierra Graves and Geneva
15 Thompson.

16 DEPUTY SECRETARY THOMPSON: Osiyo and good
17 morning, everyone.

18 As introduced this morning, my name is Geneva
19 E.B. Thompson, and I serve as the Deputy Secretary for
20 Tribal Affairs here at the California Natural Resources
21 Agency. And my colleague, Sierra Graves, who serves as a
22 tribal liaison for the California Energy Commission, is
23 also joining online. And so we appreciate everyone's time
24 in joining us this morning for this workshop. And also a
25 huge wado and thank you to all of the California Native

1 American tribes who have spent countless hours consulting
2 with us, meeting with us, and discussing offshore wind, not
3 only as it relates to the current Strategic Plan that we're
4 here discussing today, but the broader project and the
5 associated infrastructure as it relates to offshore wind.
6 So just a huge, deep appreciation for the time and energy
7 spent with us as we navigate this process.

8 Sierra and I would like to, you know, begin this
9 portion of the workshop by acknowledging that the state of
10 California has played a considerable role in committing
11 deep historical wrongs against California Native Americans,
12 tribal governments, and ancestral lands. And those
13 historical wrongs, we've, you know, worked to capture and
14 acknowledge those in draft Strategic Plan, and specifically
15 acknowledging the resource extraction, attempted genocide,
16 and forced removal of California Native Americans from
17 ancestral lands and waters.

18 And also in the Strategic Plan, and what we hope
19 to clearly communicate and acknowledge this morning, that
20 we also are very aware that California Native American
21 tribes and tribal governments have been stewarding these
22 lands and waters since time immemorial, and that
23 stewardship comes from a deep place-based knowledge and
24 interconnectedness in relation to the lands, waters,
25 natural resources, the plants and animals that we all rely

1 on and live in relation with. And so, we want to honor and
2 respect those deep place knowledges. We want to honor and
3 respect the connection that tribes have to the lands and
4 waters. And I hope that we captured that in the Strategic
5 Plan, but also warmly welcome suggestions for improvement,
6 and really appreciate the tribal leaders and tribal members
7 who are joining us today for this workshop.

8 And so, I will hand it off to you, Sierra.

9 MS. GRAVES: Thanks, Geneva.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Today we will be covering Native American tribes
12 and people's impact strategies and recommendation section
13 of the AB 525 report. As you heard in the previous
14 presentation, Assembly Bill 525 directed several sections,
15 one of which was to identify potential impacts and develop
16 strategies to address those impacts to Native American and
17 Indigenous peoples. Today we will cover some of the
18 impacts we have heard around offshore wind and federal
19 waters off the coast of California. Along with our partner
20 agencies, we're still actively consulting with tribes and
21 creating spaces for inter-tribal communications that will
22 help us inform this report. So we look forward to hearing
23 from you all later.

24 Next slide, please.

25 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMPSON: So, in our

1 consultations with tribes, we've heard a lot and we've
2 heard a lot of priorities and goals that tribal governments
3 have for the offshore wind space, but also some concerns
4 and things that we need to deeply consider in thinking
5 about this new industry.

6 And I think the one thing that really kind of
7 comes top of mind, right, is the tribal cultural resources.
8 And in our consultations and in our meetings with tribes,
9 tribes expressed concerns around impacts to, and how to
10 better protect, tribal cultural resources. And so the
11 Strategic Plan looks at tribal cultural resources is not
12 only just archaeological or historical resources that might
13 be found on the ground and might be disturbed through
14 ground disturbance, but also cultural landscapes, view
15 scapes, how the interconnection between place and resources
16 interact in those cultural landscapes.

17 And also, tribal natural cultural resources,
18 these being the species, the plants and animals, minerals,
19 that are so essential to tribes for tribal lifeways and
20 cultural practices. And so the Strategic Plan, in our
21 consultation for the Strategic Plan, have heard a lot
22 around those tribal cultural resources.

23 We've also heard that along the California coast,
24 California Native American tribes have a significant
25 connection to the coast and the ocean waters, including

1 ceremonial and cultural connections. This can include
2 connections with various species, sacred sites, and
3 ancestral territories.

4 MS. GRAVES: The AB 525 report captures some
5 tribal concerns on sites, features, sacred places, and
6 objects. These concerns were identified by both coastal
7 and inland tribes. Within the ocean, there were concerns
8 with submerged sites and objects and potential damage from
9 floating offshore wind turbines. On land, tribes expressed
10 concern about sacred places and sites that may still be
11 used today. Tribes highlighted concerns with port
12 development and transmission impacting burial sites and
13 historical objects.

14 The report also captured cultural landscapes
15 considerations. Tribes expressed tribal cultural resources
16 are more holistic than historical items alone, and that
17 features can be viewed together. One example of this is
18 viewshed concerns tribes expressed. Tribes have expressed
19 that parts of ceremonies sometimes rely on the ocean's
20 uninterrupted horizon, and this would potentially be
21 interrupted by offshore wind turbines. That includes
22 tribal natural resource considerations.

23 Tribes have identified that biological resources
24 are also cultural resources and serve an integral role in
25 tribal lifeways. While not an inclusive list, tribes

1 reported cultural significance with salmon, whales, orcas,
2 abalone, condors, seaweeds, and seagrasses, as well as
3 ecosystems such as the redwoods. Tribes were concerned
4 with impacts to these species and ecosystems, providing
5 examples such as whale ship strikes and unknown weather
6 impacts such as reduced fog and impacts on the redwoods.

7 Tribes have identified these in addition to other
8 factors and noted that these should be looked at
9 cumulatively.

10 Next slide, please.

11 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMPSON: In our
12 consultations and in our meetings, tribes also acknowledged
13 and expressed the desire to move away from the fossil fuel
14 industry energy, with the understanding that through a, you
15 know, equitable transition to renewable and clean energy
16 would not only provide benefits for their communities, but
17 also be a solution to address the climate crisis that we're
18 all facing.

19 And so in that acknowledgement, California Native
20 American tribes have differences in what they would define
21 as benefits for their communities. But to summarize kind
22 of what we've been hearing, the benefits of moving away
23 from a fossil fuel industry could address the tribal energy
24 needs and tribal transition needs for their communities,
25 but also support tribally led energy priorities to advance

1 tribal energy sovereignty and other important benefits for
2 their communities. And so, the need for transmission, the
3 need for electrical and energy benefits for tribal
4 communities, were highlighted in a lot of our consultations
5 and meetings.

6 MS. GRAVES: Yes, and the report captured some of
7 those things that were highlighted specific to concerns
8 expressed by tribes in the north coast of California.

9 In the North Coast, there are significant numbers
10 of outages disrupting daily life and creating emergency
11 response situations to ensure the safety of elders. The
12 outages in the North Coast are so prevalent that there are
13 needs for generators and backup power. But despite this,
14 interruptions due to outages are still frequent. North
15 Coast tribes specified that if offshore wind were to
16 happen, their communities needed to be served first by the
17 power generated in their area, especially if they received
18 impacts and burdens of this generation.

19 Tribes elevated concerns with resource mix,
20 including suggesting distributed energy resources and
21 microgrids as alternatives. Tribes also expressed a
22 preference for a conservation-first approach to clean
23 energy, prioritizing conservation over new clean energy
24 development.

25 Next slide, please.

1 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMPSON: We've also
2 heard in our consultations many tribes mentioning factors
3 that impact social life or social considerations. And I
4 think one of the ones that really comes to the top of mind
5 is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Crisis and
6 how the MMIP crisis, as it's shortened to, we're seeing
7 high rates of violence towards Native Americans, and
8 including high rates of sexual violence and gender-based
9 violence associated with this crisis. And so the report,
10 you know, grapples with that and looks at how can we
11 understand this crisis better and how to address some of
12 those concerns.

13 The report also addresses other social
14 considerations, including commercial subsistence and
15 cultural fisheries, and access to reliable and well-paying
16 jobs.

17 MS. GRAVES: The report addressed that fisheries
18 play an important role in tribal communities, both as a
19 component of food sovereignty to address food scarcity and
20 commercial needs, including jobs.

21 Tribes emphasized a lack of jobs in their rural
22 communities and a desire for training towards long-term
23 careers. They mentioned additional job opportunities for
24 contracts with tribal monitors.

25 One social issue tribes strongly emphasized, as

1 Geneva mentioned, was the Missing and Murdered Indigenous
2 Persons Crisis. Tribes expressed concerns that man-camp
3 culture would bring violence, especially gender-based
4 violence, and an over-tapped emergency services department
5 would be unable to appropriately respond.

6 While not fully yet addressed in the report,
7 we've also heard from tribes that there are concerns with
8 adequate housing stock when an influx of workers enters the
9 community and that they fear these workers could bring
10 additional opioids, exacerbating the existing opioid crisis
11 within their communities.

12 Next slide, please.

13 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMPSON: California
14 Native American Tribes have also requested the development
15 of Tribal Community Benefit Agreements with leaseholders,
16 and that the permit agencies ensure that impacts to Tribal
17 cultural resources are avoided and minimized, and that the
18 benefits of offshore wind work are provided to tribes and
19 tribal communities.

20 To do this effectively, tribes have emphasized
21 the need for co-management in the planning, operation, and
22 commissioning of offshore wind and associated
23 infrastructure, like ports and transmission and other
24 infrastructures. Tribes have also expressed that co-
25 management ensures that tribes have shared decision-making

1 authority with state and federal governments throughout
2 this process.

3 MS. GRAVES: The AB 525 report captures the
4 tribes' desire to have a direct role in the decision-making
5 process. Tribes elevated that this should be during all
6 steps of the permitting and decision-making process.

7 Tribes also elevated that this cannot occur
8 without tribes building their internal capacity and
9 receiving technical assistance support to support their
10 participation. Some tribes suggested the Bears Ears
11 National Monuments Cooperative Agreements as an example for
12 how to formalize these agreements, and this suggestion is
13 noted in the draft Strategic Plan.

14 Next slide, please.

15 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMPSON: Thanks for
16 joining us today. And those reviewing the draft Strategic
17 Plan we'll see in the recommendations section to address
18 impacts to Native American tribes include that offshore
19 wind projects should include early, often, and meaningful
20 tribal consultations and collaborative development of
21 appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation
22 strategies for the impacts to tribal cultural resources,
23 tribal natural cultural resources, cultural, social,
24 economic, and other interests and tribal priorities.

25 The second recommendation is also that the

1 continued study and the development of public safety
2 measures to reduce violent crime and sexual and gender-
3 based violence, particularly against Native American and
4 other vulnerable populations. The report also recommends
5 that we should encourage project proponents to contract
6 with tribes for cultural and environmental monitoring, both
7 before, during, and after the offshore wind. Lastly, the
8 report recommends that the state and federal agencies
9 should explore opportunities for increased tribal access
10 and stewardship in state and federal waters.

11 As everyone's aware in today's workshop, this is
12 a draft Strategic Plan, and so we warmly welcome feedback,
13 guidance, suggestions for improvement, and we also are very
14 much looking forward to continuing our consultations with
15 California Native American tribes on this draft Strategic
16 Plan and offshore wind more generally, and are committed to
17 continuing those discussions and really appreciate
18 everyone's time and energy throughout this whole process.

19 MS. GRAVES: Thank you for that, Geneva. With
20 that, we would like to thank the California Native American
21 tribes who have participated in providing feedback so far
22 and are here today to provide additional feedback.

23 We would like to welcome tribal leaders to speak
24 first, followed by tribal members and tribal
25 representatives.

1 I will pass it to Jack to facilitate the comments
2 but thank you again for all your participation.

3 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Sarah. Yeah, well, my
4 name is Jack Bastida from the Step Division. I'm helping
5 out with public comments today. The California Energy
6 Commission welcomes comments from the representatives of
7 tribal governments at this time.

8 We'll start with the attendees in the CNRA
9 auditorium and then move over to those joining us virtually
10 and by phone via Zoom.

11 Let's see here.

12 Is there anybody -- if you're joining us in
13 person location, can you come up to the podium, approach
14 the podium and form a line as needed? Is there anybody in-
15 person who would like to make any comments?

16 MS. MACDONALD: I think we will move to the
17 virtual audience. There's no one requesting to speak here
18 in the auditorium.

19 So thank you.

20 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Great. Okay.

21 If you're joining via Zoom online or by phone,
22 please let us know. You'd like to make a comment by using
23 the raise hand feature on Zoom. If you are online, you
24 will click the open palm at the bottom of your screen to
25 raise your hand. And if you're joining us by phone, please

1 press star nine to raise your hand. I will -- I see
2 already see a few here and I will allow you to talk in one
3 second.

4 Cathie Buchanan from the Bear River Tribe, I
5 believe. I'm going to allow you to talk. So go ahead. We
6 should have you unmuted.

7 MS. BUCHANAN: Thank you very much.

8 Can you hear me?

9 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

10 MS. BUCHANAN: I'm Cathie Buchanan, I'm the
11 Environmental and Natural Resources Director for Bear River
12 Band here in Lolita, California.

13 And I am quite disturbed about many of the things
14 that have been said already because of the lack of
15 transparency and the lack of commitment to including tribes
16 from the very beginning. And to say that there is
17 environmental justice involved, I'm sorry, I don't see that
18 when tribes are not kept in the room about the whole
19 process.

20 We are coming in after the decision has already
21 been made about offshore wind and I have continuously asked
22 for the evidence that shows that offshore wind is the best
23 choice for our increased electricity demands, and I have
24 not seen any evidence to show that your decision is
25 supported by -- for anything. I mean there's lots of

1 technological advancements with vertical-axis turbines and
2 log-type turbines. There's also thorium reactors that are
3 being developed. There's a plethora of things going on, so
4 -- and the things that are not being addressed are
5 contaminated sediments here in Humboldt Bay. When things
6 start being churned up, what's going to happen to those
7 fine sediments that have dioxins attached to them?

8 The EMF, I've been I'm talking about the
9 electromagnetic field that is going to be generated by
10 suspending high voltage lines in the water, and bench scale
11 tests can be conducted at this point in time to determine
12 the extent of an EMF, and I don't hear any of that going
13 on.

14 There's also the -- for when you have structures
15 in the water what is going to be used on those structures
16 to ensure that things will not be growing on them. I mean,
17 before it used to be a toxic red paint. Now there's copper
18 paint that's used on structures, but copper is also toxic
19 to aquatic life.

20 The anchor lines. How many structures are we
21 going to have in the water with three strong anchor lines
22 to each platform? We have approximately 250 platforms per
23 site. Currently there are nine estimated locations with
24 more being proposed all up and down the coast. So three
25 lines per platform times 250 times nine is, what, 6,750

1 lines so far? That's going to increase. That's going to
2 be in the pathway of our aquatic species that are going to
3 be swimming throughout the ocean.

4 And then, you know, how many -- there is still no
5 discussion about how many high voltage lines are going to
6 be suspended in saltwater. With all of those, and you're
7 going to be making an electromagnetic field, a net
8 virtually, that all the aquatic species are going to be
9 having to swim to, because those lines are going to come
10 from the turbines through the ocean and onto land. So how
11 big is the EMF and how many high voltage lines are going to
12 be in the water?

13 And I would like to stress that the location in
14 Humboldt Bay, this is for new development. The electricity
15 that's going to be generated in Humboldt Bay is for new
16 development in San Francisco of 1.5 million homes. So
17 you're telling us, you're not asking us, you're telling us
18 that we are supposed to sacrifice our livelihoods, our West
19 Coast, for people that don't even live here. How in the
20 world is that environmental justice? I'm not understanding
21 me. And that price tag so far is \$10 billion of taxpayer
22 dollars going to fund private enterprise.

23 There's also -- where are these materials coming
24 from? You're going to need a lot of copper for the high
25 voltage lines. You're going to need a lot of steel for the

1 towers. You're also going to need aluminum. Those are
2 three that I can just think of right now. We currently
3 have over 100,000 abandoned mines here in the state of
4 California. There are more mines that are being proposed
5 right now for the state of California, both open pit and
6 tunnel mines, and both of those are draining the water out
7 of our mountains, which is why we have a lot of dry trees,
8 so. And nobody's paying so far for all of the -- we had
9 five towns burn down here in California so far, nobody's
10 paying for them, and you want us to have more of that?

11 Another thing, the balsa wood. People are not
12 talking about the balsa wood that's going to be used to
13 line the inside of the blades. The balsa wood comes from
14 Indonesia. Now, if you're talking about climate change and
15 helping to prevent climate change, cutting down the trees
16 and clearing out rainforests, it doesn't matter where they
17 are, Amazon, Indonesia, Australia, the trees is the key to
18 helping to turn back climate change. You take those trees
19 out of the equation that take up that CO2, you're not going
20 to have a very good system to help to fight climate change.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Yeah, thank you so much for your
22 comments there.

23 I'm going to move on to, let's see here, Mike
24 from West Coast. If you could, I'm going to open your
25 line, unmute.

1 If you could spell your name for the record,
2 State your affiliation, begin your comments.

3 Thank you so much. Should be able to talk now.

4 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Thank you.

5 Can you hear me okay?

6 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

7 MR. OKONIEWSKI: First, appreciate the
8 opportunity to testify.

9 Mine is a question, I guess, and maybe it more
10 goes under the question of Q&A, but give it a shot. And
11 that is, first off, I represent the West Coast Pelagic
12 Conservation Group, And the last name is spelled O-K-O-N-I-
13 E-W-S-K-I.

14 MR. BASTIDA: Mike, this is just for a tribe,
15 tribal only.

16 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Actually, this is a question
17 about the tribes. If it's only the tribe members that can
18 -- the last individual, I don't think, was talking
19 specifically about the tribes. But mine is short, and it's
20 about tribes.

21 MS. MACDONALD: Hi, Mike. We're actually only
22 asking that tribal representatives speak at this time.
23 There are other comment periods throughout the agenda. The
24 last representative did represent a tribe. So we're going
25 to yield this space for tribes, please.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BASTIDA: Okay, I see a couple more comments
3 here.

4 Let's just make sure that this section is for
5 tribes only. I should have made that clear, I'm sorry.

6 I see Donald Pierce, if you could, I'm going to
7 open your line here. Please unmute on your end and spell
8 your name for the record, state any affiliation, and begin
9 your comment.

10 Thank you.

11 Donald, you should be able to talk now.

12 MR. PIERCE: Am I okay?

13 MR. BASTIDA: Yes, we can hear you.

14 MR. PIERCE: Okay, I'm Donald Walter Pierce. I'm
15 representing the Salinan tribe of Monterey and San Luis
16 Obispo counties. Thank you for having me. I'm concerned
17 about a lot of things. I won't speak for any other tribal
18 communities, but we are actually the most impacted here.
19 If anyone were to look on a map right now, you will see the
20 Salinan people. Our area is very different. We're not
21 obstructionists, but boy, we've been obstructed,
22 conveniently kind of selectively eliminated for some of
23 these conversations.

24 You know, since I was a boy, you know, we would
25 open up the creeks and have a robust steelhead season, and

1 we pioneered the abalone industry. We have a documented,
2 well-documented past with commercial fishing, and we've
3 watched how it has been crushed. And our rite of passage
4 when we're young is to go fishing and do all these things.
5 And it already has been crushed, and I don't see that
6 getting any better.

7 There's no licenses for Native Americans.
8 There's no, like, special access to our cultural, to the
9 cultural -- there's just nothing. We are highly concerned
10 about this.

11 And I noticed one of the tag lines were like
12 missing natives, murdered natives, the tribal communities
13 that -- that's important what they're saying, but I've
14 never heard of that in our area. Right?

15 So, what we would like, and what we don't
16 understand is why, you know, you go to the seals in
17 Sacramento, we're on there, but we've been left out of this
18 conversation until recently. And I find that interesting.

19 I'm not good at talking, but the best way to get
20 knowledge and find out the effect and impact on legitimate
21 tribal communities is to ask the tribal leaders, see how --
22 don't leave them out of the conversation till the last
23 minute.

24 The, you know, on one of the last meetings, the
25 impact of the wind on the fish, they've proved that they go

1 away, but they're not sure if they come back, and the
2 commercial fishermen, and this affects the tribe too.
3 That's important to know if they come back, might warrant a
4 little bit more looking into, but anyways. and we want to
5 be more involved in this, and you got to include the
6 people.

7 Federally documented tribe of the area has to be
8 fully involved and included in the conversation of what
9 you're going to do, so we can get our culture back, so we
10 can teach our kids, our children, and do it effectively.
11 Something just doesn't seem right to me, but I'm not going
12 to go there.

13 I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I wish I
14 was better at speaking but thank you. That's it.

15 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Donald.

16 I will move on now to Mona Tucker. I see, Mona,
17 why don't you, I'm going to open up your line. Spell your
18 name for the record, state any affiliation and begin to
19 comment.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. TUCKER: My name is Mona Tucker, M-O-N-A T-U-
22 C-K-E-R. I'm the Tribal Chair for Yak Tit'yu Tit'yu Yak
23 Tihhini, Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County
24 and Region, and I reside in Arroyo Grande.

25 Many things have already been stated that I agree

1 with. I would like to add, first of all, by saying thank
2 you to Rachel MacDonald, Sierra Graves, and others for
3 presenting us with an abundance of information, trying hard
4 to answer questions. However, they don't have the answers
5 because no one has the answers, questions that I've been
6 asking and other tribal people have been asking going back
7 at least 2018.

8 So the list is very long, but let me start with
9 the vibrations that will be created from the twirling or
10 whirling of the wind turbines, and that will be
11 communicated through the cables. And this vibration will
12 create a sound that will affect marine mammals, and we
13 don't know to what degree and what impacts that will cause.
14 Also, it is planned that the wind companies will do solar
15 testing on the ocean floor. And we don't know that the
16 decibels that they're planning on using, how disruptive
17 that may be to marine life. Once again, many unanswered
18 questions.

19 Onshore impacts have not been adequately
20 assessed. They're mentioned and known to be very
21 important, but if those onshore impacts affect our cultural
22 resources, those resources are then destroyed, and they're
23 destroyed forever. We're talking about irreplaceable
24 cultural resources, our history. The history of native
25 people in California, California's deepest history,

1 deserves to be protected.

2 I also want to state that the offshore wind
3 appears to have interfered with the marine sanctuary that's
4 currently under consideration for approval, in as much as
5 that NOAA said that they would take out about 2000 square
6 miles, 545 square miles, affecting our direct coastline
7 here in San Luis Obispo County from Cambria to Montaña de
8 Oro. And they gave two reasons, both reasons that we
9 communicated with NOAA a way to solve, and we heard nothing
10 back. So I don't know, but I do believe that they're
11 acting under pressure from NOAA, because part of the
12 problem was cabling, although the Marine Sanctuary has
13 permitting process for that. So the offshore wind should
14 not be impacting the marine sanctuary.

15 So there's a long list, but this is all I have to
16 say for now, and thank you very much.

17 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much Mona.

18 I'm not seeing any other hands. Give it a second
19 here.

20 Does anybody else have any comments? This is
21 focused on the tribes of California right now.

22 Okay, we have a couple more that just came up.
23 Angela, I see you have raised your hand, and just state,
24 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation and
25 begin your comment.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. D'ARCY: Hi, I just wanted to pause first and
3 say I'm representing a California indigenous-led
4 organization. So if there's anyone else representing a
5 tribe, definitely want to give them an opportunity to speak
6 first.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Okay, I see one more.

8 Mariza Sullivan, Tribal Representative, I'll
9 allow you to talk right now.

10 Go ahead.

11 MS. SULLIVAN: Hello, everybody. My name is
12 Marisa Sullivan. That is spelled M-A-R-I-Z-A. Last name
13 is Sullivan, S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N. I am a Tribal Elder and
14 Representative, former Tribal Chair of the Coastal Band of
15 the Chumash Nation.

16 I'm currently just here listening, so I don't
17 really have a statement prepared at this time. But I just
18 want to, I guess, elevate the things and support the
19 comments already made by Chair Tucker and also the
20 representative Cathie Buchanan and Donald, I think it was
21 Donald Pierce, of the deep concern and overall abiding, you
22 know, recognition on our part that this is moving forward
23 at a pace that is -- I understand why, because it's driven
24 by the need to provide energy to the grid, but there's a
25 lot of things about that, that will really be taking away

1 what is the future of our children, so -- and the people
2 that are alive now that live there and are going to be
3 directly impacted.

4 And I, for one, do not live in an area, I live in
5 Ventura, just outside of, I guess, Santa Barbara, for
6 people not sure, but I, for one, would not want to be felt
7 like I am -- you know, I just don't want to be thought that
8 I need power where I am, and what I do and the way I live
9 my life, that is going to destroy the area of other people
10 who actually live in those areas, which is going to happen
11 to the people of Morro Bay and Humboldt and other people on
12 the state of California that are being targeted for what is
13 the best place to put these. I think there is just an
14 unknown, there's too many unknowns here, and I think what's
15 going to happen, what we do know, what we do know, is it's
16 going to destroy something that we can't get back.

17 So, I'll hope to have some -- a little bit more
18 cohesive comments going further on, but I just wanted to
19 make you all know that I am here and listening as I have
20 been the whole time.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

23 Any other tribal representatives wish to speak at
24 this time?

25 If not, why don't you -- did you want to say

1 something, Angela? Did you have a comment? Yeah, thank
2 you.

3 MS. D'ARCY: So, miiyuiyum, I'm Angela Mooney
4 D'Arcy. I am from the Acjachemen Nation Juaneno Band of
5 Mission Indians, though I'm here today in my capacity
6 representing Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous
7 Peoples, which is a California indigenous-led cultural and
8 environmental justice organization dedicated to building
9 the capacity of tribal nations and indigenous peoples to
10 protect sacred lands, waters, and cultures.

11 So I'm speaking today based on conversations and
12 experiences that representatives of our Ocean Protectors
13 Program have had with tribal representatives from
14 throughout California and the West Coast and actually the
15 East Coast as well. And these are based on our
16 participating in the West Coast Ocean Tribal Summit that
17 happened last year, and then also the Tribal Offshore Wind
18 Summit that was hosted by the Yurok people in January of
19 this year.

20 And so I want to uplift the comments you raised,
21 and then also brought to light by Geneva and her team based
22 on their consultation with tribal nations. And so I
23 particularly want to uplift issues around potential impacts
24 on missing and murdered Indigenous peoples, and just uplift
25 also that the link there is to an influx of people not from

1 the community and the establishment of what's referred to
2 as man camps. I know that at least in the North Coast, one
3 of the companies that was up for final bid was also under
4 review for potential sex trafficking, so that's obviously
5 related to this issue of missing and murdered indigenous
6 peoples and is incredibly significant to I think all
7 indigenous peoples.

8 Also wanted to uplift what's already been shared
9 by tribal representatives about the many unknowns and the
10 need for additional studies around things like vibrations
11 and toxicity of different items that will be used in the
12 production of these offshore wind spaces.

13 And then, you know, concerns around impacts more
14 generally around marine life, cultural viewsheds, and
15 sacred places.

16 Specific to this Strategic Plan I would like to
17 call for more transparency to the extent that it doesn't
18 violate any sort of confidentiality requirements that have
19 been asserted by tribes in their government-to-government
20 consultation on this issue. But what I'm trying to say is
21 that when the Sacred Places Institute has inquired into
22 this process, and specifically the Strategic Plan, we've
23 not received responses from anyone, or we've been told that
24 it's a matter of confidentiality in terms of how many
25 tribes have actually been involved, how many tribes have

1 participated, what percentage of those nations are from
2 non-federally recognized tribal nations. These are all
3 concerns that are very important to us. And again, to the
4 extent that it's maintaining respect for whatever tribes
5 have asserted in their government-to-government
6 consultation, we would like to explicitly call for more
7 transparency around who, how many tribes have actually been
8 involved in these conversations so far.

9 And then, you know, I'll wrap it up, but the
10 final point that we wanted to make is we'd like to call for
11 more information specifically around these community
12 benefit agreements and how, what's the intent or strategy
13 to make sure that non-federally recognized California
14 Native American tribes can also receive benefits per
15 community benefit agreements that may be established in
16 their ancestral homelands.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for the comments. I see
19 one more hand. I don't know if this is a hand that
20 accidentally I didn't put down, or if this is a new hand.

21 But Mariza Sullivan, did you raise your hand
22 again or did you want me to talk again or?

23 MS. SULLIVAN: No, I'm sorry. I am not familiar
24 with -- yeah, I meant to. I don't need to speak again.

25 MR. BASTIDA: Okay.

1 MS. SULLIVAN: Thank you.

2 MR. BASTIDA: Anybody else here wish to speak on
3 behalf of a tribe, or if you're a tribal representative?

4 Okay, Donald Pierce. Did you have something else
5 to say, Donald?

6 MR. PIERCE: Yeah, one thing.

7 Are you there?

8 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

9 MR. PIERCE: Okay. Yeah, when we attended the
10 meetings in Morro Bay with Noah and them, they made it
11 clear to us that they were going to be utilizing data, and
12 their exact words were whether we like it or not. In fact,
13 they said, we'll give you, you know, \$10,000 for a computer
14 system so you can monitor the use of your app.

15 So that's why I made the comment, as far as us
16 being more open with our info, I can't speak for anybody
17 else, but I was under the impression that these people had
18 access to everything. That's what I've got to say about
19 that. As far as federally recognized tribes, I don't want
20 to get into all that, but there's a lot of beautiful
21 cultures here that, just because California is unique in
22 the way that tribes are recognized and all this stuff, it's
23 very strange, but there's beautiful cultures here. I'm
24 actually a chair on the Salinan Tribe, Mona and all of
25 them. You guys need to step back and maybe, you know --

1 federally-recognized -- look at the people that are
2 affected in the area, and nothing else should matter.
3 We're here, we're accessible.

4 That's all I've got to say. And thank you again.
5 I don't mean to sound crass. I do not mean to. It's just,
6 it's a long road and you guys are moving very quickly.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you Donald for the comments.

8 We're not seeing anybody else at this time.

9 Rachel, if you want to go on to the next.

10 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you.

11 Thank you, Sierra, Geneva, Jack and thank you to
12 tribal government representatives for your comments. There
13 will be a professional transcript of this workshop online
14 upon its completion. It will reflect your comments for the
15 record and will be delegated.

16 Next slide.

17 And now we move to underserved, oh, I'm sorry, to
18 biological resources, impacts, strategies, and
19 recommendations led by Executive Director Jennifer Eckerle
20 of the Ocean Protection Council.

21 Next slide.

22 DEPUTY SECRETARY ECKERLE: Thanks, Rachel.

23 Again, my name is Jenn Eckerle. I'm the Deputy Secretary
24 for Oceans and Coastal Policy for the Resources Agency and
25 Executive Director for the Ocean Protection Council.

1 Before I begin, I just want to thank the tribal leaders and
2 tribal community members who commented today, and have been
3 continuously providing us feedback and perspectives and
4 priorities. It is really critical in this work.

5 For those of you who are not familiar with the
6 Ocean Protection Council, or OPC, we are a non-regulatory
7 state agency that works to protect healthy coastal and
8 ocean ecosystems, and we serve as the governor's advisor in
9 this space. Our role on offshore wind is focused on
10 understanding and minimizing impacts to the environment, to
11 tribes and cultural resources, and coastal communities.
12 I'm going to provide a brief overview of the potential
13 impacts to marine resources and the strategies and
14 recommendations to address these impacts. More details can
15 be found in Volume 2 of the Strategic Plan starting on page
16 54.

17 Dr. Kate Hucklebridge, Executive Director for the
18 California Coastal Commission is also participating
19 remotely and is available to answer questions.

20 Next slide, please.

21 California is home to one of the most diverse
22 coastal and ocean ecosystems in the world. It is also a
23 place of wonder and spirituality, recreation and
24 livelihood, ceremony and culture, and it supports the
25 state's \$45 billion coastal economy. Because floating

1 offshore wind has never been developed off the coast of
2 California before, protecting marine resources while
3 advancing the state's ambitious clean energy goals requires
4 an understanding of potential impacts so that we can
5 develop solutions to avoid, minimize, mitigate and
6 adaptively manage these projects over time.

7 In the marine impact section of the Strategic
8 Plan, this section builds on analyses included in the
9 Coastal Commission's two consistency determinations for the
10 North and Central Coast lease areas completed in 2022,
11 which were a siting level analysis conducted with currently
12 available data. Additional site-specific studies and
13 analyses will be necessary to fully understand impacts.
14 Data gaps will be further addressed in the Bureau of Ocean
15 Energy Management's Programmatic Environmental Impact
16 Statement, project-specific CEQA analyses, and implementing
17 a comprehensive monitoring and adaptive management program.

18 It's important to note that impacts from offshore
19 wind development will occur offshore, near-shore, and along
20 cable routes. They will also occur across all phases of
21 development from pre-construction, construction, and
22 operation of turbines, cables, and port infrastructure.

23 Next slide, please.

24 So, I'm going to walk quickly through the marine
25 impacts that are highlighted in the Strategic Plan.

1 First, habitat disturbance. The deep-sea
2 environment off the coast of California includes a variety
3 of sensitive habitats, including seamounts, hydrothermal
4 vents, and deep-sea coral and sponges. Offshore wind
5 development is expected to result in seafloor disturbance
6 from anchoring and mooring of turbines, transmission
7 cables, surveys, and potentially from sliding substations.
8 Nearshore impacts to coastal habitats may also occur when
9 offshore cables come onshore.

10 Strategies for addressing impacts to habitats
11 include conducting additional research to guide project
12 design in a manner that avoids or mitigates impacts to
13 habitat, requiring habitat buffers to protect sensitive
14 habitat areas, and requiring mooring and cable designs that
15 minimize impacts to the seafloor.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Turbines have the potential to impact seabirds
18 and bats through collision with blades. Major factors that
19 influence the potential for collisions include whether
20 seabirds and bat colonies are nearby, the abundance of
21 those colonies, the flight heights of birds and bats, and
22 environmental factors such as fog or low-light conditions,
23 and the turbine rotation speeds. Higher resolution seabird
24 and bat surveys and data are needed to understand the
25 probability and frequency of turbine strikes.

1 Additionally, more detailed information is needed on bird
2 and bat flight behavior at various wind speeds, and design
3 options for turbines that may minimize bird and bat
4 strikes.

5 Next slide, please.

6 Entanglement. Offshore wind lease development
7 will require the use of mooring cables and inter-array
8 electrical cables to transfer electricity from turbines to
9 shore. This infrastructure may increase entanglement for
10 marine mammals.

11 Given the size and mooring of inter-array cables,
12 marine mammals are likely to detect them, thereby avoiding
13 primary entanglement. In contrast, secondary entanglement,
14 which occurs when lost fishing gear or other marine debris
15 is caught on mooring lines or cables, and then entangle
16 marine life, may create a greater risk for a larger range
17 of marine species. Strategies to address this issue
18 include considering use of best available mooring systems
19 and inter-array cables that include sensors to detect when
20 debris gets snagged and requiring that developers perform
21 regular maintenance to remove and recover debris.

22 Next slide, please.

23 Underwater noise from pre-construction,
24 construction, and ongoing operation may impact bird, marine
25 mammal and fish behavior. This includes noise from site

1 assessment activities, pile driving, increased vessel
2 traffic and active energy generation.

3 Strategies to prevent impacts to marine mammals
4 and sea turtles include low-energy equipment during
5 geophysical surveys to characterize the seafloor, seasonal
6 restrictions on in-water construction, ramp-ups to the
7 maximum decibel used during surveys and using protected
8 species observers on vessels. Known quieting technologies
9 can also be used during construction, however, the range
10 and severity of impacts associated with ongoing operation
11 of offshore wind turbines is less well-known and will
12 require further studying.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Installation of offshore wind infrastructure will
15 alter benthic and pelagic habitats, which may cause
16 behavior changes in fish, mammals, invertebrates, and
17 seabird species. Some species might be attracted to the
18 infrastructure, causing an artificial reef effect, while
19 other species may avoid wind infrastructure altogether.
20 These impacts will likely be species-specific and will
21 depend on turbine design. While recent modeling effects
22 can provide some insights into which species may be the
23 most vulnerable, the extent of avoidance and attraction to
24 offshore wind infrastructure is not currently known.
25 Strategies to address these impacts include monitoring of

1 baseline and post-project conditions and the implementation
2 of adaptive design measures.

3 Next slide, please.

4 Collision with large vessels is one of the
5 highest causes of whale death on the U.S. West Coast.
6 Increased vessel traffic through all phases of offshore
7 wind development has the potential to further increase
8 whale and sea turtle injury or mortality from ship strikes.
9 Strategies for reducing potential ship strikes include
10 reducing ship speeds to 10 knots and below, and the use,
11 again, of protective species observers to help prevent
12 strikes or improve response and survival potential if a
13 strike occurs.

14 Next slide.

15 Oil spills and invasive species. Increased
16 vessel traffic across all phases of development can
17 increase the potential for oil spills. Strategies to
18 reduce the risk of oil spills include implementation of
19 spill prevention and response measures and requiring vessel
20 operators to create operations and control plans. For
21 invasive species, mooring lines, anchor chains, ship
22 ballasts, and hull fouling can be vectors for invasive
23 species. Invasive species may also be introduced in bays
24 and nearshore estuaries during port development.

25 These species can lead to competition with and

1 displacement of native species and permanent alteration of
2 habitats and ecosystem function. Strategies to address
3 these impacts include requiring anti-fouling coatings on
4 vessels and encouraging appropriate management of vessel
5 ballast water.

6 Next slide, please.

7 Changes in upwelling. Wind-driven upwelling
8 fuels much of the primary productivity in California,
9 supporting the extraordinary biodiversity in our marine and
10 coastal ecosystems. Installation and operation of turbines
11 could affect upwelling by decreasing wind speeds at the sea
12 surface with potential impacts to ecosystem health and
13 function. Recent modeling has given us some understanding
14 of the potential physical impacts to upwelling from
15 offshore wind development. However, monitoring will be
16 necessary to understand the actual impacts from the wind
17 farms, and further research is needed to understand how
18 potential changes in upwelling will impact ecosystem
19 health.

20 Next slide, please.

21 Electromagnetic fields, or EMF. Transmission of
22 electricity through cables will produce electromagnetic
23 fields that may impact navigation and behavior of marine
24 species, including fish, turtles, and sharks. To date,
25 individual behavioral response to EMF has been seen in some

1 studies, but has not been determined to negatively affect
2 species populations. However, further research is needed
3 to improve our understanding of the effects of EMF on
4 wildlife.

5 In addition to further study, strategies to
6 address impacts include consolidating cable routes to
7 shore, burying cables, and conducting surveys to ensure
8 cables remain buried and appropriately sited.

9 Next slide, please.

10 Ports and harbors. Port development, including
11 construction, expansion of wharves and docks, dredging, and
12 associated increased vessel traffic has the potential to
13 displace or destroy nearshore habitats, degrade water
14 quality, and impact marine species. Strategies to address
15 these impacts include avoidance of sensitive habitats,
16 spill prevention plans, concentration of vessel traffic
17 into industrialized areas, and development plans created in
18 partnership with tribes and port communities.

19 Next slide, please.

20 Comprehensive monitoring and adaptive management
21 are absolutely critical to protect marine ecosystems given
22 the high degree of uncertainty around the scope and scale
23 of impacts. To that end, the Ocean Protection Council has
24 funded an effort to develop environmental monitoring
25 guidance for offshore wind in California, which will create

1 a roadmap for the development and implementation of a
2 comprehensive environmental monitoring program to assess
3 the impacts for offshore wind. The monitoring program is
4 also essential to inform the state's adaptive management
5 strategies as it will provide critical baseline and ongoing
6 data from which to evaluate impacts and initiate management
7 actions to address them. The environmental monitoring
8 guidance includes the establishment of working groups.

9 Oh, next slide, please.

10 Thank you. This guidance effort includes the
11 establishment of working groups of scientific experts
12 focused on specific topics including marine mammals and sea
13 turtles, birds and bats, fish ecology, habitat and
14 ecosystems, data integration and sharing, monitoring
15 technologies, and climate change. In addition, we will
16 establish contributor groups that include state, tribal,
17 and federal governments, fishermen, NGOs, industry, and
18 local communities. A letter requesting early consultation
19 on tribal priorities for this monitoring guidance, along
20 with a call for nominations for tribal scientists to
21 participate in the expert working groups, will be sent to
22 California Native American tribes in the next few days.

23 Last slide, please.

24 Finally, I just want to walk you through the
25 recommendations to address these impacts, which can be

1 found on page 31 of Volume 1 or on page 62 of Volume 2.
2 The first recommendation is to support comprehensive
3 environmental research and monitoring that uses best
4 available science, including traditional ecological
5 knowledge. This will inform project siting, assess project
6 level and cumulative impacts during construction and
7 ongoing operations, and inform adaptive management
8 strategies through the full life cycle of the project and
9 for future sea space and lease areas.

10 We will continue to promote coordination and
11 collaboration across the lessees on surveys, comprehensive
12 monitoring plans and project implementation to minimize
13 environmental impacts, leverage resources, and improve
14 efficiencies.

15 And finally, we need to develop our comprehensive
16 mitigation framework that prioritizes avoidance and
17 identifies strategies to minimize and offset impacts to
18 marine life and habitats from offshore wind development and
19 ongoing operations, including impacts from port
20 development. Adaptive management strategies should also be
21 identified to facilitate a rapid response to unanticipated
22 impacts.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for that. California
25 Energy Commission welcomes public comment at this time,

1 focused on the marine biological resources presentation.

2 We'll start with attendees in the room and then
3 move it over to everyone virtual and by phone via Zoom.

4 Is there anybody in the room who wishes to make a
5 public comment at this time? We're going to be limiting
6 these ones to three minutes per person.

7 I see somebody there at the auditorium. So go
8 ahead. Let me see here, just approach the podium, spell
9 your name for the record, state aiding affiliation, and you
10 may begin.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CROLL: Thank you, this is Molly Croll, C-R-
13 O-L-L. I'm with the American Clean Power Association and
14 in California, we represent all five of the California
15 leaseholders.

16 Thanks for the opportunity to comment here.

17 CEC has made a great effort in soliciting and
18 recording stakeholder and tribal concerns, questions, and
19 ideas for mitigations to potential impacts for offshore
20 wind. It also acknowledges the unknowns and uncertainties
21 about these potential impacts, many of which are based on
22 assumed interactions and perceived risk that will be better
23 understood as project designs are more fully developed and
24 permitting studies commence. ACB would like to see better
25 framing in the final report by providing citations to best

1 available science where available. For example, there's a
2 National Academy of Sciences paper on hydrodynamic effects,
3 such as upwelling, which has concluded that changes from
4 offshore wind are likely to be an order of magnitude lower
5 than any naturally occurring patterns in hydrodynamic
6 effects caused by seasonal variability or climate change.

7 Second, we'd like the plan to put potential
8 impacts in better context. Offshore wind is a climate
9 mitigation strategy and the impacts related to increasing
10 effects from continued unmitigated climate change are
11 accelerating extinction risk, impacting species and
12 habitats, and impacting cultural resources through sea-
13 level rise and storms.

14 Third, ACB would like to see the report relate
15 the concerns to the permitting process. So, we talk, the
16 report talks about impacts from ports, impacts from
17 projects, impacts from transmission, and it would be
18 helpful to direct stakeholders to where those impacts will
19 be addressed in a particular venue by a particular agency.
20 Relatedly, the marine impacts recommendation about
21 developing a comprehensive mitigation strategy, while
22 understandable, should be clarified to make sure that that
23 is part of the standard CEQA or NEPA processes, not a
24 separate mitigation strategy that the state is developing
25 outside that process that could conflict with it.

1 Finally, the Strategic Plan on balance should not
2 underplay the benefits from offshore wind. And we
3 encourage the CEC to incorporate the goals report into the
4 plan so that it is clear the myriad benefits that offshore
5 wind will bring, including climate mitigation, economic
6 development potential, job creation, and benefits to grid
7 reliability and resilience.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much. Is there
10 anybody in the room, in the auditorium that wishes to
11 comment?

12 We have a couple --

13 MS. RADER: My name is Nancy Rader.

14 MR. BASTIDA: Go ahead. Yeah.

15 MS. RADER: R-A-D-E-R with the California Wind
16 Energy Association.

17 If it's alright, I'd like to make a public
18 comment on the previous section, on the impacts.

19 We were happy to see the draft report discuss the
20 workforce development benefits associated with a 60-
21 megawatt CADEMO project proposed in state waters off of
22 Vandenberg Space Force Base. But the report misses several
23 other strategic benefits of that project, one of which is
24 that last October, CADEMO signed a community benefits
25 agreement with the Santa Ynez Band of the Chumash Indians.

1 This is the first offshore wind industry community benefits
2 agreement with a tribe, not only in California, but
3 nationwide, and it sets an important precedent for best
4 practices in incorporating tribes into offshore wind
5 planning.

6 We think it's important not to overlook this
7 progress, and we hope you will discuss the CADEMO Chumash
8 CBA in the final report.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much.

11 Is there anybody else in-person who wishes to
12 make a statement?

13 I don't see any, so I'm going to move on to the
14 people online. I already see a few hands from the Zoom. I
15 will say if you're joining us via Zoom online or by phone,
16 please let us know if you'd like to make a comment by using
17 the raise hand feature on Zoom. If you are online, you can
18 click on the open palm at the bottom of your screen to
19 raise your hand. And if you're joining us by phone, just
20 press star nine to raise your hand.

21 I see Tom Harper is the first person here, so I'm
22 going to allow you to open your line. Please unmute your
23 end. Spell your name for the record. State any
24 affiliation and begin your comments. We're asking for
25 comments to be three minutes or less. There'll be a timer

1 on the screen.

2 You may begin. Thank you.

3 MS. HAFER: Hi, this is actually Sheri Hafer. I
4 am a director of REACT, a Responsible Energy Acquisition
5 for California's Transition.

6 I have a few comments on what was just said.
7 First of all, the mitigation that she recommends is not
8 adequate.

9 The first one she discusses is protecting benthic
10 resources and important bottom habitat by using buffers.
11 Well, what happens when 100 percent of the wind lease area
12 is an essential fish habitat? How can they buffer when
13 it's 100 percent of it, especially the outside lease area
14 is 100 percent, in essential fish habitat? And I don't
15 know how they're going to change the technology to prevent
16 a scouring of the bottom when we've been told they need to
17 have seven to nine times the length of the depth of the
18 chains, which will be close to three miles of chains, and
19 that extra chain will be scouring, clear-cutting the
20 bottom. So, there's definitely going to be damage from
21 that.

22 Next she talks, well, about the birds and that
23 since that it's out farther out, 20, 30 miles, that there
24 won't be any birds, there'll be less birds. That's an
25 absolute lie. You ask fishermen about it, the skies turn

1 black with birds because it's in the middle of the flyway,
2 the Pacific flyway, where thousands of birds come through
3 and go into the Morro Bay estuary.

4 So the other thing she discussed was EMFs, that
5 there's no studies showing that that there's impacts from
6 electric magnetic fields. Well, that's just not true.
7 There are studies that show that eggs that are exposed to
8 EMFs become deformed. They put lobster eggs near EMF
9 cables and that's what happened. Their tails didn't form,
10 their eyes didn't form and they couldn't swim. So that's
11 just a lie.

12 And there's also going to be miles and miles of
13 inter-array cables that are mid-water that are not going to
14 be able to be buried. So you can't say bearing is a
15 mitigation either because you can't bury them. And those
16 cables are going to be hot AC cables that heat the water
17 and emit electromagnetic fields.

18 She also said that they're going to try to go
19 around important ESHA sensitive habitats, but that's going
20 to be difficult when bringing cables into Morro Bay is
21 completely surrounded by ESHA, and bringing cables into
22 Diablo is right next to a marine-protected area. And if
23 you do these subsea cables that the state's talking about,
24 you're going to be going through all kinds of NPAs and
25 National Marine Sanctuaries, and there's just no avoiding

1 it.

2 There's lots of problem with the cables. If you
3 look in Europe, they've had several failures, over 90 in
4 the last seven years. They break, they become delaminated,
5 they become unburied. There's lots of problems with the
6 cables. And then there's the substations, which no one
7 talks about. We just heard they're going to need to have
8 eight substations for every 100, and that those have once-
9 through cooling that's also going to be, needs to be
10 mitigated.

11 Alright.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Okay, thank you so much. We're
13 going to move on.

14 We have some more time at the end for general
15 comments. We're trying get through a lot of comments here.

16 I have Tom Hafer. I'm going to unmute. Just
17 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation,
18 begin your comment.

19 Go ahead, Tom.

20 MR. HAFER: Okay. Well, that was my wife that
21 just talked. I was going to talk a little bit more when
22 you get to the fisheries part of it. But so -- I mean, can
23 I comment twice?

24 MR. BASTIDA: You can. We will have another
25 section coming up for the fisheries. It might be better to

1 hold off on your comments for that section.

2 This is sort of for the marine biological
3 resources.

4 MR. HAFER: Yeah, well, I can comment too. So
5 the monitoring part of it, I heard a lot of that monitoring
6 and before, after, and during, or the way it should be.
7 But nobody's ever contacted any fishermen in Morro Bay.
8 That's where I fished out of. So we were just wondering
9 who's going to do the monitoring. Hopefully it'll be the
10 fishermen that know how to fish and not scientists on a
11 boat. You know, we're a little worried about if we get the
12 right information on that. So I'm hoping that you guys
13 will look to the fishermen to do the monitoring because we
14 know our water's the best.

15 And it needs to be done before any surveys come
16 tomorrow day. Any big boats pounding the bottom or
17 whatever they're going to do, it needs to be done way
18 before the surveys start. So we better, you know, start
19 the Bakke design and get it going because, you know, we're
20 going to need to monitor this thing a couple of years
21 before anything starts. That would be the right way to do
22 it.

23 You know, we don't know how this acoustic thing
24 is going to go and, you know, we might even need to get
25 some guys out there independently to monitor the acoustics

1 that they're going to be pounding the bottom with. That's
2 what they did on the East Coast, and they found, the RAND
3 study found, that the wind farms went way over the decibels
4 they were supposed to go over and that's, you know, maybe
5 one of the reasons why all the whales died back there,
6 because it wasn't from climate change and it wasn't from
7 entanglements and it wasn't from ship traffic. It was, I
8 think it was for -- and a lot of other people think it's
9 because of the wind surveys. So, I know you guys know
10 that. So, you know, it'd probably be good to somebody out
11 there to monitor how hard they are pounding because, you
12 know, you got to have somebody that doesn't work for BOEM
13 and the wind companies out there doing it.

14 Yeah. That's all.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Tom. Alright, we can
17 move on to Amy Wolfram. Just opening your line, please
18 unmute on your end and spell your name for the record,
19 state any affiliation, and begin your comment.

20 MS. WOLFRUM: There we go. Hello. I'm Amy
21 Wolfram, A-M-Y W-O-L-F-R-U-M. I am the Director of
22 California Policy and Government Affairs at Monterey Bay
23 Aquarium. Thank you for your work on this draft plan and
24 the considerable effort that has been dedicated to
25 developing a strategy for offshore wind development in

1 California.

2 As California works to meet its ambitious
3 offshore wind goals, development must be done in a
4 responsible manner with minimal environmental impacts while
5 protecting biodiversity, cultural resources, public health,
6 and other ocean uses.

7 We appreciate that the draft plan includes and
8 acknowledges the need and importance of West Coast offshore
9 wind ecosystem science entity. California is part of the
10 California current ecosystem, which is one of the most
11 biodiverse marine environments on the planet. Ecosystem
12 science for offshore wind development must be robust,
13 comprehensive, and coordinated to understand the effects of
14 floating offshore wind development. A science entity would
15 bring together the necessary participants to inform
16 research and monitoring and support efficient collaborative
17 science. This information is essential to developing
18 mitigation measures, guiding adaptive management,
19 understanding the scale of impacts, and assessing
20 cumulative impacts throughout the California current
21 ecosystem, and avoiding unintended consequences on the
22 marine environment through the lifetime of any offshore
23 wind energy projects that are developed.

24 We look forward to additional details about the
25 science entity being provided in the final Strategic Plan,

1 including a timeline for its formation, details on its
2 structure, and how it will inform adaptive management. The
3 Aquarium stands ready to work with you on the development
4 of a West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity.

5 Thank you again for your time and commitment to
6 this work.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much. Alright. Mike
8 Okoniewski, I'm going to open your line. Just please
9 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, and
10 state any affiliation and begin your comment.

11 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Do you hear me okay?

12 MR. BASTIDA: Yes, we can hear you. Go ahead.

13 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Some of this has been covered,
14 so I'll try not to go over it again.

15 But as far as monitoring goes, it would seem that
16 there's multiple phases that need to be monitored. One
17 thing is you have no empirical data on what these wind
18 turbines are going to do or groups of them. And then you
19 don't have any cumulative impacts. It might be a big
20 difference between five wind farms and fifty wind farms,
21 for example, and then if you plant or have wind farms up in
22 Oregon just near the border, that area would be one region
23 that, you know, might have changes going on.

24 The predictions they're using for environmental
25 change is probably, maybe it's good, but it's better to

1 have empirical data, and I would hope that -- well, one
2 idea might be just take Morro Bay, get it up and running
3 for a few years, then take a look and see what
4 environmental changes -- monitor that closely, and then
5 find out what you can expect.

6 But I think the way you're going about it now,
7 it's going to be pretty tough to lease, site, and then put
8 up the wind turbines themselves, and then start monitoring
9 all over. You're not going to be able to take them back
10 down and get them back to shore if there's a large amount
11 of environmental damage.

12 And there's no question that there will be
13 hydrodynamic differences before and after putting up the
14 wind turbines. What that does to the environment, nobody
15 knows. But it's a huge data gap. An estimation is not
16 going to, I think, get the job done.

17 So thank you.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Mike.

19 Let's see here. I have Wayne Kotow.

20 We're going to open up your line, Wayne. Just
21 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation, and
22 you should be able to talk now.

23 Wayne, can you hear me?

24 Try it now, Wayne.

25 MR. KOTOW: Thank you. Can you hear me now?

1 MR. BASTIDA: That might have been my fault. Go
2 ahead.

3 MR. KOTOW: Alright. Thank you. Hi. Wayne
4 Kotow, K-O-T-O-W. I'm with the Coastal Conservation
5 Association of California. I'd really like to thank Jenn
6 Eckerle for the comprehensive presentation she just gave.

7 We have been engaged in this process with BOEM
8 for eight or nine years now, and we have put every one of
9 those items on the agenda on the list, and we're still
10 waiting for answers.

11 What we're afraid of is that we're pushing fast
12 to get this thing implemented, but we really don't know,
13 like what Mike just said, we don't know the cumulative
14 impacts of everything that this is going to cause. And if
15 we go and install it all, and it has huge ramifications,
16 what are we going to do? We only have the one ocean and
17 the one coastline and we're doing everything we can to
18 protect it with our MPAs and 30x30 and all of the other
19 fishing regulations and environment regulations that we put
20 in. And right now we don't even know the baseline of where
21 we're at so that we can now go and study what the
22 implications are going to be. And that's what we're
23 looking for is, what exactly are we going to do with that

24 One of the suggestions that we had made was that
25 every one of those platforms should be putting electronic

1 monitoring on it. We have the technology now, and that
2 should be open source so that universities can do the
3 studies over time for us. We don't have to always send
4 divers into the water. We don't always have to have people
5 to do it. We can use some of the electronics. There's
6 going to be a lot of impacts to us.

7 And what we're also fearing is, this is the
8 industrialization of our coastline. And what is the impact
9 of that? All this modernization for the manufacturing is
10 going to hurt the fishing industry. And we'll talk about
11 that later in other segments. But that impact has
12 ecological and the habitat impacts. And those things we're
13 very, very fearful of. It's going to impact our fishing
14 community, but it's going to impact our whole coastline.

15 So those are some of the comments. And again, I
16 appreciate what Jenn put up there. And I just hope we can
17 find some answers to the questions and the issues that she
18 put on the board. Thank you.

19 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Wayne.

20 Alright, I see the next person here is Mike
21 Lynes. Opening up your line now, Mike. Please unmute on
22 your end, spell your name for the record, state any
23 affiliation, and begin your comments.

24 MR. LYNES: Thank you. My name is Mike Lynes.
25 I'm the Director of Public Policy for Audubon, California.

1 MR. BASTIDA: What happened. Mike? Let's see
2 for a second. Hold on.

3 MR. LYNES: Can you hear me now?

4 MR. BASTIDA: We can hear you. There you go.

5 MR. LYNES: Okay. So it's Mike Lynes, L-Y-N-E-S,
6 and I'm representing Audubon California. I wanted to start
7 by thanking everyone that worked on the report, and
8 including all the interested parties that have provided
9 input so far.

10 Audubon definitely supports moving forward with
11 exploring offshore wind, provided that the tribal and
12 community concerns are met, including early and meaningful
13 consultation and meaningful community benefits. And also
14 listening to all interested parties, including the fishing
15 community and conservationists and many others.

16 And Deputy Secretary Eckerle did an excellent
17 job, I think, really summarizing the report and the
18 potential impacts that are identified in the report. But
19 they really also underscore the uncertainty with the scope
20 and scale of impacts. And we think that a lot of that
21 needs to be addressed through substantial investment in
22 science and monitoring, I think as some of the others have
23 already said.

24 We joined Monterey Bay Aquarium and many others
25 in supporting the establishment of the West Coast Offshore

1 Wind Science Entity. And we want to note that California
2 has chronically underfunded ecological science and
3 monitoring throughout the state, but this is not a time to
4 underinvest in that. I think if we fail to invest in
5 science and monitoring here, we're only going to engender
6 greater conflicts and we're going to hamstring ourselves
7 for adaptive management down the road.

8 I wanted to also impress that I think that this
9 data gathered through the various science and monitoring
10 efforts by the companies, by the agencies, and others
11 should be shared. It should be transparent and open and
12 publicly shared. That will help build trust and also help
13 us wrestle with the challenges that the technologies may
14 present.

15 And lastly, as we work to develop more details on
16 adaptive management, I think we have to work hard to have a
17 real science-based adaptive management approach that has
18 real triggers for concrete mitigation and involves a public
19 process for the public are informed and have a role in how
20 that adaptive management goes forward. It's not just
21 controlled by certain entities and, you know, tampered
22 potentially by economic expectations. There has to be a
23 balance there. I think public participation is one of the
24 only ways that'll happen.

25 I think with all of that we can reduce conflicts

1 and hopefully move forward with offshore wind in a
2 responsible way that respects the rights of people that
3 have lived here for millennia and that will live here in
4 the future, including all of the bird populations.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Mike.

7 Cathie Buchanan, I see you're next to talk. I'm
8 opening your line. Please unmute on your end, spell your
9 name for the record, and state any affiliation.

10 MS. BUCHANAN: Cathie Buchanan, Bear River Band,
11 Environmental Natural Resources Director.

12 So I just want to remind people that all
13 electrical lines generate an electromagnetic field.
14 Numerous species of wells, dolphins, salmon, sturgeon,
15 steelhead, trout, rays, et cetera, they all use this
16 electromagnetic field to find their way around the ocean.
17 Many species have what is called ampullae of Lorenzini.
18 They are electro-sensory organs that can detect the
19 slightest change in electrical current in the water, and
20 that is down to a nanovolt. That is a 0.00000001 volt. So
21 all this talk about the high voltage lines going through
22 the water, your goal is to carry megawatts through the
23 water column. So how in the world are you going to be able
24 to mitigate the megawatt effect on all of these species
25 that can detect nanovolts? And you're talking all up and

1 down the coast.

2 So our West Coast is the absolute most diverse
3 coastline in the world in aquatic species. There will be
4 numerous impacts, the commercial fishing, crabbing,
5 recreational fishing, sailing, scuba diving, whale
6 watching, motor boating, etc. There will be a twenty-mile
7 exclusion zone around the turbines, which means no fishing,
8 no boating, no scuba diving, etc., for twenty miles around
9 the turbines. And we're not even certain about how big the
10 turbine footprint, the entire location, is going to be.

11 So in 2014 in the Nature Journal, this is now
12 about the migratory birds, anthropogenic electromagnetic
13 noise disrupts magnetic compass orientation in the
14 migratory bird. It's in Volume 509, page 353. In this
15 article, the scientists prove that migratory birds are
16 unable to use their magnetic compass in the presence of
17 urban electromagnetic noise. We have over 400 species of
18 migratory birds that come to the coast of California every
19 single year.

20 So these impacts for ecotourism. We have huge
21 ecotourism here with the redwoods, the birds, the aquatic
22 species, all of that. If we have all those impacts, guess
23 who else gets impacted too? The hotels, the restaurants,
24 the gas stations, the grocery stores, all up and down the
25 coast. All of those businesses will be impacted because

1 there will be a decline in ecotourism because we don't have
2 the migratory birds. We don't have the space for people to
3 go into scuba dive. We don't have the whale-watching. If
4 we don't have all those things, then why would there be a
5 need for people to stay in our restaurants, stay in our
6 hotels, use our gas stations, go to the grocery store, buy
7 souvenirs, et cetera, and so on. And this is all up and
8 down the coast because those are migratory species that go
9 every single year, two times a year, the whales from Alaska
10 down to Mexico and back again.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Thank you so much for the
12 comments.

13 I'm going to move on.

14 Azsha from EDC. I see you're next here. I'm
15 going to open your line. Please unmute on your end, spell
16 your name for the record, state any affiliation and begin
17 your comment.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. HUDSON: Can you hear me?

20 MR. BASTIDA: Yes, we can hear you.

21 MS. HUDSON: Alright. Great. My name is Azsha
22 Hudson, A-Z-S-H-A H-U-D-S-O-N. I'm a marine conservation
23 analyst at the Environmental Defense Center, a public
24 interest law firm that works to protect and enhance the
25 local environment through education, advocacy, and legal

1 action. We primarily work in San Luis Obispo, Santa
2 Barbara, and Ventura counties.

3 We believe this document fulfills the intent of
4 AB 525, and appreciate all the hard work and effort that
5 went into the draft Strategic Plan. We appreciate the
6 inclusion of many of our previous comments and have a few
7 refining points to offer here.

8 It is the utmost importance to avoid impacts
9 wherever possible, instead of relying on mitigation. We
10 encourage the usage and adherence to the mitigation
11 hierarchy where avoidance of impacts is top priority,
12 followed by minimization of impacts, then restoration, and
13 then lastly offsetting the impacts elsewhere. We
14 appreciate the inclusion of the formation of a regional
15 science entity, however we ask for more specificity on the
16 intended process and vision for setting up this body. We
17 believe that the Strategic Plan should include a timeline
18 for establishing the science entity, and what the new body
19 will inform for science and adaptive management.

20 We believe that the CEC should not rely on just
21 the existing reports to design the port buildout due to
22 their failure to consider adequate environmental and
23 cultural resource impacts. Before any port buildout and
24 construction occurs, many of the identified ports in these
25 reports need significant cleanup and remediation efforts.

1 But once again, I want to thank, you know,
2 everybody who's worked on the Strategic Plan and working on
3 offshore wind for all their work, and we at EDC look
4 forward to participating as the years come.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much for your
7 comments.

8 I'm going to move on to Allyson Dallmann. I'll
9 allow you to talk. State your name. I'm going to unmute
10 you. State your name for the record, state any
11 affiliation, and begin your comment. Thank you.

12 MS. DALLMANN: Hi, I'm Allyson Dallmann. Thank
13 you for allowing me to speak. I am a Cambria resident and
14 stakeholder.

15 I am appalled that wind farms could be placed
16 between two marine sanctuaries in spite of all the
17 documentation regarding their detrimental effects.

18 Our veterinary credo is above all, do no harm.
19 So with the delicate balance of our wildlife and coastal
20 habitat already teetering, wind farms would be harmful.

21 We're in the sixth extinction crisis. It's
22 anthropogenic. And according to the IPBES report, 66
23 percent of marine and 75 percent of terrestrial ecosystems
24 have already been lost. Given that at least 34 marine
25 species and 180 shore and seabirds depend on our coast to

1 survive, we must not cause further harm. Our bluefin, sea,
2 gray, humpback, sperm, right, and orca whales are already
3 endangered or threatened. So we must protect them.

4 We've got one stuck in the Bay right now. Those
5 wind farms would not allow that baby to survive and get
6 back to the mother that may already be dead.

7 They're already threatened, and with us is our
8 coast. We share it with them. Healthy ecosystems depend
9 on delicate food webs, with biodiverse interconnections
10 ignored by many humans. Unfortunately, more whales have
11 been dying on our coast, and magnetic fields produced by
12 the wind farms would disrupt their sonar and increase their
13 mortality.

14 Our coast is the migratory path for all these
15 species. They are already harmed from offshore oil; gas;
16 ships; un-sustained fishing nets, lines, and other gear
17 left behind that trap and kill; plastic; toxins from
18 agricultural runoff; warmer ocean temperatures; oceanic
19 acidification and oxygen depletion. Adding wind farms is
20 nonsensical and anti-scientific.

21 California's coastal ecosystem has already lost
22 90 percent of our wetlands, mostly due to development. We
23 must protect what little we have left, not only for the
24 species who live and migrate here, but for the people and
25 environment dependent in this area. There are already

1 studies that demonstrate that offshore wind affects
2 seafloor environments and nutrient upwelling, ocean
3 currents and their speed, terrestrial and marine species,
4 numbers, health, migration patterns, with an emphasis on
5 the animals dependent on electromagnetism for guidance,
6 have all been harmed. This includes birds, fish, plankton,
7 mammals' ability to survive. How are they to survive here
8 when we are going to degrade further their home? This is
9 just mind-boggling for me.

10 All of these effects are not only proven. And
11 look at Europe, the classic example. They are trying to
12 learn from their mistakes. Why are we trying to reinvent
13 the wheel? Why can't we see these foreseeable activities
14 as warning signs? We don't just jump in with both feet.

15 If we are the progressive state, the educated
16 state, aren't we supposed to be learning from other places
17 where these detriments have already occurred? Shouldn't we
18 be studying and reading and learning from mistakes made in
19 other places? I'm just dumbfounded. The overgrazing by
20 fish and sea urchins is particularly a large problem for
21 kelp beds. This would destroy our little place for our sea
22 otters. They are necessary and vital.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Allyson.

25 I'm going to take one more comment. We're

1 actually running pretty behind here, but I want to make
2 sure everybody gets an opportunity to comment today. We're
3 going to have additional comments available throughout each
4 section of our presentations today, and also general
5 comments at the end.

6 I'm going to take Ted Key and allow you to talk
7 here, Ted. Why don't you state your name? You should be
8 able to unmute yourself.

9 MR. KEY: I've just unmuted, I hope you can hear
10 me.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Yes. Go ahead.

12 MR. KEY: Okay. My name is Ted Key, and I am a
13 resident of Cambria. I'm very concerned about this
14 project.

15 The people who have spoken on the ecological
16 problems associated with this have been succinct and quite
17 wonderful. Ms. Dallmann did an excellent job previous to
18 me. So I won't concentrate on the ecological impacts of
19 this thing.

20 But I will bring up -- I mean, there's no doubt
21 that the IPCC report has informed us that we just don't
22 have time for this. I mean, we passed 1.5C last year and
23 we're still pouring carbon into the air, CO2 into the air.
24 And this project is just going to take too long if it's
25 going to work at all, which I don't think it is.

1 But on the economic sense, let's just take a look
2 at this for a moment. You're going to spend billions and
3 billions of dollars buying equipment from Norway, as
4 opposed to -- and this is what I'm saying -- the options
5 are much better, for example, used solar panels to cover
6 the entire aqueduct system of California, and gravity
7 batteries to develop distributed systems throughout
8 California.

9 Buy those solar panels from First Solar, who just
10 put \$2 billion into a plant to produce their sixth
11 generation panels right here in America. Why would we not
12 want to support American jobs and American stability for
13 our own energy? It just doesn't make sense.

14 When you take a look at what's happened over in
15 England, they pay twice the price for electricity that the
16 rest of Europe does. They're just going to now have to
17 pull in most of their Siemens turbines because they have a
18 bad gear on them, and it's estimated to take 10 years to
19 fix those pieces of equipment. Whereas solar, that's not
20 going to happen. That's not going to happen at all. It's
21 going to be much more cheap to maintain. I do not see the
22 ROI on this particular project.

23 Now, I'm not against wind. There are great
24 applications for wind, and in fact, actually, if you put
25 volts on top of the solar system that I'm talking about,

1 over the entirety of the -- well, maybe not the entirety,
2 but certainly major parts of the aqueduct system in
3 California, you would get wind power and you would get it
4 all the time. That's not going to happen with these
5 turbines that you've got out there. Once the wind gets too
6 high, you have to turn those turbines off or they're going
7 to fly apart.

8 So just in terms of application and better
9 options, I would say go with that.

10 Beyond that, I would like to talk to you about
11 replacing the reactors down at Diablo with molten salt
12 thorium reactors, which are being developed in India,
13 China, and Indonesia. In fact, that technology was begun
14 here during the Manhattan Project, and set aside because
15 everybody wanted heavy water for making fissionable
16 plutonium. So I'm just saying there are better options.
17 The real option for long-term stability is molten salt
18 thorium.

19 But in the interim period, I have to say, cover
20 the aqueduct with solar panels built right here in America.
21 American jobs, American stability. Let's do that.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much, Ted.

24 We are going to move on at this moment. But
25 again, we're going to have some additional time for

1 comments.

2 I'm going to pass it over back to Rachel.

3 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Jeff.

4 And thank you, Deputy Secretary Eckerle. My
5 apologies for stating Executive Director earlier.

6 And thank you for those who commented. There
7 will be more time this afternoon for comments again. And,
8 of course, please comment on our public docket.

9 And now we move to underserved communities,
10 impact strategies, and recommendations with Eli Harland
11 from the California Energy Commission.

12 Next slide, please.

13 MR. HARLAND: Thank you, Rachel.

14 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Eli Harland
15 and I work at the California Energy Commission within the
16 step division with the team and folks you've heard from
17 this morning.

18 I'm going to present the section in Chapter 4 of
19 the Strategic Plan titled underserved communities, overview
20 of impact strategies and recommendations. Before I start
21 the presentation, I wanted to make sure and build upon the
22 acknowledgements that we heard at the top of the workshop.

23 This part of the Strategic Plan was a multi-
24 agency contribution. While the CEC is called on to deliver
25 the Strategic Plan, the initiation during plan development

1 to bring longstanding underserved community concerns into
2 the context of AB 525 really spans across a lot of the
3 agencies you're going to hear today. So thank you to those
4 agencies that attended meetings and contributed language
5 for the draft Strategic Plan.

6 Next slide, please.

7 So the requirements for AB 525. In the chapter
8 called for to specifically identify potential impacts,
9 underserved communities are not specifically listed in that
10 statute. Environmental justice organizations are listed as
11 part of the definition of stakeholders for purposes of
12 developing the Strategic Plan. We heard Elizabeth mention
13 that earlier.

14 And nevertheless, the approach taken in the draft
15 Strategic Plan is to still present a section on underserved
16 communities. That's alongside other sections that look at
17 categories of impacts. That section is presented in
18 Chapter 4.

19 I do want to note the discussion of underserved
20 communities and environmental justice are not limited to
21 Chapter 4 in the draft plan, as you'll hear more about
22 throughout the workshop presentations such as on workforce
23 and ports. As the draft report explains, for decades
24 marginalized communities that are predominantly low-income
25 residents of color and indigenous communities have

1 experienced disproportionate impacts of environmental
2 burdens. Recognizing and doing something about past
3 practices in the context of offshore wind and in this
4 Strategic Plan, is what the section I'm summarizing today
5 intends to do.

6 Next slide, please.

7 In this slide, I'm highlighting two quotes from
8 the opening of this section of the draft plan that echo a
9 vision for what it means to include communities within the
10 Strategic Plan framework and why. These quotes underscore
11 the importance of early engagement, as well as a level of
12 thoughtfulness and intentions in terms of being
13 inclusionary.

14 Next slide, please.

15 This section of the draft plan adds to the vision
16 captured in those previous two quotes and highlights the
17 first 2021 Senate Bill 100 Joint Agency Report. That
18 report is highlighted in the draft plan because the Joint
19 Agency Report is a statewide look at many different types
20 and combinations of clean energy resources. In terms of
21 equity, an offshore wind Strategic Plan can be looked at
22 through the lens of the SB 100 Joint Agency Report, as well
23 as future reports.

24 Also wanted to note for those interested in the
25 next SB 100 Joint Agency Report, which is currently under

1 development, there's an SB 100 workshop focused on non-
2 energy benefits on April 16th that you might want to tune
3 into.

4 Next slide, please.

5 So, Chapter 5. This section of the draft
6 includes some of the possible benefits that may accrue for
7 underserved communities from offshore wind development.
8 Economic development and jobs-related benefits are
9 presented.

10 It's further discussed when we get in workforce
11 later today, but it's worth noting that the report suggests
12 workforce partnerships that can include workforce training
13 centers, government agencies, community organizations,
14 employers, community colleges, trainees, and apprentices.

15 The takeaway is that offshore wind can create a
16 pathway to developing local economic growth that benefits
17 local and underserved communities and to build a workforce
18 that more accurately reflects the diversity of California.
19 Clean energy access and resilience are also possible
20 benefits for areas of the state. For example, the north
21 coast is transmission-constrained, and adding transmission
22 to access offshore wind resources could benefit the
23 electric users on the North Coast, including through
24 increased access and more reliable service.

25 Next slide, please.

1 So the draft plan summarizes engagement that
2 state agencies did with community groups and advocates.
3 This engagement included the subject matter experts from
4 the California Natural Resources Agency, the Energy
5 Commission, the State Lands Commission, and the California
6 Coastal Commission. As I mentioned, the CEC appreciates
7 the contributions of these agencies, and also the people
8 that took the time out of their days and their evenings to
9 meet with us to share perspectives on community concerns.

10 The impact summarized in the draft plan shared by
11 advocates mostly focused on impacts from port activities,
12 from increased housing costs to impacts to related to
13 construction of turbine facilities. Air quality and
14 concerns over chemicals and toxins were also raised in this
15 outreach. Also within the chapter on ports, there is a
16 discussion of some of the impacts and concerns that the
17 California Coastal Commission heard during their first
18 responsibilities to review the Bureau of Ocean Energy
19 Management leasing under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

20 Next slide, please.

21 So the draft plan describes strategies also that
22 advocates shared. These range from meaningful engagement
23 and capacity building, to more fundamental suggestions for
24 ensuring that communities have the information they need to
25 participate.

1 Advocates provided examples of the types of
2 considerations that would be important to fulfill
3 meaningful engagement. An example that was shared is
4 empowering community organizations through advisory boards.
5 Other suggestions included support for families of
6 children, and evening schedules for meetings and workshops
7 outside of work hours.

8 Next slide, please.

9 The draft plan includes additional priorities
10 shared by advocates and community groups, such as
11 prioritizing oil and gas decommissioning and zero emission
12 goods movement and transportation. There's also an
13 emphasis on more specific implementation aspects of
14 offshore wind, such strong legally binding community
15 benefit agreements, investments in community resilience
16 programs, and continuous monitoring and use of adaptive
17 management practices throughout the development and
18 operation of offshore wind facilities.

19 Next slide, please.

20 The draft plan further builds on those strategies
21 identified by advocates, and includes additional strategies
22 written by the authors, and those strategies for addressing
23 impacts to underserved communities include prioritizing
24 infrastructure projects that also have co-benefits for
25 communities that have reliability issues and are most

1 impacted during public power safety shutoffs; supporting
2 the development of community benefits agreements, when and
3 as required by offshore wind lease agreements with the
4 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; support training,
5 hiring, and recruiting for employment opportunities within
6 underserved communities and communities most impacted by
7 offshore wind development.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Similar to the other chapters we heard from
10 earlier and will hear today, there's recommendations also
11 to note that build on the strategies I just mentioned. So
12 finally the draft plan includes a chapter on
13 recommendations with specific recommendations to address
14 impacts on underserved communities. The recommendations
15 aim to increase understanding of potential impacts to
16 underserved communities, and inform actions to avoid
17 minimize and mitigate impacts and adaptively manage
18 offshore wind development and ongoing operation.

19 As mentioned earlier, underserved communities and
20 recommendations that relate to underserved communities are
21 in other parts of the report, including under workforce
22 imports, and we'll hear more about those. The state must
23 prioritize technology and infrastructure needs equally with
24 the protection of the state's underserved communities, with
25 California Native American tribes, tribal cultural

1 resources, and coastal resources. And the recommendations
2 that we have for underserved communities center really on
3 one, early and meaningful engagement; two, avoidance and
4 minimization of underserved communities and impacts to
5 those, especially near ports -- that was emphasized in our
6 outreach and further articulated in the recommendation;
7 and three, explore ways to increase capacity of underserved
8 communities to participate in regulatory processes.

9 Next slide, please.

10 So that's going to move on to public comment.

11 That concludes my presentation.

12 Jack, I'll turn it back over to you.

13 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Eli. Is there anybody in
14 the room with you that has any comments in person? Are you
15 seeing any?

16 MR. HARLAND: I'm watching and no one's hustling
17 to the podium.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Okay.

19 Alright. We'll go for Zoom comments now. I
20 already see a couple of people raising their hand again.
21 If you're joining us via Zoom, I'm going to open up your
22 line and you can use the raise hand feature on Zoom. If
23 you're calling in, you want to press star nine to raise
24 your hand.

25 And we're going to be focusing these comments on

1 the underserved communities and the impact strategies and
2 recommendations. We'll have some more general comments at
3 the end.

4 I see Matt Simmons here. You've had your hand up
5 for a while, Matt. You should be able to talk now. I'm
6 opening up your line, unmute on your end and start.

7 MR. SIMMONS: Good morning, or good afternoon.
8 My name is Matt Simmons, M-A-T-T S-I-M-M-O-N-S. I'm with
9 the Environmental Protection Information Center, or EPIC
10 located in Humboldt County.

11 I first want to thank the CEC for preparing this
12 report. I think it's a really helpful document and it
13 achieves the goals of AB525.

14 I will say for this section, I was surprised that
15 there wasn't more of a discussion of the positive impacts
16 to underserved communities in California from offshore
17 wind. You know, currently some of our most vulnerable
18 citizens live next to polluting natural gas plants, many
19 citizens in other parts of the country live next to
20 polluting coal power plants, and renewable energy like
21 offshore wind can hopefully shut those plants down and
22 protect the lungs and health of these vulnerable
23 Californians and Americans.

24 On top of that, you know, climate change is going
25 to disproportionately impact vulnerable communities in

1 California and around the globe. Sea-level rise, wildfire,
2 extreme weather events all disproportionately impact the
3 most vulnerable among us, and so offshore wind, by fighting
4 climate change, is going to really benefit underserved
5 communities. And I think that the report should
6 acknowledge that, because if you only focus on the negative
7 impacts, it paints a sort of unrealistic picture of
8 offshore wind.

9 Thank you very much for this opportunity to
10 comment and for all your work.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Matt.

12 Mariza Sullivan, I see you're also raising your
13 hand. I will unmute you now. If you can open your line,
14 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation, and
15 begin your comment. I'll reset the time. Mariza?

16 MS. SULLIVAN: This is Mariza Sullivan with the
17 Tribal Representative of the Coastal Band of the Chumash
18 Nation.

19 In terms of being an underserved community, I
20 want to just talk about the reference to the CBA. And it
21 was actually made in a subject matter before, but it does
22 relate to this. And the one person stated that -- was very
23 proud of the fact that they had signed a CBA with the San
24 Ynez Chumash tribe. And I just want to flag that in terms
25 of, there are other Chumash people, and it just kind of

1 speaks to the experience that California native people have
2 when they are what is known as non-federally recognized.

3 And so I just want to make that be known, that
4 yes, there seems to be -- obviously there is an agreement,
5 and I have to say part of that agreement, I think, may
6 speak to why there was part of the National Marine
7 Sanctuary that was carved out. There's a corridor that was
8 just lopped out of the original, you know, when it was
9 nominated. And so that's a direct result of what was
10 perceived as the needs of the offshore wind industry,
11 needing and possibly needing more.

12 So that's the problem with this, that while it is
13 certainly, you know, we're encouraging, and I definitely,
14 you know, acknowledge that we want to get off of fossil
15 fuel. That's what this is all about, right? But there has
16 to be a very mindful approach towards this, and I know that
17 there seems to be an effort.

18 But the presentation that was made before this
19 regarding the marine resources, it just seemed like all of
20 the -- I guess it would be called mitigation, or the
21 thought of dealing with the data gaps and problems, there
22 was an awful lot of wording that was not known, this not
23 known, given the high degree of uncertainty. These are
24 some of the things that were in response to how they
25 thought would be, how to go with dealing with what is the

1 unknown of this industry.

2 Further study. There's an awful lot of further
3 additional research needed. Those are the strategies.
4 Those are the answer for what appears to be a huge unknown,
5 right? I learned the phrase data gap in the meetings that
6 I was in with, and that just means we don't know. So I
7 think, and I understand what the gentleman before me said,
8 that, you know, why isn't that being brought up, but in
9 terms of how well it's, it'll be better for people, but it
10 just needs to be done and mindfully.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much.

13 Georgina Quinn, I'm going to unmute you now.
14 State your name for the record, state any affiliation, and
15 you can begin your comment.

16 MS. QUINN: Hi. My name is Georgina Quinn.
17 That's G-E-O-R-G-I-N-A, Quinn, Q-U-I-N-N.

18 And I guess just for this part of the Strategic
19 Plan, I would recommend -- my input would be that there's
20 tribes who have actively they have come out in support of
21 these wind projects. And I would just take into
22 consideration that it's like, you know, for the commission
23 to not see these as recommendations, or that this is just
24 something that to take into consideration. But if there is
25 a tribe whose ancestral lands these projects fall under,

1 and they are not supporting this project, to recognize that
2 that should be the highest authority in decision-making.
3 So, as a Strategic Plan, I think putting tribal input first
4 is an important aspect.

5 And that's all I have to say. So, thank you.

6 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much.

7 Tyler Valdez. Let me set the timer here and I
8 will unmute you. You should be able to talk. State your
9 name and affiliation. You can talk.

10 Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Tyler
11 Valdes, and I am an energy justice manager with the
12 California Environmental Justice Alliance, or CEHA for
13 short, and we're a community-led alliance of 10 grassroots
14 environmental justice organizations from Richmond to San
15 Diego with membership in the tens of thousands.

16 I'm also a member of CEHA and Sierra Club's
17 Regenerate California campaign that aims to retire all gas
18 plants in California beginning with the ones in EJ
19 communities, and we appreciate this opportunity to provide
20 input on Strategic Plan, and all of the work and
21 coordination across agency staff that went into its
22 development.

23 Our communities are being treated as sacrifice
24 zones for dirty energy infrastructure. Therefore they must
25 be prioritized for the benefits of a growing clean energy

1 economy. For example, last summer state agencies including
2 the CEC voted to extend the life of three coastal once-
3 through cooling gas plants that pollute the air of local
4 communities, breaking their promise to EJ advocates to
5 retire them by the end of 2023. Therefore offshore wind
6 can and absolutely must displace fossil fuel generation,
7 especially ones in EJ communities, and not be used to power
8 false climate solutions, including hydrogen production or
9 carbon capture technologies. This should be explicit in
10 the Strategic Plan and should be the overall framework for
11 how the state develops this industry.

12 Moreover, we prioritize energy efficiency and
13 conservation in alignment with comments from tribal leaders
14 and advancing local small-scale renewable energy resources
15 because they can be deployed more rapidly to meet the
16 urgency of the climate crisis while providing pathways for
17 community ownership and wealth building. Clean and
18 distributed energy resources, DERs, such as rooftop solar
19 and storage, help avoid the costs and challenges with
20 transmission and utility-scale energy build-out and reduces
21 overall ecological and cultural impacts.

22 This is why California should be supporting the
23 growth of clean DERs, such as creating a workable and
24 scalable community solar program at the CPUC, modeled off
25 the Net Value Billing Tariff, which is being championed by

1 a broad coalition of EJ environmental solar rate payer and
2 labor advocates.

3 Maximizing community solar and storage, among
4 other clean DERs, should be a statewide priority, period.
5 However, we acknowledge that some amount of large-scale
6 renewable energy resources will need to be developed to
7 meet remaining energy demand that cannot be met by the
8 maximization of clean DERs. So while floating offshore
9 wind presents an opportunity to harness clean energy, it is
10 an emergent technology and industry that has a potential
11 risk to continue settler-colonial extraction and
12 concentrate wealth and power into the hands of utilities
13 and private developers. Therefore, offshore wind must be
14 developed responsibly and equitably with EJ communities at
15 the decision-making table.

16 It is our hope and expectation that any offshore
17 wind development that does take place will help transform
18 the most impacted neighborhoods into thriving, healthy,
19 economically prosperous communities.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much, Taylor.

22 Alright, Cathie Buchanan, I see you I'll raise
23 your hand and resetting the timer now. If you could unmute
24 on your end, you should be good to go.

25 MS. BUCHANAN: Cathie Buchanan, Environmental

1 Natural Resources Director at the Bear River Band.

2 So I would like to point out that jumping from
3 fossil fuels to strictly offshore wind is not
4 diversification. So we are going from the frying pan to
5 the frying pan, because we are -- I mean, there is no, I
6 don't understand why -- and this is why I keep asking for,
7 where is the evidence that supports that offshore wind is
8 the absolute best solution for everything? We are talking
9 about a huge, massive project that is going to swallow our
10 coastline.

11 But in the meantime, at the same time,
12 simultaneously, I hear no discussion about helping out the
13 new technological advances for vertical axis turbines,
14 inline pipe turbines, rooftop solar, there still is
15 upgrades that need to be done to rooftop solar. That is
16 slowly happening. Why can't we speed that up? Thorium
17 salt reactors. And there's also waste-to-energy power
18 plants.

19 And the best example of the waste-to-energy power
20 plant that is clean is Copenhagen, and people will say,
21 well, we still have a problem with CO2. Sorry, no, we can
22 capture CO2, which is the reason why we have CO2 for fire
23 extinguishers and also CO2 for soft drinks.

24 So just focusing on offshore wind to me is not --
25 I mean, it's the same thing as fossil fuels to me, because

1 all of the impacts combined from making these structures,
2 again, we're going to have to have increased copper mining,
3 increased ore mining for steel, increased aluminum mining.

4 You want to talk about big, huge fossil fuel
5 footprint? Has anyone seen any of this heavy equipment
6 that is used to dig an open pit for a mine that goes down
7 2000 feet into the earth's surface, directly affects the
8 water, which is pumped out, which then you draw down the
9 entire aquifer around the area, drying out the trees
10 because the tree roots can no longer get to the water. So,
11 I'm not hearing any of those impacts being discussed.

12 So diversification is key. We can't just rely on
13 offshore wind to solve it all. We have to look at other
14 sources of energy generation.

15 Which is why I keep asking for the evidence that
16 proves that offshore wind is the absolute best solution,
17 and by NEPA and CEQA law, that is required. Show me that
18 evidence. I want to see those studies.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Cathie.

21 Alright, let's see. The last person who has
22 their hand up here is Donald Pierce. I will allow you to
23 talk here.

24 MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

25 I'll make this quick, but unless we have battery-

1 powered boats, we need some fossil fuels, right? I mean,
2 how are you going to repair those things? But I'm going to
3 make this real quick.

4 I apologize for my non-scientific approach to
5 these comments. Poor planning on behalf of a non-
6 vulnerable group or entities with endless budgets does not
7 command an emergency reaction from the vulnerable and who
8 are of limited budgets, i.e. industries, verified tribal
9 communities, and the voiceless wildlife themselves. Unless
10 the groups force their way into and through the well-
11 established and culturally sound affected groups, then
12 there is an emergency. Our fishermen, our tribal
13 communities, deserve a level of communication, compassion,
14 and relief that should seamlessly bridge the gap between
15 the sign of good faith and intrusive intentions. What's
16 needed is a no-ambiguity, clear gesture that reflects the
17 uninvited guests did good by said affected groups.

18 You owe it to us. We don't owe you a clear path
19 without proof of good heart towards all.

20 That's all I have to say.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Donald.

22 Alright, I see Katie Ramsey from Sierra Club.
23 I'm going to unmute you, allow you to speak, if you want to
24 state your name and affiliation for the record.

25 MS. RAMSEY: Yes. Just confirming, you can hear

1 me, right?

2 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

3 MS. RAMSEY: Okay, my name is Katie Ramsey, K-A-
4 T-I-E, last name is Ramsey, R-I-M-S-E-Y. And I'm a senior
5 attorney with Sierra Club. And as Tyler Valdes from CEHA
6 mentioned, Sierra Club partners with CEHA to run the
7 Regenerate Campaign. And this is an effort to retire all
8 of California's gas plants, starting with those located in
9 disadvantaged communities.

10 Sierra Club supports responsibly cited and
11 equitably developed offshore wind projects. Offshore wind
12 has huge potential to reduce our reliance on gas plants and
13 alleviate dangerous air pollution that unfairly burdens
14 low-income communities and communities of color. Almost
15 every statewide optimization model for reaching our SB100
16 goals and the scoping plan targets involve a large quantity
17 of offshore wind, and so we definitely see that as part of
18 our least-cost pathway to reaching our climate targets, but
19 it must be done responsibly.

20 We need to find a way to reach an agreement with
21 tribes and underserved communities, and we support many of
22 the mitigation measures mentioned from other parties. On
23 the underserved communities portion of the Strategic Plan
24 specifically, I agree with what Matt said from EPIC that
25 there are potential benefits to underserved communities

1 that weren't well-developed in the Strategic Plan. We've
2 covered these in comments to BOEM, but for the benefit of
3 the CEC, we would like to see some of the climate
4 mitigations detailed more specifically so that you can see
5 what the possible benefits of this effort is. Since that's
6 the primary driver for exploring offshore wind in the first
7 place, I think it's critical to include here.

8 It's also worth exploring in more detail in the
9 Strategic Plan what the potential air quality benefits are
10 to disadvantaged communities, including in the LA basin,
11 including in other highly, densely-populated areas, where
12 low-income communities and communities of color are facing
13 very dangerous air pollution levels, and what the benefits
14 in affording that through displacing fossil fuel generation
15 could be.

16 So we would love to see that further developed in
17 the final version of this draft, and we'll comment on some
18 of the other sections later.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much, Katie.

21 Alright, I have one more hand I see: Cristhian
22 Tapia. I'm sorry if I pronounced your name incorrectly.
23 You should be able to speak now. Let me set the timer for
24 you.

25 MR. TAPIA: Hi. Yes, you pronounced it good,

1 it's Christian. Yes, so Cristhian Tapia with Pacific
2 Environment. I'm also a Long Beach resident.

3 I just quickly wanted to talk on the underserved
4 communities portion as well. And just, you know, bring up
5 again what a lot of folks already echoed, that the San
6 Pedro Bay ports are the largest source of emissions here
7 for our communities. They emit 100 tons of nitrogen oxides
8 each day. And the disproportionate impacts are felt by
9 frontline community residents here. So just quickly wanted
10 to echo what everybody was saying, that it's our hopes and
11 expectations that offshore wind development will improve
12 the life expectancy in our frontline communities, and that
13 offshore wind projects, including associated port
14 expansions, should bring benefits to communities and not
15 result in additional burdens such as increased air
16 pollution.

17 Our communities already suffer from increased
18 rates of asthma, exposure to cancer agents, so our hopes is
19 that our communities are not being impacted by further
20 construction processes that may use diesel.

21 We also hope that, you know, offshore wind
22 projects be required to use 100 percent zero emission
23 technologies and vehicles, equipment during the
24 construction process and during its operation and the
25 maintenance, so that communities aren't facing increased

1 burdens of pollution.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Cristhian.

4 Alright. I think that's everybody I see with
5 their hands up for now. We'll have additional time for
6 comments later on.

7 Rachel, back to you.

8 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Jack. And thank you,
9 Eli, for your presentation. And thank you, commenters.

10 Here, we're going to have a bit of a change of
11 agenda. We're going to break for lunch now and then return
12 to wrap up with fisheries, impacts, strategies, and
13 recommendations.

14 So let's take a little bit shorter of a lunch, 45
15 minutes.

16 Jack, could you kindly put up the lunch break
17 slide?

18 And we'll return at 1:45. Thank you.

19 (Meeting broke for lunch at 12:59 p.m., returning
20 at 1:52 p.m.)

21 MS. MACDONALD: Welcome back, everyone. Sorry
22 for the delay.

23 Let's go ahead and dive into this afternoon.

24 Next slide.

25 Thank you. We'll start with fisheries, impact

1 strategies, and recommendations. We'll take comments, then
2 we'll move to ports and waterfront infrastructure and
3 workforce development. We'll have time for comments in
4 between those presentations, and we'll end the afternoon
5 with additional comment time.

6 Next slide, please.

7 Next slide.

8 Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Rachel
9 MacDonald, and I'm a program specialist in the Siting,
10 Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division. I'll
11 be presenting on the AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan, Chapter
12 4, Fishery Section, Impact Strategies and Recommendations.
13 I'd like to add that the California Coastal Commission,
14 California Department of Fish Wildlife, and Ocean
15 Protection Council all contributed to the Chapter 4's
16 fisheries section and were present.

17 Next slide, please.

18 As discussed earlier, AB 525 is required to
19 address numerous subjects, one of which is the potential
20 impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American
21 and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and
22 strategies for addressing those potential impacts.

23 Next slide.

24 And I mentioned our partner agencies. Specific
25 to our partner agency roles related to fisheries. We have

1 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife who do many
2 things, but at a very high level they regulate commercial
3 and recreational fishing, provide licenses and permits and
4 manage the marine protected areas referred to as MPAs.

5 Also at a high level the California Coastal
6 Commission regulates the use of land and water in the
7 coastal zone, and they're leading the Condition 7c Working
8 Group, which is charged with Fisheries Offshore Wind
9 Working Group, which is charged with developing a strategy
10 to address fisheries impacts from the five lease areas in
11 the north and central coast.

12 The Ocean Protection Council funds studies and
13 modeling to fill critical data gaps for species modeling
14 and fishing grounds. They also have a Strategic Plan for
15 2020 to 2025 with an objective for development of
16 commercial scale offshore wind project in California that
17 minimizes impacts on marine biodiversity, fisheries, and
18 others.

19 Next slide, please.

20 Here we have an image of the actual save the date
21 flyer that CDFW staff kindly posted for us in Eureka on our
22 behalf.

23 The Energy Commission and partner agencies
24 performed outreach to receive input on AB 525 from
25 fisheries in various ways, including (indiscernible).

1 We've received numerous comments from fisheries on our 17
2 miscellaneous L1 docket. We conducted several webinars.
3 We held in-person meetings the summer of 2023 in Morro Bay,
4 Crescent City, Eureka, and Fort Bragg. And we as staff
5 responded to and facilitated calls to discuss issues with
6 fishery representatives upon request, and we held several
7 workshops where fisheries representatives participated as
8 panelists as well as provided input.

9 In doing this outreach we did try to account for
10 and accommodate conflicts with various fishing seasons.

11 Next slide, please.

12 These are examples. We heard extensively about
13 potential impacts to fisheries who had significant concern
14 about environmental impacts to marine and biological life
15 as discussed earlier, and this is kind of specific to input
16 directly from fisheries about fisheries-related impacts.

17 Firstly, vessel safety concerns due to risk of
18 collision, increased shipping traffic, potential
19 interference from turbines and boat equipment. Related to
20 a National Academy of Science and Medicine report found
21 that offshore wind turbines do create a distorted radar
22 contact which could increase the risk of collision, and may
23 impact the Coast Guard's ability to perform rescue
24 operations. Fisheries expressed significant concern about
25 potential loss or reduced access to fishing areas due to

1 pre-construction surveys, and all phases of offshore wind
2 development that would result in restricted access to prime
3 fishing grounds, and restricted access and less fishing
4 grounds could result in compaction and increased
5 competition for the remaining fishing areas.

6 Gear loss or damage from offshore wind related to
7 infrastructure -- gear loss such as nets related to
8 offshore wind infrastructure is an issue. And
9 additionally, the issue of compaction with more boats in
10 one area causes greater risk of entanglement and gear
11 amongst boats.

12 Significant concern about impacts uncertainty
13 with the survey work that is expected to start soon. Sonar
14 technology is expected to be used in surveys to study the
15 sea floor, and that may not only displace the fisheries
16 from prime fishing grounds, but it may drive fish away.
17 Fisheries have noted from past experience with work done by
18 the oil, gas, and telecommunication industries that that
19 occurred.

20 There are food security concerns, which includes
21 the loss of fresh and local produce that could cause
22 reliance on farmed products, and comments indicated that
23 wild caught seafood has a lower carbon footprint than
24 domestic and foreign-sourced seafood.

25 There are many concerns about the potential

1 impacts from port activities, such as increased competition
2 for dock space, driving costs up, and all of the activities
3 related to port development and offshore wind that could
4 cause delays, access to the port, and many disruptions.

5 And additionally, concerns about disruption to
6 ongoing fisheries data collection that is vital to
7 determine and inform fishing permits, quotas, and fisheries
8 management.

9 Next slide, please.

10 In addition to potential impacts to fisheries,
11 there are concerns about indirect impacts to associated
12 businesses such as seafood processors, dock hands, gear
13 manufacturers, vessel crew members, and others in these
14 related industries. These negative economic impacts could
15 result in loss of jobs, closures, and further economic
16 hardship to the community.

17 Additional potential impacts and concerns are
18 related to loss of income from volunteer hours spent
19 advocating for fisheries' interests, loss of community
20 identity where fishing is a way of life for many
21 generations, potential negative impacts to the local
22 fishing industry and tourism industry, increased personal
23 and family stress due to potential economic pressure, and
24 the expected legal costs to meaningfully engage in
25 participation and negotiations with developers, and

1 interactions with the state for permitting processes.

2 Next slide, please.

3 Within Volume 2 of the main report, there are a
4 couple strategies showed. There are additional strategies
5 within Volume 3 appendices. The following are in Volume 2,
6 though.

7 The fishing industry asked for consideration in
8 developing a Fishing Community Benefits Agreement, or an
9 FCBA, template. This FCBA would provide a mechanism for
10 claims to be evaluated and pay for fishing gear damaged or
11 lost due to offshore wind structures or activities, and
12 provide a one-time compensatory mitigation to all regional
13 fishermen, and additional compensation for those directly
14 impacted by the wind energy areas and cable routes, as well
15 as other needs of the fishing community.

16 Also the development of a fisheries and mariners
17 communication plan, as required by BOEM, in which a
18 fisheries liaison would be established to coordinate with
19 the Coast Guard and representatives of local fisheries
20 groups to publicize relevant information.

21 Also the use of modeling to design the offshore
22 wind projects to minimize impacts on fisheries and maximize
23 access to productive fishing grounds, and designing port
24 and harbor infrastructure improvements to serve both the
25 local fishing community and offshore wind needs, with an

1 eye towards coexistence of offshore wind facilities with
2 sustainable commercial, recreational, subsistence, and
3 cultural fishing, each of which would support communities
4 and coastal regions of California.

5 Next slide, please.

6 This is directly from the report. The following
7 recommendations will support increased understanding of
8 potential impacts to fisheries, and inform actions to
9 avoid, minimize, mitigate impacts, and adaptively manage
10 offshore wind development and ongoing operations.

11 Basically the three recommendations are looking to use the
12 latest data to perform and conduct analysis assessing
13 spatial and temporal trends in fishing and value matrix for
14 offshore winds, and to do so in consultation with

15 California Native American Tribes, the offshore wind
16 fishing working group mentioned earlier for Condition 7c.

17 And second, to keep the Condition 7c working group going,
18 and to work to develop the strategies for avoidance,

19 minimization, and mitigation of impacts to fishing and
20 fisheries that prioritize fisheries productivity,

21 viability, and long-term resilience, and safe navigation.

22 And lastly, to continue working with researchers, offshore
23 wind leaseholders, tribes, and other state and federal

24 agencies to develop a strategy to avoid, minimize, and

25 mitigate impacts on ongoing fisheries' surveys that inform

1 management.

2 Now this does -- I tried to move through these
3 quickly so we can get to comments. This concludes my
4 presentation, and we'll move to general comment period.

5 I'll ask Jack to help facilitate.

6 Next slide, please.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Rachel.

8 Alright. Thank you, everybody, for sticking
9 around. And at this time, the California Energy Commission
10 welcomes public comments focused on the Fisheries Impact
11 Strategies and Recommendations presentation.

12 We'll start with the attendees in the room and
13 then move to those who are joining us virtually and by
14 phone via Zoom.

15 Is there anybody in the CNRA auditorium who
16 wishes to --

17 MS. MACDONALD: I'm getting information that
18 there's no one in the auditorium, so we can move to online.

19 MR. BASTIDA: Okay.

20 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Jack.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Again, if you're calling
22 in --

23 MS. HUBER: There is one person in the
24 auditorium, so we're going to be here.

25 MR. BASTIDA: Perfect. No problem.

1 Just notify us of your name and approach the
2 podium. Spell your name for the record, state any
3 affiliation, and then you can begin.

4 MS. NAGY: I'm Laura Nagy, I'm with Vineyard
5 Offshore, and last name N as in Nancy, A-G-Y.

6 And I just wanted to, first of all, recognize
7 everybody who contributed to this document. I think it's a
8 fantastic resource and there's obviously been a lot of time
9 and thought put into it, so appreciate that.

10 I just wanted to call out a couple of things
11 about -- I'm also part of the 7c working group, and the 7c
12 working group is addressing the fisheries agreement
13 specifically as well. Some of the other information that's
14 kind of captured as recommendations here. And so we also
15 have a fishing liaison and are, you know, kind of advancing
16 our discussions with fisheries that way.

17 So I just wanted to share that it's worth
18 thinking about and making sure that we're not being
19 duplicative with other processes. I know everybody on the
20 7c working group is working really hard to work through the
21 tasks that have been assigned.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you so much.

24 Alright. Is there anybody else in the
25 auditorium? I'll give one more chance here. And I don't

1 think we have any more.

2 MS. HUBER: No other comments, Jack.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Okay, we will move on to
5 zoom. If you're joining by Zoom online or by phone, please
6 let us know you would like to make a comment by using the
7 raise hand feature on Zoom. If you -- it's the click on
8 the open palm at the bottom of your screen to raise your
9 hand. And if you're joining by phone you can set star nine
10 to raise your hand.

11 I see we already have a few people raising their
12 hands online here.

13 Chris Voss, I'm going to open your line. Please
14 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
15 AD affiliation, and begin your comment. We're asking
16 comments to be three minutes or less. There's a timer on
17 the screen, so you should be able to begin now.

18 MR. VOSS: Good afternoon, my name is Chris Voss,
19 and I'm president of the Commercial Fishermen of Santa
20 Barbara, and I'd like to comment on the strategy slide that
21 was displayed earlier with respect to the first section of
22 the strategy slides.

23 And can we go back to that briefly while I -- no,
24 we're not going to do that. Alright.

25 The concern I have is around Coastal Commission

1 recommendations that we do not pursue one-time payments for
2 mitigation. We have put forth a model of community benefit
3 agreements that are guided by the cable committees that
4 currently exist in California, where cable companies
5 annually contribute to a fisheries-run fund organization
6 that distributes those funds to the ports, primarily the
7 ports that are most affected, but they have guidelines and
8 allowances to distribute funds to ports north and south
9 that are less affected by offshore wind. That's driven by
10 the idea that fishermen up and down the state that work in
11 different jurisdictions in the course of pursuing the fish
12 are affected by offshore wind. So statewide fishermen will
13 be impacted through compaction as well as direct impacts
14 associated with loss of area.

15 So that objective is -- how that's characterized
16 in this document so far is inaccurate. And so I would
17 appreciate it if we would alter that to some degree so it
18 reflects accurately what is being put forth through the 7c
19 working group process of which I'm a part. Okay? So I
20 wish we could go back to that slide and adjust how that was
21 characterized.

22 So anyway, thank you for allowing me to make my
23 comment.

24 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Chris. Let's take a look
25 at that.

1 Alright, Mike Conroy. I see you also have your
2 hands up here. Let me reset the timer. Opening your line,
3 please unmute on your end. Spell your name for the record.
4 State any affiliation and begin your comment. We are
5 asking for comments to be three minutes or less. There
6 will be a timer on the screen.

7 You should be able to talk now, Mike.

8 MR. CONROY: Yeah. Confirming you can hear me?

9 MR. BASTIDA: Yep.

10 MR. CONROY: Perfect. Yeah, my name is Mike
11 Conroy, C-O-N-R-O-Y, Principal of West Coast Fisheries
12 Consultants. I work with a number of commercial and
13 recreational fisheries up and down the West Coast and in
14 particular in California.

15 It bears noting that when considering impacts to
16 commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and fishery
17 resources, we necessarily have to incorporate potential
18 impacts to marine biological resources, as covered by Jenn
19 Eckerle's presentation earlier, which I do very much
20 appreciate. I appreciated the scope and the content of
21 both Jen and Rachel's presentations and comments.

22 Specific to fisheries impacts, and as Rachel
23 noted, there will be both direct and indirect impacts.

24 I think direct impacts in terms of displacement
25 for offshore wind facilities given the current technology

1 contemplates inter-array cables suspended in the water
2 column, functionally barring non-surface fishing
3 activities.

4 Indirect impacts are less tangible at this point,
5 given the sheer amount of unknowns. As you heard earlier,
6 concerns with sound and how that may change migratory
7 patterns of marine mammals and how that may in turn impact
8 fixed-gear fisheries, Dungeness crab in particular. And we
9 also heard that, you know, research on noise and other
10 aspects of offshore wind energy, electromagnetic fields,
11 for example, and impacts on sand encrustations, et cetera,
12 remains lacking.

13 It bears noting too that impacts to fishing
14 operations will necessarily result in downstream impact to
15 fishing dependent businesses, whether that's buyers,
16 processors, restaurants, tackle shop, bait providers, and
17 result in exporting our fishing effort to nations with less
18 restrictive fishery management regulations in order to
19 satisfy our domestic demand. Studies have shown that
20 exporting a fishing effort, i.e. the transfer effect, will
21 result in net biodiversity loss, as bycatch fishing
22 practices, et cetera, are less stringent abroad.

23 Given the sheer number of unknowns and the
24 severity thereof, the Strategic Plan when it's finalized
25 should support using the five current leases as a means to

1 gather actual data to support informed decision-making
2 based on observed data rather than modeled information. I
3 note this will not thwart meeting the state's 2045 planning
4 goals should it be deemed environmental responsible to
5 continue to do so.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Muted, sorry about that.

8 Thanks, Mike.

9 Let's move on to Wayne Kotow.

10 I will reset the timer here and you should be
11 allowed to talk. Opening your line, please unmute on your
12 end, spell your name for the record, state any affiliation,
13 and begin your comment. We're asking comments to be three
14 minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

15 you may begin.

16 MR. KOTOW: Hi this is Wayne Kotow, K-O-T-O-W,
17 with Coastal Conservation Association of California
18 representing the recreational angling community.

19 The piece that we seem to be missing in the
20 fisheries management part is, you can judge and you can
21 manage the commercial side, and you can measure the impact
22 to the fleet based on landings and sails and effort, but on
23 the rec community side, it's not that easy. It's very
24 broad. It's based on local access. It's based on weather.
25 It's based on tourism. And those impacts are not as easily

1 measurable. So these impacts that we're going to go
2 through now, a lot of them brought up by Jenn, are going to
3 change what happens out there.

4 We have been very, very vigilant on fisheries
5 management to improve our environment, our fisheries, our
6 biodiversity and our biomass that's on the water. We have
7 very, very healthy fisheries offshore right now. If you
8 didn't believe that, look outside at how much wildlife is
9 out there. We have whales, we have the birds, we have
10 mammals. It is very plentiful.

11 This is going to change all of that. And we're
12 not sure anybody has an answer to what the impacts are
13 going to be and how we're going to now mitigate that. What
14 happens when you change the environment to a worse
15 environment, and the fisheries change and they move? How
16 do you mitigate that for the rest of us that have been
17 working so hard on fisheries management efforts? It's so
18 scary for us because, between that and the impacts with the
19 coastal communities that were suffering right now, the
20 impact of the industrialization of our harbors and arenas,
21 and now all of this on top of it, we're not sure how we're
22 going to survive, and that's what's scary to us. I don't
23 know the answer to it and I'm not sure anybody has been
24 able to come up with answer, but we really need to talk
25 this through because this is going to impact -- we're like

1 a \$34 billion industry to California. How can you just
2 walk away from that, you know? It's very frustrating to
3 us. We're like 2.1 million anglers.

4 So yeah. Anything you can do to help us clarify
5 some of these answers would be appreciated.

6 MR. BASTIDA: Right. Thanks, Wayne.

7 Let's go on to Tom Hafer. I will open your line.
8 Please unmute on your end, spell your name for the record,
9 state any affiliation, and begin your comment. We're
10 asking for comments to be three minutes or less. There'll
11 be a timer on the screen, and you should be allowed to talk
12 now.

13 MR. HAFER: You got me?

14 MR. BASTIDA: I've got you.

15 MR. HAFER: Okay. Yeah, it was -- the last guy
16 said 35 billion. It's 45 billion we heard from this
17 meeting. It's a lot of money.

18 Public comments. The 7c working group, I
19 appreciate the guys that are on there, you know, they're
20 working hard. They're trying to get something figured out.
21 We had something figured out here in Morro Bay, but the
22 wind companies blew us off. We had it all figured out, but
23 of course they want to do it themselves, or something.

24 But, you know, the 7c working group. What are
25 they meeting? Like, every quarter, to have meetings and

1 they're all super structured, so really you don't get that
2 much time to talk on certain subjects? Yeah, they have
3 some sub working groups that the guys are in. I mean, I
4 don't know how much is getting done there.

5 But whatever they do in the 7c working group
6 needs to be voted on by every fisherman that's going to be
7 affected, whatever they come up with. Because we're
8 involved just as much as, you know, everybody that's making
9 these decisions in the 7c working group, it needs to be
10 voted on.

11 Impacts. Don't even start me on impacts.
12 There's so many impacts, it would take me two hours to name
13 them all.

14 Morro Bay, we have a lot of fog in the summer,
15 all summer long. I don't know if these guys are going to
16 be working at night, in the fog, doing their surveys or
17 whatever they're going to do, flying the little submarines
18 around, or dragging an array behind their vessels, pounding
19 the bottom, displacing us from fishing in front of the
20 cable lane.

21 If I want to fish where those guys are laying
22 cables, if I want to fish, you know, coon-stripe or crab or
23 something like that, and I got to move my gear out of the
24 way, that's an impact. That should cost them. If I have
25 to make any kind of moves at all that I can't fish in this

1 area because they're going to be doing cable work in that
2 area, that's an impact.

3 There's just hundreds of them that we don't even
4 realize that's going to happen to us. We're going to have
5 ships out in the ocean. We're not used to having big ships
6 in the ocean like that, you know, it's like we're going to
7 have to call them and ask them which way we can go, how
8 fast we can go. It's just going to be a nightmare for the
9 fishermen.

10 I don't know why when I hear this there's not
11 going to be any impact of fishing, that is just a lunacy.
12 It's going to cause tons of impacts to all of us. It's
13 going to impact the fish, it's going to impact the whales.
14 I mean, good thing they're not doing any site surveys right
15 now, because there's hundreds of gray whales going up the
16 beach. And this happens, you know, a couple months out of
17 the year, then the humpbacks start coming up the line.

18 So, I mean, I don't know, they're going to have
19 some observers on the boat, but they only see like two
20 percent of the whales that are really in in the water, so.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Thanks, Tom. I'm going
22 to have to mute you there. It's got to be on the flip
23 side.

24 We have more comments, general comments at the
25 end. I just want to make sure we get to everybody here.

1 Larry Phillips, American Sports Fishing
2 Association. I'm opening your line, please unmute on your
3 end, spell your name for the record, state any affiliation
4 other than that, and begin your comment. We're asking for
5 comments to be three minutes or less. There'll be a timer
6 on the screen.

7 You may begin now.

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Hey. Thank you. Larry Phillips,
9 American Sport Fishing Association. I cover policy for the
10 West Coast. We're a trade organization for the
11 recreational fishing industry.

12 So appreciate the opportunity here to provide a
13 few comments. I'll submit a position statement that we
14 have as well that we've been sharing both on the East Coast
15 and the Gulf Coast.

16 The process is just happening very fast. And I
17 think that is a real challenge for, I think, a lot of us.
18 And, you know, it's, as Wayne put it, we have about 2.1
19 million recreational anglers. It's about six and a half,
20 six or so billion economic benefit just from recreational
21 fishing. And there's really no industry or group that has
22 the potential to be more impacted by offshore wind than
23 recreational fishers off the coast.

24 We're struggling nationally to get a, really, a
25 seat at the table. And primarily when I say that, I mean,

1 we don't -- there's really uncertainty in terms of how much
2 impact there will be, because we don't know how many angler
3 traps are happening where offshore. And that's a really a
4 critical part of the planning process, particularly when
5 comes to trying to mitigate for the impacts of offshore
6 wind.

7 You know, I was on a call earlier today with
8 Washington's governor's office on the same exact issue, and
9 they asked us, what do we recommend to change in terms of
10 meaningful engagement? And I didn't really have a good
11 answer for them, other than the onus doesn't fall on our
12 industry. The onus falls on the regulatory process that's
13 moving this forward in terms of identifying the impact, and
14 we respectfully ask that the resources be allocated to
15 better understand what displacement would look like and
16 where and how that process should happen. Again, it might
17 be a combination of BOEM and NOAA and the states, but
18 that's a main concern. Obviously we have a variety of
19 environmental concerns that we're looking at as well.

20 One of the things we've heard from the start was
21 some of the organization's agencies use the commercial or
22 the charter industry as a proxy for recreational fishing,
23 and it just doesn't line up well with the recreational
24 user. These are smaller, sometimes faster boats. They're
25 day trips. They're just different. And we respectfully

1 hope that we can find some opportunity for meaningful
2 engagement in that platform, and look forward to working
3 together on this.

4 Thanks for the time.

5 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Larry. Alright, moving on.

6 I see Mike also has his hand up here. Mike, I'm
7 opening your line. Please unmute on your end, spell your
8 name for the record, state any affiliation, and then begin
9 your comment. We're again asking comments to be three
10 minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

11 You should be able to open your line now.

12 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Can you hear me okay?

13 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

14 MR. OKONIEWSKI: For the record, Mike Okoniewski,
15 West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group. Last name, O-K-O-N-
16 I-E-W-S-K-I.

17 That's a K, not a -- well, I don't know.

18 Anyway, I just wanted to mention one aspect that
19 a lot of people don't realize is that the life cycle of
20 many fish, commercial fish in particular, they're spent
21 going up and down the coast and spotting.

22 Like for Pacific hake, I'll use as an example,
23 takes place in California waters. The young fish, young of
24 the year, it's not known how long they stay in California
25 waters, but they move their way up. Eventually, a lot of

1 them end up even in Canada, where there's a treaty to
2 govern the allocation to both nations. And then the adults
3 will come back down as they get to a spawning age, which is
4 usually around three and a half or four years old.

5 Sardines follow a similar pattern, much more so
6 when they're in abundance, which they are not right now,
7 but seem to be coming back.

8 And then salmon are another one that come out of
9 your California rivers and turn north, or at least the
10 Chinook, as far as I know, and there may be some that
11 don't, but there's quite a bit of that migration type of
12 travel that goes on. And if there's wind turbines and
13 direct, you know, directly in the way, or there's
14 electronic or electricity going through the water and
15 stuff, all that's been talked about is what effects it
16 might have.

17 The last one is Dungeness crab. I didn't this
18 until recently, but the larvae go offshore in certain
19 currents, become what they call megalops or young
20 juveniles, and then they usually travel south a couple
21 hundred miles to find estuaries.

22 So these young-aged fish are what, you know,
23 supports the population growth for fisheries later on. And
24 as far as I know, I haven't heard anything about ocean
25 transport, is what they call it, from these fish that do

1 this cycling from a young age to an older age. That's
2 something that should be taken into consideration somewhere
3 down the line in our analysis, and I think right now you
4 could call it a data gap.

5 So, thank you.

6 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks Mike.

7 Alright. Let's move on.

8 I see Steve here has his hand up as well. Steve,
9 I'm opening up your line. Please unmute on your end, spell
10 your name for the record, state any affiliation, and begin
11 your comment. We're asking for comments to be three
12 minutes or less. I'll reset it here.

13 You should be able to talk now. Go ahead.

14 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: Thank you.

15 Can you hear me?

16 MR. BASTIDA: Yep. We can hear you.

17 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: Thank you. My name is Steve
18 Scheiblaue. Last name is spelled S-C-H-E-I-B-L-A-U-E-R.
19 I serve as a consultant to the Alliance of Communities for
20 Sustainable Fisheries, which is a regional central coast
21 area 50(c)(3), and includes fishing associations in Morro
22 Bay and Port St. Louis close to that wind energy area.

23 Yeah. Several just brief points. First, I
24 appreciate all the work that staff did in putting together
25 the fisheries part of this report. I want to draw

1 attention to the fact that the Alliance put together a list
2 of about 45 direct and indirect impacts from offshore wind
3 to fisheries that has been sent once already to the Energy
4 Commission, and it will be sent again. So, it provides a
5 little more detail than the 525 report.

6 I want to mention also by way of illustration,
7 just adding a little bit more detail, to the question of
8 disruption of the long-standing stock assessment surveys
9 that will occur from the energy areas. It will displace
10 those surveys. These are run by NOAA fisheries primarily,
11 and these are long-standing scientific surveys where they
12 use a scientific method by going to the same areas year
13 after year. They accumulate data from those areas.

14 They can't be easily displaced without upsetting
15 the data sets. And what happens now when those data sets
16 are disrupted is it creates uncertainty in the scientific
17 process that sets the allocations for the quotas for a
18 number of seafood species. And so, when uncertainty
19 happens, then the managers get precautionary and they'll
20 lower the quotas. And so this is yet another impact, you
21 know, from offshore wind by lowering the quotas of what
22 fishermen can fish for.

23 But there's further consequences because when the
24 quotas are lowered, then the limited entry permits that
25 these fishermen hold that can be quite valuable, then the

1 value of those permits gets reduced because the ability to
2 catch fish is lowered. And those permits oftentimes
3 represent a major portion of fishermen's retirement assets
4 when they retire. So you can see this cascading effect of
5 offshore wind from this one example.

6 And I will close by just offering support for
7 Mike Conroy's statement about the all the uncertainties
8 that are in this, and the need to really provide a lot of
9 scientific monitoring on these first five leases. I'll add
10 that I don't believe that BOEM should move forward, or the
11 state should allow BOEM to move forward, with new leases
12 until that information is at hand. Otherwise adaptive
13 management will never occur. Once the machines are in
14 place, you're really not going to be moving them or
15 changing them. And so you have to acquire some information
16 to apply to the next projects.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks Steve for those comments.

19 I see Donald here also has his hand up. Donald,
20 I am going to open your line. Please unmute on your end,
21 spell your name for the record, state in the affiliation,
22 and begin your comment. We're asking for comments to be
23 three minutes or less. There'll be a timer on screen.

24 You may begin now.

25 MR. PIERCE: Yeah. Donald W. Pierce with the

1 Salinan Tribe, born and raised in Morro Bay.

2 I had a question on behalf of the fishermen.
3 Correct me if I'm wrong, but these measurement buoys that
4 they're going to be putting out up and down, I know that
5 the fishermen are required to have a tracking device,
6 because I have a friend of mine who got a huge ticket for
7 having one, and they're quite expensive. And at the time
8 the windmills and everything go down or whatever, they're
9 going to leave those buoys out there. They asked for
10 permission to leave those out there. Now, is that how
11 they're going to monitor the fishermen, the local
12 fishermen?

13 And my second part is, foreign fisheries and
14 longliners, are they going to be held the same standard as
15 our local fishermen? And maybe that's a lame question.

16 But anyways, I'm done.

17 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for your comments. We'll
18 look into those questions right now. We're not answering
19 questions right this minute, but thank you for those
20 comments.

21 I see one more question -- or one more hand up
22 here. I'm going to unmute. It's for Mike.

23 Mike, I'm opening your line. Please unmute on
24 your end, spell your name for the record, state any
25 affiliation, and begin your comment. We are asking for

1 comments to be three minutes or less. There'll be a timer
2 on the screen.

3 You should be able to unmute yourself now, Mike.

4 MR. COHEN: Can you hear me?

5 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

6 MR. COHEN: My name is Michael Cohen. That's
7 last name Cohen, C-O-H-E-N. I'm a commercial fisherman
8 here in California, HAVE been my whole life.

9 I just want to say there's going to be many
10 adverse effects that commercial fishing, fishing
11 communities with offshore wind. I mean, just the
12 displacement creates a huge domino effect. any time we
13 close a fishery, close an area, it puts a lot of pressure
14 on other areas and creates a huge mess. So just
15 displacement alone is a huge impact.

16 But I'm not going to get into all the impacts
17 because, like Tom Hafer said, there's too many to list
18 right now. But I do want to say that it's highly
19 irresponsible of us in California to spend billions of
20 hard-earned taxpayer money on what is essentially an
21 experiment that we don't fully understand the effects to
22 our future fisheries, fish, marine mammals, and coastal
23 communities. If we're going to spend billions of dollars
24 to industrialize the ocean, we better make darn sure it's
25 worth it and realistic and does minimal or zero harm to

1 existing life and ways of life. If we don't, all we're
2 doing is spending billions of dollars to create more harm
3 than good.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Mike.

6 Alright. I'm not seeing any more callers right
7 now.

8 Rachel, back to you.

9 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Jack. And thank you,
10 commenters and members from the fishing community.

11 I do recall from our in-persons and webinars that
12 many of you were in work gear or actually calling from your
13 boats. So I thank you for being here and taking time from
14 your day. I'll also encourage you to file comments on the
15 dockets. I can help you with that if you need. Please
16 feel free to reach out.

17 And next, we'll start with the presentation from
18 on ports and waterfront facilities with the State Lands
19 Commission, Amy Vierra.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. VIERRA: Hi, thank you.

22 Yeah. My name is Amy Vierra, and I'm with the
23 California State Lands Commission, and I wanted to thank
24 the CEC for inviting me to provide the overview of Chapter
25 6, which is on ports and waterfront infrastructure.

1 And I just want to take a moment to remind
2 everybody that, you know, most of the morning we've been
3 talking about Chapter 4, which is impacts. We're now kind
4 of turning to a different part of the report, which has a
5 different flavor, as I think you'll see.

6 If you could go forward two slides, please.

7 Thank you.

8 Sorry, could you go back one?

9 Oh, I'm missing a slide, I guess. Apologies.

10 So, could you go forward one?

11 Okay, something happened to my slide deck.

12 So first a little bit of background. As part of
13 the multi-agency effort to develop the AB 525 Strategic
14 Plan, we commissioned the consulting firm Moffatt & Nichol
15 to produce two reports, and my slide had images of these
16 two reports, but they're on the State Lands Commission
17 website, or you can contact me, and I can help you find
18 them. And these reports form the basis of Chapter 6.

19 Both of the reports that the state lands
20 commission commissioned were tasked to leave no stone
21 unturned to aid the state's decision-makers. The first
22 report we released, which is called the Alternative Port
23 Assessment Study, identifies potential locations for new
24 ports to support the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area. The
25 report found that while it may be feasible to develop a new

1 port in Central California, it would require more
2 investment, pose greater environmental impacts, and have
3 longer development schedules compared to leveraging
4 existing ports.

5 The latter report is known as the Port Readiness
6 Plan. It analyzed technical and engineering capacities and
7 requirements for existing ports to support the state's 2045
8 goal of 25 gigawatts. It answers the question of how much
9 space does California need, how many ports do we need, and
10 where could they be located?

11 It's important to be very clear that neither of
12 the two reports, nor Chapter 6, is a proposal or a plan to
13 pursue any of the potential sites that were evaluated.
14 Port plans, proposals, and developments would be carried
15 out by port operators and port jurisdictions. And I'd be
16 remiss if I did not thank the Moffatt & Nichol team,
17 particularly Matt Trowbridge and Jen Lim, for their hard
18 work on these two reports.

19 Okay. So, let's get into the content of Chapter
20 6. So, it describes three main port types required for
21 offshore wind development. And that includes staging and
22 integration, manufacturing and fabrication, and operation
23 and maintenance. And if you can just take a look at that
24 image of a fully assembled wind turbine against the Golden
25 Gate Bridge, obviously an artistic rendering, we're going

1 to come back to that in a second.

2 Next slide, please.

3 Oh, my slides just got moved around. Okay.

4 Next slide, please.

5 Okay. So, staging and integration is the final
6 step in the manufacturing process to assemble the full
7 turbine system on a floating platform being towed out to
8 the wind energy area. It requires a large amount of upland
9 space to receive, stage, and store components for final
10 turbine assembly on a heavy-lift wharf. Since the turbine
11 is fully assembled at the staging and integration site, the
12 locations cannot have overhead space restrictions such as
13 bridges or overhead power lines that may hinder the upright
14 turbine from being towed out to sea. That was the point of
15 that image in the last slide. The turbines require more
16 than 1,100 feet of air draft, and they also need sufficient
17 water depth to move.

18 The staging and integration sites are the most
19 critical sites to identify and develop because only a few
20 port sites within the state have the key characteristics to
21 support offshore wind, and the state will need
22 approximately three to five of these types of sites. Our
23 cumulative studies found that the Port of Humboldt, Port of
24 Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach are likely appropriate
25 sites, and at the bottom of the slide is an artistic

1 rendering of the Port of Long Beach's Pier Wind Project.
2 And I also inserted a link to a two-minute video, which I
3 found to be really helpful, and then on the right is the
4 schematic of the heavy lift terminal being proposed in
5 Humboldt Bay.

6 Next slide, please.

7 So, manufacturing and fabrication sites, they
8 receive the raw materials via road, rail, or waterborne
9 transport and create larger components in the offshore wind
10 supply chain for eventual transport to the staging and
11 integration site. At a certain point in the supply chain,
12 the components get so big that they can't be transported by
13 rail. So, manufacturing fabrication sites need to be
14 located on a waterway and they need a pretty sturdy wharf,
15 6,000 pounds per square foot.

16 This type of site typically involves a factory or
17 warehouse buildings and space for storage of completed
18 components, and it needs about 30 to 100 acres of space.
19 Now these, in contrast to staging and integration, these
20 don't have to be located in California or close to the wind
21 farms, but if California wants to reap the economic
22 benefit, it is incentivized to create a supply chain of
23 manufacturing facilities.

24 Next slide, please.

25 Okay. Moving on to the last type of port, an

1 operation and maintenance site is basically a support
2 facility for the wind farm. It will require warehouses and
3 offices, spare part storage, and a marine facility to
4 support maintenance vessels during the operational period
5 of the wind farm. These sites are smaller than the two
6 that I already discussed. They only need about two to ten
7 acres, and the most important attribute is that they be
8 close to the wind farm.

9 Next slide, please.

10 Okay. So, some of the conclusions from the Port
11 Readiness Plan, which are reiterated in Chapter 6, are
12 these three points and what's depicted in the map here.
13 So, first of all, California needs a multi-port strategy,
14 or said differently no one port can serve all the needs of
15 the offshore wind industry. Staging and integration sites
16 need to be available for industry use by 2028 to meet the
17 state's 2030 goal, and as it stands today this is going to
18 be challenging. To meet our planning goals, an investment
19 of approximately 11 to 12 billion will be needed to upgrade
20 existing port infrastructure. And the state's approach to
21 incentivize investment in local content and job creation
22 will significantly impact manufacturing investments into
23 ports.

24 The diagram, or, I'm sorry. The map illustrates
25 how the ports investigated in this report measure up to the

1 stated criteria. So, each port listed here as you can see
2 has three hexagons right next to it, and that represents
3 the three port types that I just went over. The color of
4 the hexagon represents the degree to which that port is a
5 good candidate for that activity. So green, meaning it's a
6 good candidate; yellow, moderate; and red is just not a
7 good fit. So, for example a port may not be a good staging
8 and integration site, maybe because of those overhead
9 restrictions, but it could be a great site for
10 manufacturing fabrication or operation and maintenance.

11 Next slide, please.

12 Okay. So here are the recommendations from
13 Chapter 6, and the first is that the state should continue
14 to support a port development and readiness framework, and
15 to do so thinking about the entire West Coast and about
16 supply chain issues. Second, the state should continue to
17 collaborate with ports, tribal governments, underserved
18 communities, and other stakeholders to understand the
19 unique challenges and opportunities of each port. And
20 finally, to continue to engage with various entities to
21 support local supply chain development.

22 Next slide, please.

23 So, thank you for the opportunity to present
24 today. Feel free to reach out to me at the contact
25 information listed here, and I will turn it over for public

1 comment.

2 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Thank you for that.

3 Is there anybody in the auditorium that wishes to
4 make comments?

5 MS. HUBER: Yes, we have a comment.

6 MS. CROLL: Hello again. This is Molly Croll, C-
7 R-O-L-L, with American Clean Power Association.

8 Thank you for the presentation. The State Land
9 Use Commission Port Readiness Report is a really useful
10 resource, has great analysis. As Amy said the plan isn't a
11 proposal to move forward with any specific project plan but
12 it did conclude pretty clearly that staging and integration
13 ports are the most critical port type in need of urgent
14 funding.

15 So having turned over every stone in the report,
16 it at least points pretty clearly to the Port of Humboldt
17 and the Port of Long Beach as being the best candidates,
18 and those two ports have stepped forward in beginning their
19 CEQA processes. So, I'd like to see the final plan
20 incorporate more specifically those conclusions from the
21 Port Readiness Plan pointing to Port of Humboldt and Port
22 of Long Beach as the best first locations for staging and
23 integration terminals. Totally agree that it's a multi-
24 port strategy that we'll need, but without staging
25 integration ports there is no offshore wind industry, so

1 supporting them is supporting the multi-port strategy.
2 They start, everything else follows. The draft plan also
3 concludes with a recommendation to continue to engage and
4 collaborate and support on various aspects of port
5 readiness, but we would also like to see a specific
6 recommendation on the development of a multi-source funding
7 strategy for the staging and integration ports.

8 So, thank you very much for that.

9 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Thank you.

10 I think we have some more in-person comments.
11 Please approach the podium, spell your name for the record,
12 state any affiliation, and you may begin when you're ready.

13 MR. JACOBSON: Thank you very much. My name is
14 Dan Jacobson, J-A-C-O-B-S-O-N, Senior Advisor for
15 Environment California.

16 First, I just want to take a moment to thank
17 everyone who worked on this report. This is really
18 important for the work that we're going to do.

19 I think we all see a number of things that have
20 to happen here. We're all pressed by the climate change
21 crises that is upon us and realize that we have to take
22 action now in order to stave off the even worse impacts of
23 climate change that are coming, and I appreciate the
24 tensions that we're all feeling right now, saying we have
25 to do two things. We have to create this clean energy and

1 move us to 100 percent. And at the same time, we have to
2 protect and preserve the biodiversity that we have. And
3 those two things are not easy, and this report points that
4 out, and it's going to take a lot of work for us going
5 forward, and I think these kind of opportunities where we
6 have workshops where we can gather, listen to the comments,
7 and figure out the best way to move forward are going to be
8 really important. So, thank you all for that. And I know
9 there's a lot more people who aren't in here, so I extend
10 my thanks to that.

11 Specifically with the ports, there's a couple
12 things I want to focus on. One is we're seeing some of the
13 plans coming out of Humboldt and coming out of Long Beach
14 to make sure that the ports are clean or green ports. And
15 I can't emphasize how important that that is.
16 Historically, ports have been one of the most polluting
17 areas that we've seen for communities. Air pollution that
18 comes from both the ships that are coming into the ports,
19 the drayage trucks and other infrastructure that exists in
20 the ports, and then the trucks that move the goods in and
21 out from the ports through the communities often create a
22 very dangerous air quality, and that needs to be addressed.
23 And if we're going to move to 100 percent clean energy,
24 let's make sure that the ports that we're building can
25 really help to get us there as well.

1 And within that, I really want to make sure that
2 the ports are taking advantage of clean energy and looking
3 for opportunities in which to partner. So obvious things
4 is, you know, there's more than just offshore wind, but
5 there might be opportunities for offshore wave or offshore
6 tidal, and we just make sure that we're including that in
7 so there's no obscure reason that we would just say it has
8 to be offshore wind.

9 But the second is that ports oftentimes are
10 places where there's large open spaces that are perfect for
11 solar and for storage. Can we look at this for the
12 development of some of the microgrids that we need here in
13 in the state? Because the communities that we're talking
14 about oftentimes don't have access to those open spaces.

15 Third is there is money in the budget right now
16 that has to get moved out for some of the ports in order to
17 do some of the studies that are going to be so important.
18 So, anyone who's listening, if there's money that we can do
19 to move the \$45 million up and out, that's going to be
20 critical, and we would encourage people to do that.
21 There's also legislation that's been introduced by
22 Assemblymember Rick Zbur, AB 2208, that looks at the
23 opportunity of using a bond in which to help fund some of
24 this. You pointed out that we're going to need \$11 to \$12
25 billion. You know, that's just a lot of money. And then

1 the question is, where do we get that from. Well, it's
2 going to have to be a lot of different resources, like
3 Molly Croll was saying. But one thing that we might want
4 to take advantage of is a climate bond.

5 And I'm out of time. So, I'll say thank you and
6 reserve my comments for later.

7 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

8 Please approach the podium, spell your name for
9 the record, state any affiliation, and you may begin.

10 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Great, thank you.

11 Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Oceantic Network. I'm
12 the Senior Director of Policy and Outreach. And the
13 Oceantic Network, we are a national nonprofit with more
14 than 550 member companies across the supply chain, as well
15 as labor and worker organizations, ports, academic
16 institutions, and others. I'll just take a personal point
17 of privilege and say, I hope you will think about coming to
18 our upcoming International Partnering Forum, where you will
19 have 4,000 people focusing on many of the opportunities and
20 challenges we must all address for the full build out of
21 our offshore wind farms in the United States and beyond,
22 really.

23 And I want to open today emphasizing that through
24 an ongoing federal, state, local, and tribal process, we
25 have gotten to the point we are at today, which is that the

1 state is striving to work collaboratively with all
2 partners, and there are many, because a strong renewable
3 energy sector in California needs floating offshore wind.
4 And I want to thank everyone that has worked so hard on
5 this plan and the draft, and we look forward to making some
6 written comments as well and focusing our attention on the
7 value -- the value proposition that floating offshore wind
8 has for the West Coast, particularly for California.

9 It's a new industry, and there's a lot of
10 opportunity connected to the fact that the state has
11 identified this long-term planning goal of 25 gigawatts,
12 because we focus our attention on the supply chain and on
13 the build-out of the ports. And I think many of you know
14 that we recently had a summit here where we brought
15 together great minds and tried to think about some of the
16 immediate challenges. And one thing that we are doing to
17 work more closely with all of you is we've created a West
18 Coast Supplier Council as a way to provide an ongoing forum
19 where you will have key suppliers that have worked either
20 in a US or in an international global wind farm development
21 and have a lot of experience.

22 So we know the West Coast is at this critical
23 stage, and we look forward to partnering much more with all
24 of you on these issues, while also recognizing that, as our
25 report piggybacked on your reports from last fall, the

1 build out intelligently and greenly, but with state support
2 of the ports, is also going to be very necessary.

3 Thank you so much. I'll have more comments
4 later.

5 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you, Nancy.

6 How do you spell your last name? The court
7 reporter had a question on that.

8 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: K-I-R -- I'm sorry.

9 MS. HUBER: K-I-R-S-H-N-E-R dash Rodriguez.

10 MR. BASTIDA: Okay. Thank you.

11 Alright. Are there any more comments?

12 MS. HUBER: That is all from the auditorium,
13 Jack.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

16 Alright, we will move on to comments online, to
17 Zoom. We're seeing no other raised hands in the room.
18 We'll transition to the Zoom attendees. If you're joining
19 us via Zoom online or by phone, please let us know you'd
20 like to make a comment by using the raise hand feature. I
21 already see a lot of hands up, so we won't waste any more
22 time. If you're calling in, you can press star nine to
23 raise your hand.

24 Matt Simmons, I see you. I'm going to open your
25 line. Please unmute on your end, spell your name for the

1 record, state any affiliation, and begin your comments.
2 We're asking for comments to be three minutes or less.
3 There'll be a timer on the screen.

4 You may begin, Matt.

5 MR. SIMMONS: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone.
6 Matt Simmons, M-A-T-T S-I-M-M-O-N-S. I'm with the
7 Environmental Protection Information Center and I'm
8 actually calling in from Humboldt Bay. I can walk to
9 Humboldt Bay from where I am calling.

10 So, EPIC supports responsible development of
11 offshore wind in an offshore wind terminal in Humboldt Bay.
12 And for us, responsible development, one piece of that is
13 ensuring, you know, a green terminal. Dan Jacobson did a
14 really good job of laying this out. And ensuring that new
15 development for offshore wind is done in an environmentally
16 and carbon-friendly way.

17 Luckily, the Humboldt Bay Harbor District has
18 already passed a resolution committing to a green terminal
19 for Humboldt Bay, but they're going to need support in
20 order to achieve that goal. You know, it's often a larger
21 upfront cost to build a, you know, brand-new electric
22 machine rather than relying on an old. We're also going to
23 need investments in transmission lines out to the Samoa
24 Peninsula in order to power all these electric machines for
25 our ports. And so, all of this is stuff that I think AB

1 525 and the strategy report should be considering. The
2 California Energy Commission has about \$45 million in money
3 for grants for developing ports for offshore wind that is
4 currently not going out to ports. And I'd like to see that
5 money start going out and all of these processes start to
6 happen so that we can develop our offshore wind industry
7 responsibly from day one.

8 The only other thing I'll say is that, you know,
9 staging and integration is one piece of this, but we want
10 to make sure that all of our ports are being developed
11 responsibly. but staging integration sort of is the most
12 crucial part and so it makes sense to focus on Humboldt,
13 Long Beach, and these other SNI ports for early
14 development.

15 Alright. Thank you.

16 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Matt.

17 Alright. Wayne, I see you have your hand up as
18 well. Wayne, I will open your line. Please unmute on your
19 end, spell your name for the record, state any affiliation
20 and begin your comment. We're asking for comments to be
21 three minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen,
22 and you should be able to talk now.

23 MR. KOTOW: Hi, Wayne Kotow, K-O-T-O-W, with
24 Coastal Conservation Association of California. Thanks for
25 allowing me to speak again.

1 This is going to be all new construction,
2 manufacturing facilities, transportation, vessels. We are
3 planning for the future. This is about the future. We are
4 hoping that you will drive the standards of the future on
5 this project. Everything should be designed as green.
6 Right now, our ports, our harbors, are being regulated by
7 CARB, which I have not seen as part of one of the
8 consulting groups, but they're forcing everybody in the
9 harbor craft to go green with technology that doesn't even
10 exist right now, so we're negotiating with them.

11 But if this is going to be new construction and
12 new vessels and new processes, then it should already be
13 set to the standard of the future. Drive it forward with
14 this project and show us that it can be done. Don't use
15 old technology with bunker fuel on vessels and that kind of
16 thing. So that's what we're looking for.

17 I mean, I guess that term clean and green was
18 used earlier. This should be applied to this process.

19 We're curious where the environmental impacts to
20 these new waterfront facilities and ports are going to
21 happen, because that doesn't just happen overnight, and
22 we're not sure the timing of all of that. So, we're
23 looking forward to hearing where that's going to happen and
24 how that's going to happen.

25 So as long as we can get to the standards that

1 you guys are trying to get to for the future and drive
2 towards it, you know, we're going to be playing along.

3 So, thank you.

4 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks Wayne.

5 Alright. Moving on to Julia. I see you have
6 your hands up. I'm opening your line. Please unmute on
7 your end, spell your name for the record.

8 Did I just lose you?

9 Oh, there you are. Yeah. Julia, you can --

10 MS. CHUN-HEER: Sorry, that was a mistake. I
11 sorry about that.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Okay, no problem. I thought you
13 your hand was up, but maybe not.

14 Okay, we'll move on here. Dan Chia, I see you're
15 up. I'm going to open your line, unmute on your end, spell
16 your name for the record, state any affiliation, and begin
17 your comment. We are asking for comments to be three
18 minutes or less. There will be a timer on the screen.

19 You should be able to unmute now.

20 MR. CHIA: Thanks so much. Dan Chia, C-H-I-A
21 with Omni Government Relations, representing the Port of
22 Long Beach. Really appreciate the opportunity to speak to
23 you all today.

24 The Port of Long Beach looks forward to
25 continuing working with the Energy Commission and staff,

1 and extreme kudos to everyone involved in the development
2 of this 525 report on implementing the findings of the
3 report, and is willing and able to support the state in any
4 way in the creation of a roadmap of key actions or, as the
5 report states, a development and readiness framework that
6 must be taken in order to fully launch an offshore wind
7 industry in California.

8 As stated in the report and mentioned today by
9 many other commenters, staging and integration is the most
10 crucial to develop first, as there are few locations with
11 the capabilities that meet the requirements for the
12 offshore wind industry. With the assistance from local,
13 state, and federal governments, a whole-of-government
14 approach, the Port of Long Beach stands at the ready to
15 assist the state in meeting its offshore wind energy goals
16 through the creation of pure wind, what we call a 400-acre
17 staging and integration facility.

18 We strongly recommend the state complete this
19 roadmap of key actions, including a financing or funding
20 plan, as mentioned by Molly with ACP, to advance the
21 sustainable energy source for the state and to do so in a
22 timely manner.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. BASTIDA: Alright. Thanks, Dan.

25 Tom, I see you have your hand up. Tom, I am

1 opening your line. Please unmute on your end, spell your
2 name for the record, state any affiliation and begin your
3 comments. We are asking promise to be three minutes or
4 less. There'll be a timer on your screen.

5 You may begin now.

6 MS. HAFER: Hi, do you have me? This is actually
7 Sheri. Sheri Hafer, S-H-E-R-I, Hafer, H-A-F-E-R.

8 And so, I want to just start off with, California
9 is not amenable to offshore wind development. We don't
10 have the long inlets like Europe does right by the wind
11 farms. So, we're going to have to spend \$12 billion to
12 make these ports. Even then, the ports are going to be
13 over 250 miles away. And we were told by an offshore wind
14 developer that it's not really feasible to tow them that
15 far. It's going to be very, very difficult, very time
16 consuming, and not feasible to really do the operation and
17 maintenance from that far away.

18 And so, the boats that are 250 plus feet long,
19 the SOVs that are going to be required for this
20 maintenance, they're going to have to have close reports if
21 anything for an emergency. And so that means that the
22 tourist towns of Morro Bay and Avila are going to be forced
23 into being industrialized eventually, if this goes forward.

24 And a lot of the people don't want that. They're
25 tourist towns, there's a lot of environmentally sensitive

1 areas, there's a lot of whale migration, bird migration, a
2 lot of people don't want industrialization there.

3 Okay. So, the other thing is, I hope people are
4 aware of the Coastal Act Section 30234, which says
5 facilities serving commercial fishing and recreational
6 boating industries shall be protected and where feasible,
7 upgraded. Existing commercial fishing and recreational
8 boating harbor space shall not be reduced unless adequate
9 substitute space has been provided. So, there's laws
10 protecting commercial recreational fishing dock space, and
11 that has to be realized before anybody moves on in.

12 And then one final comment -- and also there's no
13 funding for the existing docks. We've been trying to get
14 ours repaired now for a while since the big storms and we
15 still haven't got funding. So, I don't know how they're
16 going to build new ones without -- but anyways, a final
17 comment.

18 BOEM in their final environmental impact said
19 that there will be -- this is quote unquote -- BOEM
20 anticipates that the proposed action would have no
21 measurable influence on climate change. So, it seems like
22 a lot of money and trouble and environmental hazard for
23 nothing.

24 Thank you. That's it.

25 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for your comments.

1 Cathie, I see you have your hands up. Cathie,
2 open your line, please unmute on your end, spell your name
3 for the record, state any affiliation, and begin your
4 comment. We're asking for comments to be three minutes or
5 less. There is a timer on the screen.

6 You may begin.

7 MS. BUCHANAN: Cathie Buchanan, C-A-T-H-I-E, B as
8 in boy, U-C-H-A-N-A-N, with Bear River Band. I'm the
9 Environmental and National Resources Director here in
10 Loleta, California.

11 So, I just want to make sure that people
12 understand where the money is coming from. So, the \$10
13 billion so far, or the \$12 billion, that's our tax dollars.
14 And our tax dollars are going to pay for capital costs. So
15 anytime somebody leases land, the landowner becomes
16 responsible for the infrastructure, which is why it's our
17 tax dollars that will be paying for the capital costs for
18 the infrastructure. It's all coming out of our pocket.

19 Now, so because it's our tax dollars, is it going
20 to be a public utility? No, it's not going to be a public
21 utility.

22 Why? Most likely, the reason why is because all
23 the companies that are being advertised to you by Oceantic,
24 that lady who stood up, they're all privately owned
25 companies or they're private companies, and I bet you

1 already know for a fact that a few of them at least are
2 traded on the stock market. So, I just want you to know
3 that the money that we are putting into it, our tax
4 dollars, are going to private corporations that are traded
5 on the stock market. Okay? That's the first fact.

6 The bond that has been discussed. So, on the
7 East Coast, a lot of the -- seems like the offshore
8 facilities are going bankrupt. And California wants to
9 raise money using a bond. A bond, normally you buy it, you
10 wait a few years, it comes to maturity, and then you can
11 cash it in. Well, if we lose money on it, how's the state
12 of California going to cover the cost of the bond? And
13 they want a billion dollars for this bond measure, okay?

14 So -- and then people are talking about Long
15 Beach. How many people have actually been to the Long
16 Beach port? It is massive. It is huge. So, to change the
17 Long Beach port, it's already existing. So, it'd be very
18 easy to change it -- easier, let me say that -- rather than
19 Humboldt Bay. Because our port in Humboldt Bay, pretty
20 much non-existent compared to the Long Beach cranes that
21 are already there. I mean, there's -- I lost count of how
22 many large cranes are out there for the port. So, we're
23 going to have to start from scratch here at Humboldt Bay.

24 And what nobody is talking about is the
25 disturbance of the contaminated sediments that have been

1 sitting in the Bay Area for a long period of time
2 undisturbed. So, when those contaminants do get disturbed
3 in the fine sediments and become resuspended into our water
4 column, where we have oysters, clams, a lot of birds that
5 eat those too, and they've become bio-accumulators of those
6 toxins, well guess who's going to get a heavy dose of those
7 toxins, too? When you eat them, it becomes transferred to
8 humans. They're not talking about that, either.

9 So, when the lease is finally, you know, when all
10 the infrastructure is there, that means that the landowner
11 pays for maintenance and repairs, and it's going to be done
12 again through tax dollars.

13 I just want people to be aware of that.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

16 Alright. Mike, I see you have your hand up as
17 well. Mike, I'm opening your line. Please unmute on your
18 end. State your affiliation and begin your comment.

19 MR. COHEN: Can you hear me?

20 MR. BASTIDA: Yep.

21 MR. COHEN: Alright. This is Michael Cohen
22 again. My last name is C-O-H-E-N.

23 I wanted to comment because if someone says that
24 we need offshore wind, that means onshore wind farms work
25 extremely well. And in turn, that means we don't need

1 offshore wind. So, if onshore wind farms work so well,
2 they should keep building them on land where they can be
3 built and maintained much easier and cheaper. If they
4 don't work so well, then they don't belong the ocean
5 either. Bottom line is they have no business being
6 offshored no matter what the case.

7 With only \$11 or \$12 billion that needs to be
8 spent on port infrastructure, that money can be spent much
9 more wisely with much less impact for much better results
10 elsewhere. Like the gentleman earlier explained about the
11 solar panels on the aqueduct, that seems a lot more
12 feasible and smart to the average Joe with a lot less
13 money.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Mike.

16 Alright. Moving on.

17 Lucia, I see you have your hand up. I am going
18 to -- oops, I accidentally hit the wrong button there. I
19 will allow you to talk. I'm opening your line. Please
20 unmute on your end, spell the name for the record, state
21 any affiliation, and begin your comment. We are asking for
22 comments to be three minutes or less. There'll be a timer
23 on the screen.

24 You may begin.

25 MS. MARQUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Lucia

1 Marquez, L-U-C-I-A M-A-R-Q-U-E-Z, with CAUSE, the Central
2 Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, based in
3 the Central Coast. Yeah. Really excited to be here.

4 You know, although offshore wind, as it's been
5 talking about, has a major capacity to produce clean,
6 renewable energy and reliability for our state, which we
7 absolutely need. We think it's important to uplift the
8 concerns that the activities needed to undertake to create
9 wind turbines will be powered by fossil fuels which will
10 only increase the cumulative impacts in communities living
11 near ports. CAUSE, we organize near Oxnard and near the
12 port of Hueneme, so we understand what it's like to be a
13 port side community and the impacts to our air quality, and
14 so that's the perspective that we're coming from.

15 Preparing for offshore wind and staging and integration
16 facilities may force more portside communities to breathe
17 more air pollution, and you can look at any mapping tool
18 and it tells you that communities living near ports
19 experience some of the highest levels of burden possible
20 and breathe some of the dirtiest air in our state.

21 The CEC needs to ensure that port adjacent
22 communities are not disproportionately burdened by
23 construction of port expansion projects, which will be
24 extremely significant, especially in communities in L.A.,
25 Long Beach, and Humboldt Bay, but also for the

1 manufacturing, fabrication, staging, operations, and
2 maintenance. It's vital that the CEC require 100 percent
3 use of zero-emission vehicles, equipment, adequate charging
4 stations, shore-side power for all offshore wind
5 operations. Zero-emission mandates for offshore wind
6 energy projects will help accelerate the much-needed
7 transition to zero emission port and operations.

8 And, you know, the Port of Hueneme was listed as
9 one of the ports for maintenance and operations, and they
10 recently lost their shoreside power. If that port is going
11 to be looked at as a site for maintenance operation, we
12 need to ensure that they have shoreside power, so ships are
13 not idling that are serving the turbines.

14 We also need to remediate waterfront facilities
15 within legacy pollution areas to prevent further
16 industrialization of our coast before workers can commence
17 on offshore-related operations. We need to expand clean
18 energy port infrastructure, and that includes all of the
19 infrastructure needed for these projects to be 100 percent
20 zero-emission, and because portside communities experience
21 some of the biggest impacts, we really need to prioritize
22 air monitoring, soil and toxic runoff from truck pollution,
23 and to track pollution levels during all of the staging
24 integration, but also manufacturing, fabrication, et
25 cetera.

1 Thank you so much. That's all my comments.

2 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for that.

3 Ted, I see your hand up as well. I'm opening
4 your line. Please unmute on your end, spell your name for
5 the record, state any affiliation, and begin your comment.
6 We're asking comments to be three minutes or less.
7 There'll be a time on the screen.

8 You may begin.

9 MR. KEY: Thank you very much. Ted Key from
10 Cambria again. I keep listening to the comments and I
11 just, I'm flummoxed by the idea that we have unlimited time
12 to do all of this work on waterfront facilities and all
13 this construction. We don't have time for this nonsense.
14 We need to get started now. And once again, I say, you
15 know, solar is a great way to get going, run it over the
16 aqueduct system.

17 So, listen, you want -- they want to put a
18 battery center in Morro Bay where the stacks are. I can't
19 think of anything more stupid than to put a lithium battery
20 center in at sea level.

21 I've also noticed that they want to put some kind
22 of a boat servicing area in right where the otters live.
23 It's nuts. It's absolutely nuts. Now, listen, one of the
24 things that's important to recognize, if you look over in
25 England, what's the problem that they're having over there?

1 If the wind blows too hard, they have to shut their
2 turbines down. If they're all running, they have to shut
3 them down, because the grid can't take all that much
4 energy.

5 So, this is just inefficient, it's expensive, the
6 money can be spent in better ways and spent better right
7 now on American jobs with American laborers. If that's
8 what the Biden administration is all about, let's put
9 Americans to work. Let's put them to work now. We don't
10 have time for this.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for that.

13 Alright. Alright, moving on we have Donald
14 Pierce. I'm going to unmute you on your end, spell your
15 name for the record state any affiliation, and you may
16 begin your comments.

17 MR. PIERCE: Yeah. Can you hear me?

18 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

19 MR. PIERCE; Alright, Donald W. Pierce, Salinan
20 Tribe Council Chair, I want you guys to consider something.
21 Beloved La Samoa, aka The Rock. Consider it like multiple
22 Native American cultures' church. And it's bad enough that
23 when PG&E came in there and dug everything up -- you can
24 study them at all the universities, all of our ancestors --
25 we kind of, you know, oh boy, that's bad, but kind of just

1 worked itself up, I guess. Whatever you want to say.

2 But now, we're going to slam a bunch of lithium-
3 ion batteries right on top, making all of our ancestors'
4 headstones lithium-ion batteries. It's awesome. And I'm
5 not saying it just because you picked a location. You
6 picked the absolute worst location possible. And yet
7 that's never a comment. Never a, hey, we realize what
8 we're doing, maybe we could come together and figure out a
9 different plan. Nothing. Silence on this.

10 I think that's something that all of the Native
11 American groups can come to a consensus on, that this is a
12 bad idea. Especially just -- it's almost like salt in the
13 wound, especially with the over-taxing (unclear of wording)
14 that's required on new construction. And God knows what
15 goes into lithium-ion battery storage, and if there's a
16 fire and the synthetic cobalts that are released and all
17 that. Whatever.

18 But you're on our ancestors, man. Maybe that's a
19 conversation we can have sometime.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

22 Alright. Next is Steve. I see Steve's hand up.
23 I'm going to open your line. Please unmute on your end,
24 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation and
25 begin your comment. We're asking comments to be three

1 minutes or less. There will be a timer on the screen.

2 You should be able to talk now.

3 Yes. Thank you.

4 MR. SCHEIBLAUER: My name is Steve Scheiblauder.

5 Last name is S-C-H-E-I-B-L-A-U-E-R. I'm speaking for
6 myself, also in part as a former resident of Arcata.

7 First of all, I want to say that I support the
8 report's conclusions about the Port of Long Beach and LA in
9 terms of being appropriate sites. They are already
10 industrial ports.

11 And I also support the report's conclusion that
12 the problems with trying to create a port in Diablo area
13 just simply far outweigh any benefit that might occur from
14 that.

15 I guess I'm going to throw a little bit of cold
16 water on the Humboldt project, though. I think a plus with
17 that project is the obvious closeness and proximity to the
18 wind energy area, but from there, I see just a giant list
19 of problems with developing a industrial port in that area.

20 And that includes, and starting out with, there's
21 a transportation issue. You've got Highway 101 through
22 Redwoods, you know, to get materials and components to that
23 area.

24 Then you go to dredging. I've heard the number
25 of 13 million cubic yards of material to be dredged to get

1 to some of the very deep areas that will be required. And
2 the question goes, you know, where does those spoils go,
3 and what's in the spoils? I recall, you know, major paper
4 mills producing dioxin, among other things in that area.
5 And so, you have that big question.

6 And then with the deepening of the channel will
7 come most assuredly increased scour throughout that great
8 estuary. And that estuary is home to massive fields of
9 eelgrass, a fauna that is already protected specifically by
10 California state law. And so, the erosion that occurs with
11 that scour is going to be very detrimental to that
12 eelgrass. Eelgrass is also a major nursery species for all
13 kinds of fisheries and other sea life.

14 Then you have housing question in the area. You
15 know, you're going to have an influx of other workers,
16 without doubt, skilled workers in the area. There's
17 already a housing crisis in that area, and so it will drive
18 up the cost of housing for rentals, along with just making
19 more housing less available, and higher rental costs will
20 affect everybody who lives in that area, especially the
21 lower income workers.

22 Then you have of course obvious disruptions to
23 commercial fishing operations, displacement of some
24 facilities, and, you know, the fact that these floaters
25 that would be launched there are something like over 400

1 feet in diameter. And the channel in some areas of that is
2 less than 500 feet in width. And so that will really
3 disrupt any other navigation of boats, all kinds of boats
4 going through the channel area.

5 So, these are just some of the areas where I
6 think that the Humboldt area has got just a lot of
7 problems, and maybe an example where we gotta watch out for
8 the principle of in trying to solve one problem, we create
9 a set of other problems that are big problems.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

12 Alright. We have one more hand I see here.
13 Jane, I'm going to open your line. Please unmute when
14 you're in. Spell your name for the record, state any
15 affiliation, and begin your comment. We're asking comments
16 to be three minutes or less. There will be a timer on your
17 screen.

18 You may begin.

19 MS. ROSCHEN: Hey. Thank you.

20 My name is Jane Roschen, R-O-S-C-H-E-N. I'm not
21 affiliated with this comment, but I am a young professional
22 working in energy policy.

23 I would like to just say that, you know, in
24 Humboldt and in Morro Bay, there were some new ports that
25 planned on -- will completely re-envision the town in both

1 places, and with such re-envisioning, community buy-in
2 cannot be qualified through just one public meeting or one
3 sit-down with fisher people or tribal leaders. It means
4 that the re-envisioning of the town will come through ports
5 and potential industrialization.

6 The companies that have stake in the creation of
7 these ports and of offshore wind farms have to support more
8 workforce housing, affordable housing, local workforce
9 development, and there has to be community benefit
10 agreements, you know, developments that create some skin in
11 the game, not just talk. And I think it's the role of the
12 CEC and other state and federal partners to really create
13 an active platform for communities, whether that's through
14 local governments or community-based organizations, to
15 actually, you know, garner benefit through this legally and
16 procedurally, not just through conversation. And these
17 agreements, you know, they have to make sure that the
18 existing economies of the communities, including small
19 businesses and tourism, are not taken away.

20 Specifically, to Morro Bay, I would like to just
21 stress the consideration of the Chumash Marine Sanctuary
22 and emphasize consideration for operations and maintenance
23 ports permitting through the proper channels that would
24 protect ecological sensitivity and cultural significance in
25 Morro Bay and the ecosystem through the Chumash Marine

1 Sanctuary. I think it was mentioned before, there are
2 pathways to making this work while still protecting the
3 ecological sensitivity and significance of the area through
4 a marine sanctuary.

5 I would also just like to mention, you know, that
6 changes to communities because of the ports and waterfront
7 facilities could create uncertainty in the net impact of,
8 you know, in the net climate impact of windstorms. We
9 can't say what impact the offshore wind will have on
10 mitigating climate change in in terms of bringing renewable
11 power to the electricity grid without considering the net
12 change of greenhouse gas emissions from all these other
13 impacts, and it's been discussed widely today that, you
14 know, these impacts are unknown, not only in terms of
15 biological impacts of the farms and the subsea transmission
16 systems, but all the, you know, impacts that could occur
17 from the three types of ports studied in this report. And
18 in areas where these ports are being built from the ground
19 up, there are highly uncertain environmental, economic, and
20 social impacts that could ultimately influence activities
21 that are producing greenhouse gas emissions one way or
22 another.

23 The last thing I would just like to say is that
24 the Long Beach Port is highly equipped to create a port
25 that meets standards we are setting up for the future as

1 brought up, you know, accurately brought up before. And
2 Long Beach should be a leader in this space and integrate,
3 you know, a green port for offshore wind into all other
4 initiatives of Long Beach, including their port
5 sustainability and also thoughtful strategic public design
6 and interaction with public spaces and communities
7 surrounding the port.

8 So that concludes my comments and thank you all
9 very much for all of your listening, and through AB 525.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Jane.

12 Alright. I see one more just popped up as well.
13 Adam, I'm going to open your line. Please unmute on your
14 end, spell the name for the record, any affiliation and
15 begin your comment. We're asking for comments to be three
16 minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

17 You may begin.

18 MR. CANTER: Greetings. I'm Adam Canter, A-D-A-M
19 C-A-N-T-E-R, and I'm the Natural Resources Director for the
20 Wiyot tribe up here on the Wigi, which is the Wiyot place
21 name for Humboldt Bay.

22 And, you know, I could echo a lot of the concerns
23 and comments that my fellow tribal folk have made today.
24 But I just thought since we're talking about ports in the
25 water facilities, just to make clear how close proximity

1 the Humboldt port would be to Tuluwat, which is the Wiyot
2 center of the universe.

3 You know, Humboldt Bay is a very small bay that
4 presently doesn't experience much vessel traffic. The
5 fishing and the mariculture, the shellfish industry, and
6 the cultural importance of shell fishing and fishing in
7 this part of the Bay is immense. We have people -- it's
8 part of the culture. So, there's major concerns about just
9 how increased vessel traffic, dredging, and acoustics from
10 the port. Everyone knows how well sound travels across
11 water. One of the largest rookeries for night herons and
12 egrets occurs on the island, as well as the Wiyot World
13 Renewal Ceremony, where the Wiyot tribe dance against the
14 world back into peace. So, I can't imagine that these
15 activities won't be impacted from the project.

16 But I heard many other folks bring up, you know,
17 due to the legacy of timber production and milling on
18 Humboldt Bay. We know that a lot of our sediments are
19 contaminated with dioxins and PCBs, and coarse eelgrass and
20 migratory birds like brant -- you know, there's one of the
21 major brant grit site occurs right in the Samoa Channel
22 near where the Redwood Terminal is.

23 And also concern over the wet storage areas where
24 turbines are going to be stored floating in the channel.

25 And when you combine these large floating

1 turbines and this dock expansion and increased vessel
2 traffic, I think that it poses a lot of threats for both
3 invasive species to be brought into the bay, thereby
4 further impacting the shellfish industry, cultural
5 resources, and potentially contributing to increased
6 erosion to Tuluwat from these structures and increase
7 vessel traffic, along with the lighting from the terminal.

8 And just hope you consider all these potential
9 impacts.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Adam.

12 Alright. I'm not seeing anybody else with their
13 hand up right now.

14 That was good. That was good.

15 Rachel, back to you.

16 MS. MACDONALD: Thank you, Jack. Thank you, Amy.

17 And commenters, thank you. Very articulate
18 comments.

19 And thank you, Amy, for your presentation. My
20 apologies for the mistake with your slide order. That was
21 me trying to arrange the master deck, and I will fix that.

22 Now we have our last presentation on workforce
23 development with the Energy Commission's Lizzie Barminski.

24 MS. BARMINSKI: Thank you, Rachel.

25 Good afternoon. I'm Lizzie Barminski. I serve

1 as the Offshore Wind Federal Programs and Outreach Liaison
2 in the CEC's Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
3 Protection Division and contribute to activities related to
4 ports, workforce, and supply chain. It's my pleasure to
5 share about workforce development and the findings and
6 recommendations from Chapter 7 of the Strategic Plan.

7 Next slide, please.

8 First, we need to review the requirements of the
9 legislation. AB 525 directs the CEC to analyze offshore
10 wind workforce development needs, including occupational
11 safety requirements, the need to require a skilled
12 workforce, and the need to develop curriculum. It also
13 requires the CEC to develop recommendations for workforce
14 standards for offshore wind energy facilities and
15 associated infrastructure, including prevailing wage,
16 apprenticeship, local, and targeted hiring standards that
17 ensure sustained and equitable economic development
18 benefits. AB 525 directs the CEC to coordinate with
19 relevant state and local agencies, tribes, and
20 representatives of key labor organizations, apprenticeship
21 programs, and environmental justice organizations.

22 Next slide, please.

23 In developing the Strategic Plan, the CEC relied
24 on the interim report, the Preliminary Assessment of
25 Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind Related to Seaport

1 Investments and Workforce Development, and two studies, the
2 Analytical Guidance and Benefits Assessment for AB 525
3 Strategic Plan prepared by Catalyst Environmental Solutions
4 and the AB 525 Workforce Development Readiness Plan
5 prepared by Moffatt and Nichol.

6 Next slide, please

7 To assess workforce development needs and
8 benefits, it's important to first understand the kinds of
9 jobs that are likely to be created by offshore wind across
10 the phases of project development. The phases include
11 supply chain and manufacturing of components, construction
12 of components -- for example, the turbine array and export
13 cables and foundations -- and operations and maintenance.
14 The type and number of jobs needed also varies by component
15 type, for example, turbines, nacelles, blades, foundations,
16 transmission cables, and mooring lines. The offshore wind
17 workforce requires a diverse set of skills for each job
18 type.

19 The job types can be grouped into six categories:
20 technicians and trades, construction and assembly, maritime
21 and port workers, engineers, management, and administrative
22 and clerical. The potential economic growth from creating
23 a new and sizable workforce will be extensive.

24 AB 525 recognizes the opportunities that
25 workforce development can provide to tribal and local

1 communities experiencing high unemployment. Investment in
2 offshore wind energy, especially in ports and waterfront
3 facilities, can offer career pathways and workforce
4 training in the clean energy transition.

5 Next slide, please.

6 The workforce for offshore wind is not limited
7 directly to the workers who are installing offshore wind
8 turbines, cables, and offshore substations. There are many
9 other jobs associated with the industry. In the near term,
10 the workforce would include workers needed to upgrade
11 infrastructure across the state, such as port and
12 waterfront facilities and transmission infrastructure.

13 Additionally, the need for secondary and tertiary
14 workers expands to include construction of housing and
15 transportation system upgrades. A skilled, diverse, and
16 well-trained workforce is required to construct offshore
17 wind projects and the related infrastructure.

18 Approximately 66 percent or two-thirds of the
19 offshore wind workforce is centered around the supply chain
20 and manufacturing of key components. It is estimated
21 between 3,400 to 11,000 jobs needed to meet the 2045
22 offshore wind planning goals. Only 11 percent of the total
23 workforce is represented by construction of wind energy
24 components, such as turbines, cables, and foundations,
25 estimated at 200 to 2,500 jobs. The remaining 23 percent

1 of the workforce is responsible for wind farm operations
2 and maintenance, estimated between 1,500 to 4,300 jobs. In
3 total, development of offshore wind over the next 21 years
4 is estimated to require between 5,000 and 18,000 jobs.

5 Next slide, please.

6 Demand for different job types varies in each
7 phase of project development. This infographic from the
8 catalyst assessment shows the distribution of workforce.

9 The majority of skills needed for the near-term
10 workforce are in trades, technicians, and construction.

11 The supply chain and manufacturing phase accounts for the
12 majority of offshore wind jobs. They are likely to be
13 stable, long-lasting, and high-paying jobs estimated to
14 provide work for over 30 years. These jobs can provide
15 significant economic benefits to communities, especially
16 those most historically impacted by the energy industry.

17 Supply chain and manufacturing jobs will be distributed
18 across the state as the supply chain expands, and port
19 facilities are upgraded to manufacture and provide
20 materials, services, and components. These jobs do not
21 require a bachelor's degree, and instead much of the
22 education for this portion of the workforce will be
23 centered on some sort of post-secondary education or
24 training and certification.

25 Next slide, please.

1 A wide range of skillsets and occupational types
2 will be required for the offshore wind workforce. This
3 overlay of the previous graphic presents the distribution
4 of job types as a percentage of the overall workforce.
5 Trade and technicians are expected to be the largest
6 workforce.

7 The six job types are present in all three phases
8 of project development. The job types and their respective
9 skills vary for each of the component products and services
10 required in the design, manufacture, installation, and
11 operation of floating offshore wind. Projects require a
12 specific supply of component projects and services
13 throughout the commercial build-out schedule, which spans
14 from project development consisting of services to support
15 project permitting, surveys, engineering and design, and
16 project management beginning approximately five years prior
17 to the commercial operation date.

18 It encompasses activities related to wind turbine
19 supply, balance of plant supply, and installation and
20 commissioning, which all overlap and are spread out across
21 multiple years, highlighting the consistency in demand for
22 job types across project development phases, and it extends
23 through operations and maintenance for the lifetime of the
24 project, typically 25 plus years. Understanding the timing
25 of workforce demand provides an understanding of the

1 distribution of job types across the project phases and
2 emphasizes the variety of skills needed to supply all the
3 component products and services to the industry.

4 Next slide, please.

5 Offshore wind will support a wide variety of
6 occupations requiring a broad range of skillsets. A
7 workforce with the right skill sets will require training
8 that must be timed to accommodate industry needs for
9 different types of workers. The planning and development
10 of training programs and facilities must align with
11 industry training needs and development timelines to
12 maximize the effectiveness of the available workforce.

13 As shown in the table, jobs require different
14 qualifications which correlate to length of training and
15 education. A readily available workforce includes jobs
16 that require two years or less of training, while a highly
17 skilled workforce requires four or more years of training.

18 Next slide, please.

19 Workforce standards can ensure the creation of
20 high-quality jobs and equity for workers by enacting
21 specific requirements regarding worker job quality and job
22 access. In turn, this supports a successful industry by
23 attracting and developing a skilled workforce. Workforce
24 standards also address worker safety and can help ensure
25 consistent quality of work.

1 You'll see on the slide some examples of the
2 kinds of workforce standards that should be considered for
3 offshore wind, for example prevailing wage, which sets the
4 floor of wages on a project so there's not a race to the
5 bottom for workers, and targeted hiring, which ensures that
6 projects are creating job opportunities for workers that
7 have been underrepresented in these sectors.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Offshore wind occupations differ by type of
10 education, certification, or credentialing. The majority
11 of occupations will require some form of post-secondary
12 education or training. Many of the needed skills -- for
13 example, maritime experience, engineering, and technical
14 skills -- are also transferable from existing industries
15 and trades. Workforce development includes training the
16 existing workforce with transferable skills and recruiting
17 additional workers to meet the demand of the industry.

18 California has a robust education and network of
19 training to support workforce development or port
20 development and offshore wind activities. Existing
21 programs, in particular union apprenticeship programs, can
22 be utilized. Each supply area and job type requires
23 specific training certifications obtained from
24 apprenticeships and vocational training programs.
25 California will need to develop additional curriculum and

1 programs to provide the relevant training and
2 certifications to the workforce.

3 Successful workforce development relies on
4 engagement and support from industry, labor, education, and
5 training institutions, and regulatory and government
6 agencies. Throughout the AB 525 process, the CEC engaged
7 with representatives of key labor organizations and
8 apprenticeship programs to more clearly understand key
9 training needs and opportunities.

10 Many partnership structures exist to connect
11 labor and industry, educational and training institutions,
12 government entities, and the community, including project
13 labor agreements used to outline equitable and local hiring
14 standards and other terms and conditions of the project;
15 community workforce agreements and community benefit
16 agreements, which outline wage requirements, and targeted
17 and local hiring requirements; and the California Workforce
18 Development Board High Road Training Partnership Program,
19 which provides specific training programs that prioritize
20 job quality, equity, and environmental sustainability.

21 Next slide, please.

22 Offshore Wind offers an opportunity to support
23 and create high-quality jobs across a variety of skills and
24 occupations. Workforce development will be critical to
25 train the existing workforce with transferable skills and

1 recruit additional workers to meet the demand of the
2 industry.

3 In summary, the most needed near-term jobs are in
4 trade, technician, and construction. In the long term,
5 most jobs are in the supply chain and manufacturing phase,
6 and a workforce with the right skillset requires
7 specialized training for different types of workers. The
8 existing education and training networks and programs can
9 be leveraged to support workforce development.

10 The Strategic Plan recommends these strategies to
11 support workforce development: identify workforce needs and
12 gaps; establish targeted and equitable hiring standards,
13 fund training and education; and recruit entry-level and
14 experienced workers, including prioritizing prevailing wage
15 and union labor to coordinate to create career
16 opportunities, workforce training, and economic development
17 benefits; and support project labor agreements that provide
18 local and underserved communities and tribes with
19 meaningful economic benefits.

20 Thank you very much. I look forward to your
21 comments.

22 If we have any comments from the room, please
23 raise your hand. Okay, we have, I think, one, two, three.

24 Okay, come on up to that podium on the floor.

25 Chris, you could switch over to that podium,

1 please.

2 MR. BASTIDA: So, spell your name for the record,
3 state any affiliation, and you may begin. We're asking for
4 comments to be three minutes or less. Go ahead.

5 Let's go ahead and start and take some extra
6 time, maybe. Jeremy Smith here on behalf of the State
7 Building and Construction Trades Council of California,
8 J-E-R-E-M-Y S-M-I-T-H.

9 Very pleased to be here today to not only hear,
10 but see workforce standard terms throughout this chapter,
11 such as prevailing wage, apprenticeship programs, local
12 hiring initiatives, targeted hiring standards, project
13 labor agreements, community workforce agreements, community
14 benefits agreements, high-road construction careers and
15 workforce safety. It's not often in reports like this that
16 you hear a lot of those terms that we use as
17 representatives of 450,000 construction workers in
18 California.

19 The CEC and industry have a chance to create
20 high-road careers with a lot of that terminology, careers
21 that pay middle-class wages and benefits, careers that have
22 health care and pensions. This is what the prevailing wage
23 supplies, this is what project labor agreement supplies.

24 And this industry is so needed and can be so big
25 that for a lot of these workers, they could work their

1 entire careers locally where they live on these projects.
2 We hope that is the case, because clearly offshore wind
3 needs to be part of the portfolio of solutions we have to
4 meet the climate change crisis.

5 I just want to pull a few quotes directly out of
6 the report and just say a few words about them.

7 The first one is,

8 "A skilled, diverse, and well-trained workforce is
9 required to construct offshore wind projects and
10 related infrastructure."

11 That is true, but that workforce exists now. And
12 what these projects will allow is for apprentices to be
13 brought into their apprenticeship programs. Apprentices
14 are construction workers. They learn on the job. And we
15 need projects in any part of industry to churn the system,
16 to provide job sites for apprentices to go to work on. And
17 so, the very projects we're contemplating today will solve
18 the workforce needs of the area because it will provide a
19 place for apprentices to journey through their programs.

20 A second quote,

21 "A workforce with the right skill sets will require
22 training that must be timed to accommodate industry
23 needs for different types of workers."

24 This is true, but with project labor agreements,
25 and generally in our industry where we're close with our

1 management with our contractors, we jointly run our
2 apprenticeship programs, developers and contractors tell us
3 what's coming. And our unions and our apprenticeship
4 programs then train six months, a year out for what is
5 needed for whatever the project is.

6 Finally,

7 "California will need to develop additional curriculum
8 and programs to provide relevant of training and
9 certifications to the workforce."

10 California, the state, does not develop the
11 curriculum. They approve the curriculum for state-approved
12 apprenticeship programs, but we develop the curriculum
13 jointly with our management partners. And then we train
14 the workers on that curriculum.

15 I just want to finish with the CEC needs to stand
16 with state workforce development system, continue to stand,
17 keep these buzzwords in the report and the California
18 legislature's priorities of passing regulations and
19 legislation providing for high-road careers by keeping a
20 strong workforce protection and development language in the
21 draft report as it makes its way to being final.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

24 Is there anybody else in person that like make a
25 comment on workforce development?

1 Go ahead and come to the podium, spell your name
2 for the record, state any affiliation, and you may begin.

3 MR. JACOBSON: Thank you very much. My name is
4 Dan Jacobson, J-A-C-O-B-S-O-N, with Environment California.
5 Glad to be back here. I'll keep my comments short because
6 Jeremy Smith has hit upon a lot of the things that were in
7 my notes.

8 What I will add on to what he's saying is there
9 are templates for us to learn from in this particular
10 situation. For instance, on the East Coast, they're doing
11 really important training programs with the National
12 Offshore Wind Institute. That's a center that is doing
13 training to making sure that the workforce not only has the
14 skilled training, but also the safety trainings that we
15 need. A lot of what we're talking about can be very
16 dangerous, and we're going to need to make sure that the
17 workforce is skilled to ensure that they have all of the
18 training that they need.

19 For instance, and I say this without sort of
20 bluster, there is a specific training facility that teaches
21 people how to get out of helicopters in cold water if the
22 helicopter has gone into the and people need to evacuate.
23 You can't imagine, A, how scary that would be, but the
24 specific kind of training that you would need in order to
25 be able to do that.

1 And that's just one example and why training
2 programs are so important and the exact kind of thing that
3 we need to be looking at and building now.

4 And I know I came up here last time and talked
5 about a specific bond for ports in the state of California,
6 but we should also look at if there's an education bond
7 that will go forward in 2024? Are there programs and funds
8 that we can dedicate to ensure that we have the resources
9 to start training this workforce immediately? Because the
10 longer that we wait to train the folks, the worst position
11 that we are in terms of getting this clean energy onto the
12 grid.

13 I'll stop there and, again, say thank you for the
14 report.

15 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you.

16 Any more in-person comments?

17 MS. BARMINSKI: I have one more commenter.

18 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Hello again. Nancy
19 Kirshner-Rodriguez with the Oceanic Network. So, N-A-N-C-
20 Y, and then K-I-R-S-H-N-E-R hyphen R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.

21 And I just want to make brief comments because
22 workforce development is a key part of what we have been
23 thinking about and working on in different ways as the
24 Oceanic Network has grown. And because this is a long lead
25 time renewable resource, as the other speakers have talked

1 about, we have a great opportunity to build out a system.
2 There's a lot to pull from already.

3 We have developed some training. There's an
4 amazing partnership now that the Department of Energy is
5 helping, I believe, to fund with UMass and many other
6 institutions that we can work with. And there are
7 specialized facilities that are being developed for
8 everything from, you know, deep dive training to all of the
9 safety training, as Dan talked about it.

10 And just as a little tidbit, our supply chain
11 database already has close to 600 California companies in
12 it. And we know that there's a lot of future
13 opportunities. So, we're very thrilled to see this
14 analysis and look forward to putting even more meat on the
15 bones of how we can build out future careers for a lot of
16 people in California.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you. No more comments?

19 MS. BARMINSKI: No comment from the auditorium.

20 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you.

21 We will then transition to Zoom attendees. We
22 welcome public comment at this time, focused on the
23 workforce development presentation. Again, we're going to
24 take a ten-minute break after this and have some more
25 general comments, public comments after.

1 But right now, if there's anybody in Zoom who
2 wishes to make comments on workforce development, please
3 raise your hand. Use the raise-hand feature on Zoom. If
4 you're online, you will click that open palm at the bottom
5 of your screen, raise your hand. And if you are joining us
6 by phone, please press star nine to raise your hand.

7 And I see a few people already raising their hand
8 here.

9 Ted, I'm going to open you up. Please unmute on
10 your end, spell your name for the record, state any
11 affiliation. Go ahead.

12 MR. KEY: Ted Key again, spelling is T-E-D K-E-Y.
13 I'm a citizen of Cambria.

14 I'm watching all this and I'm thinking to myself,
15 all these jobs, all this training, all of this is going to
16 be extremely expensive. And so, what you've done here,
17 very carefully, is outlined why the ROI on this investment
18 simply does not exist.

19 So, what I'm saying is, you can put people to
20 work building this solar system that I've talked about over
21 the aqueduct. You can put lots of people to work doing
22 that. You could put lots of people to work working on
23 molten salt thorium reactors to replace the Diablo ones.
24 you're not familiar with molten salt thorium, you need to
25 get familiar with it.

1 This business, I mean, everybody goes, yay, jobs,
2 jobs, jobs. Well, what those jobs represent is outflow of
3 money. So, I asked the guy the other day from Cal Poly who
4 gave a big presentation on this down in Morro Bay, I says,
5 "How many turbine engineers do you need for a solar
6 system?" And his answer was correct, zero.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

9 All right, moving on, Donald, I'm going to open
10 your line now. Let me set the timer. Please unmute
11 yourself, spell your name for the record, state any
12 affiliation, and you can begin your comment. We're asking
13 for three minutes or less. There will be a timer on the
14 screen. You may begin.

15 MR. PIERCE: Donald W. Pierce, D-O-N-A-L-D
16 P-I-E-R-C-E, Salinan Tribe Council chair.

17 You know, I was noticing that there would be a
18 lot of jobs and everything, and I'm just speaking for like
19 the locals right, and then here we go, it's like a carrot
20 stick, we have to join the union. And this comes in
21 conjunction with a state decision to eliminate independent
22 contracting, which is bizarre, but we got to join the
23 union, stripping yet more individualism away.

24 I get the intention. But forcing, you know, not
25 saying that my people wouldn't be willing to join the

1 union, some of them, but I'd probably shy against it. But
2 it just seems a little bit -- I'm done with my comments on
3 it.

4 MR. BASTIDA: All right, Cathie, I see you have
5 your hands up as well. I am going to open your line.
6 Please unmute on your end. State your name for the record
7 again and any affiliation and you may begin your comment.
8 We're asking for comments to be three minutes or less.
9 There's a timer on the screen. You may begin.

10 MS. BUCHANAN: Cathie Buchanan, C-A-T-H-I-E, B as
11 in boy, U-C-H-A-N-A-N, Environmental and Natural Resources
12 Director for Bear River Band here in Lomita, California.
13 And my concerns are they're going to mirror a lot of the
14 people who have just spoken about the jobs.

15 Number one, there is no guarantee that the jobs
16 are going to be local. The jobs are going to -- they're
17 going to bring in. Their specialized people from outside.
18 And then as soon as they do that, then more people from the
19 outside are going to come in here. And with that the
20 housing prices are going to go up. Why? Because the
21 experienced people get paid a heck of a lot more money than
22 the local people here.

23 So if you want to see another, you know, influx
24 of homeless people, this is what's going to happen, because
25 pretty much in every situation that has occurred where you

1 have highly specialized people coming into an area where
2 it's a brand new technology, those people get high
3 salaries, and the new people who are being trained locally,
4 they start off at the bottom rung. Okay, so that is a
5 fact.

6 So now we have our real estate bidding war that
7 goes on here in the state of California. It's no longer
8 market value. It is an auction house. Whoever is the
9 highest bidder gets the property. That's a fact.

10 The other thing is the unions. We are such small
11 communities; we do not have unions here. Pretty much, we
12 have -- I mean, our unions are extremely limited. So right
13 away you are making the bar unachievable for people who
14 don't have, who are not in a union position.

15 That goes right along with, again, now we're
16 going to have more people come in who have unions and who
17 have higher paying jobs. And, of course, they're going to
18 out-compete the locals for housing. It's not a good
19 scenario.

20 So, what programs do you have in place to ensure
21 that the locals will not be detrimentally impacted by the
22 influx of high paid employees from outside the areas?

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

25 All right, I have one more hand here.

1 Melissa, I'm going to open your line. Let me
2 reset the timer here. Please unmute on your end spell your
3 name for the record, state any affiliation and begin your
4 comment. We're asking for comments to be three minutes or
5 less. There will be a timer on the screen. And you may
6 begin.

7 MS. SMITH: Hi, my name is Melissa Smith and I'm
8 just a citizen.

9 I am just commenting about worrying about how
10 long they will take for these wind turbines to pay for
11 themselves. I mean, the construction rate, the expense, is
12 ridiculously high for construction and the commission of
13 these. And from what I'm reading, it's only about two
14 employees per turbine. That's not a real large sustainable
15 amount of jobs. You know, the lifetime of an offshore wind
16 is maybe 30 years. It doesn't sound like it would pay for
17 itself.

18 With everything that's happening with supply
19 chain and inflation, I'm just not sure that, you know, this
20 is going to be good for the local community. And when you
21 compare those costs, the tourism already brings in more
22 money than that. Most of these jobs does not have local
23 involvement.

24 There's a lot less local involvement and the
25 maintenance repairs on these on offshore wind energy is

1 pretty high, but a failure rate of nine percent is not
2 acceptable to me. So, I think we need to look at the
3 failure rate estimates of these wind farms and really
4 compare that to the costs of not only the natural
5 environment, the cost to First Nations and indigenous
6 people who have every right to comment here first, and
7 where the profits of these are going to go. How long is it
8 going to take for these things to pay for themselves? I
9 don't believe that they ever will.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you so much.

12 I'm not seeing any more hands up on Zoom. Are we
13 moving on to other public comments?

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, Jack, let's go ahead and
15 open it up for all public comments. Thanks.

16 MR. BASTIDA: Is there any public comments in the
17 auditorium?

18 MS. BARMINSKI: Hi, Jack and Chris, could you
19 switch to this podium?

20 We have one comment -- Two comments. Anyone
21 else? Okay, great, Two comments. Thank you.

22 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Please approach the podium.
23 Spell your name for the record. State any affiliation and
24 you may begin. We're asking for comments to be three
25 minutes or less. There will be a timer on screen. You can

1 begin when you're ready.

2 MR. STERN: Thank you very much, Jack. I'm Adam
3 Stern, that's S-T-E-R-N. I'm Executive Director of
4 Offshore Wind California, a trade group representing 40
5 companies and organizations in the offshore wind industry.

6 I want to thank the CEC staff and all the other
7 agencies who participated in developing this plan. It's an
8 extraordinary effort and only something that California
9 could do.

10 As we stated in January, the draft plan, as
11 released, was comprehensive. It's exactly what California
12 needs to responsibly develop this renewable energy resource
13 at scale and with speed off the state's coast. Of course,
14 much work remains to refine the details, including how we
15 can fund the necessary investments, but the plan's
16 determination and direction is clear. It's an important
17 milestone that underscores California's commitment to go
18 big on offshore wind and to help meet its ambitious
19 climate, clean energy, and grid reliability goals.

20 For the Golden State, the future and foundations
21 of offshore wind are floating. I had a chance to see for
22 myself, with several others in this room on a recent
23 California delegation trip to the United Kingdom, to view
24 floating offshore wind turbines in action off the coast of
25 Scotland. The sight of these floating turbines was truly

1 amazing, each one generating enough power, clean power, to
2 supply a home for a day with a single turn of a turbine.
3 Seeing is really believing, and it's all the more
4 motivating on the need to responsibly bring this remarkable
5 technology to the waters off California's coast.

6 A few suggestions on ways to strengthen your
7 excellent report.

8 One, as several other people have mentioned
9 during today's comments, I think it would be really helpful
10 to consolidate the benefits that offshore wind offers to
11 the state. And just to highlight a few, the thousands of
12 family wage jobs, the clean power for up to 25 million
13 homes, the chance to deliver reliable clean power when peak
14 demand for electricity is at its highest and help avoid the
15 rolling blackouts that remain a threat in California's
16 grid, the chance to reduce emissions in California for
17 communities that have for too long shouldered environmental
18 burdens, and lastly to do our part to help reduce climate
19 change impacts.

20 Secondly, I think it would be very helpful to
21 have a section, if possible, that would highlight the mix
22 of federal, state, and private funding that's going to be
23 necessary to get this industry launched. And one specific
24 opportunity that several others, including Dan Jacobson,
25 have mentioned is AB 2208, the Climate Bond that would

1 include a section for \$1 billion of funding for port
2 infrastructure investments to support offshore wind.
3 That's supported by a coalition of labor, environmental
4 groups, and industry.

5 It would be a very powerful market signal to all
6 of those in this industry that California is ready to move
7 forward. And while we certainly have a challenging budget
8 environment, this kind of commitment, if supported by the
9 legislature and approved by the voters, would make an
10 enormous difference in moving ahead.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

13 And let me just take a moment here and update my
14 slides. I see I'm still on the workforce development
15 slides. I'm going to update to the general comment period
16 slide. And --

17 MS. BARMINSKI: Another in-person speaker.

18 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Go ahead.

19 MS. RADER: Okay. Good afternoon. Again, Nancy
20 Rader with the California Wind Energy Association, that's
21 R-A-D-E-R.

22 Given the limited time, I'll just say kudos on
23 the wealth of information in the report and all of your
24 work. And I'd just like to highlight two areas that I
25 think deserve more attention.

1 First, the draft report briefly states that
2 offshore wind is important in terms of resource diversity
3 benefits and briefly mentions the associated reliability
4 benefits. But as, Adam mentioned, it doesn't really
5 elaborate much on what those reliability benefits are. For
6 example, how critically important a reliable supply of
7 electricity will be to human health as temperatures rise.

8 These and many other critical benefits of
9 resource diversity were discussed in a June 22 workshop
10 earlier in this process, where we heard from GridLab and
11 the UC Berkeley Goldman School, but I didn't find
12 discussion of those benefits in the report.

13 The UC Berkeley study showed that adding 50
14 gigawatts of offshore wind to the portfolio would reduce
15 the total amount of capacity needed by 60 gigawatts.
16 CalWEA recently used the PUC's RESOLVE model to evaluate
17 the addition of a more modest amount of offshore wind to
18 the PUC's adopted preferred system plan, and we found that
19 adding eight gigawatts of offshore wind reduced the overall
20 size of the portfolio by about the same amount.

21 So, think about that. By adding offshore wind to
22 the portfolio, we would completely avoid the need to build
23 gigawatts worth of other types of capacity that would
24 otherwise need to be built. That's a form of conservation
25 that avoids a considerable amount of land use and all the

1 related impacts, raw materials, landfill requirements,
2 supply chain risks, and transmission needs.

3 The second point relates to the proposed CADEMO
4 project in state waters, which could be online several
5 years prior to the federal projects. As I noted this
6 morning, we are pleased to see the draft report discussed
7 the workforce development benefits associated with that
8 project. But the report really misses the other important
9 strategic benefits of this project, all of which will help
10 facilitate the state's offshore wind goals.

11 As I mentioned this morning, CADEMO signed an
12 unprecedented community benefits agreement with the San
13 Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

14 CADEMO has also signed the first project labor
15 agreement in California's offshore wind industry, another
16 critical step in delivering the high road jobs that were
17 just discussed.

18 CADEMO has signed a mitigation agreement with the
19 U.S. Defense Department to allow CADEMO's turbines to
20 operate in proximity to the military and space launch
21 activity on Vandenberg Space Force Base, which will reduce
22 the friction between offshore wind industry and military
23 and commercial space companies in other areas on the
24 Central Coast.

25 And finally, the CADEMO project will be heavily

1 monitored and studied for impacts and will be able to offer
2 real-world lessons learned on the monitoring and mitigation
3 techniques that will provide real evidence on the ability
4 to avoid and mitigate impacts that will be directly
5 relevant to the CEQA and NEPA studies for the federal
6 projects.

7 So, we urge you to add a discussion of the
8 resource diversity benefits of offshore wind and each of
9 the numerous important benefits of the CADEMO project in
10 the final report.

11 Thanks very much.

12 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

13 I see we have one more in-person comment. Go
14 ahead.

15 MS. CROLL: Yes. Thank you. Molly Croll, again,
16 that's C-R-O-L-L, with American Clean Power Association.

17 I want to thank the CEC for leading a
18 groundbreaking effort in the development of the Strategic
19 Plan through analysis of the potential of offshore wind
20 energy, defining the state's offshore wind energy goals,
21 considering the challenges and policy support necessary to
22 achieve those goals, and coordinating across state
23 agencies. In developing and passing AB 525, the
24 legislature clearly identified the Energy Commission as the
25 agency to sort of be the strategic lead on offshore wind,

1 and we hope that the state will continue to uplift the CEC
2 in that role to lead a whole-of-government approach for
3 offshore wind.

4 While the draft Strategic Plan includes robust
5 analysis and thoughtful consideration, we would like to see
6 the final plan provide more detail on the recommendations
7 in the plan to make sure it's actionable. Each
8 recommendation, we would like to see identification of who
9 is responsible, the time frame for action, and the relevant
10 existing policy or regulatory venues for action or
11 progress. In our written comments, we'll provide more
12 detailed suggestions including additional recommendations
13 we'd like to see.

14 I also just wanted to respond to a couple of
15 themes from public comment today.

16 One, the question about why does it have to be
17 offshore wind? Why can't it be something else? I don't
18 think the state at all is saying that the industry of
19 offshore wind is the technology for California and its
20 clean energy future. We're just saying that needs to be a
21 part of it, and it's a pretty small part, maybe 15 percent.
22 But we need to be building a 150 gigawatts of new clean
23 energy resources over the next 20 years, and that means a
24 lot of solar, a lot of batteries, a lot of land-based wind,
25 a lot of other types of technology. But including land-

1 based resources and offshore wind resources and a diverse
2 supply of them will allow us to diversify where we're
3 building, which means we can make the best choices that
4 serve both our conservation and clean energy goals across
5 seascapes and landscapes.

6 In addition, diversity in the energy portfolio is
7 necessary for reliability. The reason why offshore wind is
8 important is because it performs really well and is
9 complementary to other resources. It performs a big
10 percentage of the day. It performs at night and in the
11 morning. It performs during the winter. We're going to
12 need all of those things to be able to close down the
13 coastal gas and other resources that we're depending on and
14 want to phase out. We can achieve our clean energy goals,
15 but we need to plan for a diverse reliable portfolio.
16 There is no one magic technology.

17 Second, there was the sentiment of we're moving
18 really fast on offshore wind in California. And while we
19 have been talking about it for the last several years, we
20 are at the beginning still. We've been at the beginning
21 for a while, but we're still at the beginning. These
22 projects are not happening next year or in the next five
23 years. This is a beginning of a decade long process if
24 things are fast; right? So, there will be time to do more
25 science. There will be time to have more stakeholder

1 conversations, many more stakeholder conversations, and
2 incorporate best practice into project design.

3 So, thank you for the opportunity. And thank
4 you, again, to the Energy Commission.

5 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you so much.

6 Are there any more public comments in person
7 before I move on to online comments?

8 MS. BARMINSKI: Thank you, Jack. That's all the
9 comments from the auditorium. Thanks.

10 MR. BASTIDA: Great.

11 If you're joining us via Zoom online or by phone,
12 please let us know if you'd like to make a comment. Use
13 the raise-hand feature on Zoom. If you're online, you can
14 click on the open palm at the bottom of your screen to
15 raise your hand. And if you're joining us by phone, please
16 press star nine to raise your hand.

17 And I'm seeing some hands popping up now.

18 Allyson, I am going to open to your line. Please
19 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
20 any affiliation and then begin your comment. We're asking
21 for comments to be three minutes or less. There's a timer
22 on the screen. And you can begin when you're ready.

23 MS. DALLMANN: Yes. Sorry. Can you hear me?

24 MR. BASTIDA: Yes.

25 MS. DALLMANN: Okay. Hi. Dr. Allyson Dahlman,

1 veterinarian, A-L-L-Y-S-O-N D-A-L-L-M-A-N-N.

2 Implementing this massive project without
3 observational studies, demonstrating short- and long-term
4 hydrodynamic, noise, vibrational, and electrodynamic
5 effects on wildlife and ecosystems well beyond the lease
6 areas would not align with best current science. It will
7 be too late for monitoring and mitigation once projects
8 begin.

9 Some of the wind farm detrimental activities
10 include pile driving, drilling, dredging, increased vessel
11 activity, construction, increased turbidity and
12 resuspension of polluted sediments. Olivia Roseanne wrote,

13 "Installed wind farm studies demonstrate that the
14 impact of the atmospheric disturbance caused by the
15 wind turbines on water below and the building blocks
16 of the marine food web, including nutrients,
17 phytoplankton, and zooplankton, and sediment biomass,
18 had a significant impact on the structuring of marine
19 coastal ecosystems."

20 Duell (phonetic) said,

21 "We need to better understand these impacts quickly
22 and also take them into account in the management of
23 coastal ecosystems."

24 The few remaining estuaries are our nurseries for
25 many ocean animals providing critical habitat for

1 endangered and threatened species. They protect our
2 communities from flooding, improve our water quality and
3 reduce the impacts of climate change by sequestering carbon
4 dioxide. We depend on these positive environmental effects
5 for our own health.

6 I do not believe that you appreciate our
7 biodiversity interdependence. We cannot afford further
8 degradation of our land, water, air, and the species who
9 contribute to maintaining that balance that we humans take
10 for granted.

11 Europe and our own East Coast have suffered and
12 made massive mistakes. Why isn't California learning from
13 them? The National Academies of Sciences and other current
14 best available science and data are vital to acquire
15 unbiased reviews and outcomes.

16 Our coast is fractured. We must protect it. We
17 do not want to be industrialized like so much of the rest
18 of the coast. Our coast is delicate and fractured. We
19 need protection.

20 According to the International Union of
21 Conservation of Nature, the list of endangered species, at
22 least 30 percent of the world's sharks and rays are
23 endangered; 33 percent of coral reefs, 26 of mammals,
24 including marine, and 21 percent of reptiles are threatened
25 with extinction. Many of these species live in oceans and

1 marine environments, but overfishing, habitat loss and
2 degradation, pollution, as well as climate change, have
3 plagued these animals to the brink of extinction.

4 And it is very, very clear, if you look in the
5 other places where the wind farms have been, that there is
6 going to be further degradation, not only of our climate,
7 but also of these species who are doing their best to
8 survive. They deserve our protection and safety and
9 respect.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you for that.

12 I will move on to the next caller. I see Anna
13 raising her hand. I'm going to open your line. Please
14 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
15 any affiliation, and we can begin your comments. We are
16 asking for comments to be three minutes or less. There
17 will be a timer on the screen. And you should be able to
18 begin now.

19 MS. SHEPHERD: Thank you. Good afternoon. My
20 name is Anna Shepard, A-N-N-A S-H-E-P-H-E-R-D, with Navy
21 Region Southwest. Thank you, CEC Commissioners and staff
22 and the coordinating state agency principals for the
23 opportunity to review and comment on the draft Strategic
24 Plan.

25 The Navy is committed to working with the CEC to

1 advise of our offshore military tests and training,
2 homeland defense, and space launch activities that are
3 reliant on the infrastructure, airspace, and tracking
4 systems that make California's offshore irreplaceable to
5 the Navy in support of national defense efforts.

6 We support renewable energy development where it
7 is compatible with military operations. And we did not get
8 the chance to discuss DOD impacts and coordination today in
9 discussion of Chapter 4, but we look forward to working
10 with CEC to further coordinate. We will provide written
11 comments to supplement the draft analysis and discussion of
12 DOD impacts included in the draft Strategic Plan, both
13 onshore and offshore.

14 Again, thank you for the opportunity to
15 coordinate and I look forward to working with you all
16 further. Thank you.

17 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

18 All right, I see Cathie. I'm going to open up
19 your line now. Please unmute on your end, spell your name
20 for the record, state any affiliation, and begin your
21 comment. We're asking for comments to be three minutes or
22 less. I will reset here. There's a timer on the screen,
23 and you should be able to talk now, Cathie. Cathie
24 Buchanan, C-A-T-H-I-E, B as in boy, U-C-H-A-N-A-N, Bear
25 River Band, Environmental and Natural Resources Director.

1 My question is going to Adam Stern. Scotland
2 is -- I just want to point out that Scotland is not the
3 west coast of California and you're comparing apples to
4 oranges. The aquatic life over on Scotland does not come
5 near to the diverse life on the West Coast, so I don't
6 understand why you're using Scotland as an example.

7 And what proof do you have that offshore wind is
8 the absolute best solution versus diversification of better
9 renewable technology that creates an actual distributed
10 power network from the homes? I still haven't seen the
11 reports for that.

12 And then the benefits of diversification for
13 power sources that are locally generated in the communities
14 versus hundreds of miles away devastating our oceans, what
15 are the losses calculated coming from hundreds of miles
16 away from electricity generation?

17 Actually, I do have a friend who lives in France
18 who is a physicist and his comment of the offshore wind
19 facilities that are in Europe is it's nothing but a mess
20 and a money grab. That's all it is because the companies
21 that are involved are traded on the stock market.

22 And then the lady who is up saying that offshore
23 wind performs during daylight, during winter, all this, you
24 know, I'm sorry, but offshore wind, you have to turn those
25 turbines off when it's high winds. And here on the west

1 coast of California, there are plenty of times where we
2 have extremely high winds.

3 And even if you do turn them off, and some of
4 them do accidentally turn, what do they do? They catch on
5 fire, and they can explode, and they fall into the ocean.
6 So, who's going to pay for that cleanup? So, you have
7 thousands of these things now going into the ocean with
8 known devastating fire incidences that have occurred.
9 They're on YouTube. You can go look them up. Are you
10 going to pay for that cleanup?

11 So offshore wind is not green. It's not
12 renewable because of fossil fuels that are needed to
13 manufacture and to get the materials for the turbines. And
14 there is not a clean source of energy because of all of the
15 above.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

18 All right, I'm seeing Melissa is next with her
19 hand up. Oh wait, she left.

20 Okay, let's go to Tom. I see Tom with his hand
21 up and I will open your line. Please unmute on your end,
22 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation and
23 begin your comment. We're asking for three minutes or
24 less. There will be a timer on the screen. You may begin,
25 Tom.

1 MS. HAFER: Hi, sorry, it's Sheri again.

2 MR. BASTIDA: Okay. No problem.

3 MS. HAFER: We share a computer. So, I'm Sheri
4 Hafer, S-H-E-R-I, Hafer, H-A-F-E-R, and I'm with React
5 Alliance.

6 So, I just want to make a comment up front that I
7 think people are living in a fantasy world if they think
8 we're going to completely get off gas. You know, a lot of
9 us like cooking with gas and we like heating with gas.
10 And, you know, what are you going to do about boats and
11 trucks and planes? It's just not realistic. Are we going
12 to have charging stations out in the ocean? I mean, we
13 can't do that. It's just not a real possibility right now,
14 so I just think it's kind of a fantasy.

15 And people saying, oh, it's not going to happen
16 for another five, ten years or whatever, that's not true.
17 They're talking about starting these high resolution
18 geographic surveys this month. Equinor told us they want
19 to start this month doing them, so it's going to be
20 impacting us sooner than later.

21 And then I just want to make a comment about
22 CADEMO. That project, they keep saying, oh it's going to
23 help us learn about offshore, you know, the federal
24 projects, it has no comparison. It's in 250 feet of water.
25 The other ones are in 3,000 feet of water.

1 There's a big problem, we have a big problem with
2 it, the fishing community, because it's going to impact
3 lobster, crab, salmon, halibut, nearshore rockfish, squid,
4 and other fisheries. It's within three miles. It's in
5 prime bird and whale migration pathways. The whales bring
6 their calves up from Mexico right along the coastline
7 there, and it's not going to be safe for them, all that,
8 what's going on.

9 So, I just want to say that, you know, there's a
10 big problem with the CADEMO project and what going to
11 offer.

12 The other thing is, it's close -- it's in where
13 they're doing military maneuvers that are important to our
14 missile defense system. Why would we want to compromise
15 our safety there? You know, you've already heard before
16 that the offshore wind turbines compromise radar. There's
17 lots of artifacts on your radar, so you can't tell whether
18 you're looking at a boat or a wind turbine, and it affects
19 aviation as well. So I think it's very scary to put
20 something right next to Vandenberg that may compromise
21 radar and whatever else they're doing there.

22 So that's the end of my comments. Thank you.

23 MR. BASTIDA: Thank you.

24 I'm going to move on to Laura. Laura, I see you
25 have your hand up. I'm going to open your line. Please

1 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
2 any affiliation, and you can begin your comment. We're
3 asking for comments to be three minutes or less. There's a
4 timer on the screen, and you may begin now.

5 MS. LANE: Great. Thank you. Laura Lane,
6 L-A-U-R-A L-A-N-E, on behalf of the California Association
7 of Port Authorities, or CAPA.

8 So CAPA is a member organization comprised of
9 California's 11 deepwater public ports. Each of these
10 ports is unique, as the draft report notes. There are
11 activities ranging from handling diverse cargo to docking
12 cruise ships. Collectively, the California ports are the
13 most consequential system of ports in the nation, handling
14 approximately 40 percent of all imports and 30 percent of
15 exports, reaching every corner of the country and creating
16 more than 1 million jobs in California.

17 CAPA's ports have the expertise ranging from
18 manufacturing to workforce to infrastructure that will
19 ensure California's success in launching the offshore wind
20 industry. CAPA's ports are connected to their communities,
21 and they are well positioned to be used as hubs for the
22 assembly, handling, and manufacturing of supporting
23 offshore wind.

24 As AB 2525 draft Strategic Plan notes,
25 "Meeting California's ambitious offshore wind goals

1 will require a system of ports and substantial
2 investment in our state's existing port
3 infrastructure."

4 In recent years, our ports have seen historic
5 investment and continued investment will be needed to
6 launch this critical new supply chain.

7 We thank you for the opportunity to respond to
8 the plan. And from Humboldt to San Diego, our ports are
9 excited to play a role in California's offshore wind
10 industry. Our written comments will provide more detailed
11 feedback.

12 Thank you so much.

13 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you, Laura.

14 Mike, I'm going to open up your line. Please
15 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
16 any affiliation, and then begin your comment. We're asking
17 for comments to be three minutes or less. There's a timer
18 on the screen. And you should be able to begin when you
19 unmute.

20 MR. OKONIEWSKI: Again, thank you for the
21 opportunity. And I'm really happy to see the work and
22 everything that's gone into this and that people get a
23 chance to voice their opinions on things.

24 I'm going to -- some people mentioned the East
25 Coast, and it was mentioned about some companies going

1 bankrupt back there. I don't think they actually went
2 bankrupt. I think there were six that breached their
3 contract because they figured they'd lose money, and they
4 paid substantial penalties in the area of \$20 million to
5 \$60 million when they left. But they also went -- the
6 state governors went back to the federal treasury and asked
7 for some more money to get them back into the sway or get
8 somebody else's replacements.

9 I don't know if this was one of the six, but
10 Orsted backed out in New York, I believe. And Orsted is
11 owned 50.1 percent by the Danish government. They backed
12 out and then did not come back in, but there was another
13 company that came in called Equinor, which is pretty well
14 known. I think it's on the West Coast now. But they got a
15 51 percent bump in their power purchasing agreement, and
16 also with a clause in there to adjust to inflation. And so
17 now I'm going from memory, but I believe that was about
18 \$150 a megawatt when it were done. And it came back to me
19 from another meeting, I think about a year ago, I heard
20 from, I believe it was a CEC individual that said they were
21 tasked to get this power produced for \$44.00 a kilowatt.

22 I don't know if these numbers are all correct,
23 absolutely, but I think it puts a lot of speculation on
24 what final costs might be. And I don't think anybody's
25 really looking at it too closely in this rush to get things

1 done. But looking at the East Coast might be a good idea
2 because it could happen again out here.

3 So that will be my final comment for the day and
4 I appreciate it again. Thank you.

5 MR. BASTIDA: Thanks, Mike.

6 Melissa, I'm going to open your line now. Please
7 unmute on your end, spell your name for the record, state
8 any affiliation, and you may begin your comment. We're
9 asking for comments to be three minutes or less. There's a
10 timer on the screen. And you should be able to talk now.

11 MS. SMITH: Sorry about that. Before, I lowered
12 my hand so that -- when you called on me.

13 MR. BASTIDA: Okay.

14 MS. SMITH: I did that just a little bit too
15 soon. Thank you again. I'm Melissa Smith, a citizen.

16 You know, I do want to talk about this. You
17 know, I am not native. I do not live on the Chumash lands
18 or on the sanctuary. I think that's something that should
19 be the very first consideration, that you are living on
20 their lands. You are putting these wind farms on where
21 they traditionally live. And I think we know what was done
22 to them in the history and I do not want to see the history
23 repeated.

24 I did comment, of course, on the work
25 development.

1 But I think one of the big things is, if this is
2 about combating climate change, why are we so focused on
3 the economics of all of this? And why are we pushing it
4 through via the military, which is exempt from a lot of the
5 acts to protect the environment, such as Marine Mammal
6 Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act?

7 You know, the NOAA received 102,782 comments
8 supporting the Chumash Sanctuary. And I think this was
9 snuck in. I don't think it was very transparent or open,
10 although certainly going through the emotions of
11 transparency.

12 I think, you know, that draft management plan
13 just came out in January. And I think that this is going
14 before the final designation documents, which are not
15 supposed to come out until mid-2024, is not the way to
16 conduct business. You know, the campaign before had wide,
17 99 percent public support. And putting these wind farms in
18 right next to the sanctuary, I think just kind of throws it
19 in the face of those who want to see this area protected.

20 It's not so much that I'm against offshore wind
21 energy, but we haven't had the time or the -- you know, we
22 haven't had enough time to record the impacts of this.
23 Right now, I'm working on trying to save the right whale,
24 and that's coming from noise and from traffic.

25 That's not going to be any different here. For

1 them to say that it would be is just untrue. We do not
2 have enough science and outside independent science to make
3 a fair assessment of what this will do, especially right in
4 a sanctuary. And this is not in a place where the ocean --
5 we've already killed the ocean; right? This is one of the
6 last places they're holding on. It's one of the very last
7 places these species are holding on.

8 Listen to our noise. We are noisy. Listen to
9 me. I'm noisy. We are a noisy species. Can we just give
10 wildlife a break, just one time? Can we give them a break
11 away from what humans do and find a different place where
12 the assessment is better? Maybe it's not quite as high,
13 but maybe it's just a little bit better. And ask those
14 communities what they think.

15 I think, you know, again, putting this in through
16 military, through the U.S. Navy as national security is,
17 frankly, ridiculous. And of course, it seems like, geez,
18 you know, what are we going to do about climate change?
19 You know, I don't know either, but I know that there's got
20 to be better places to put these, our wind farms.

21 Put one in my yard. You know, I'm by Chicago.
22 It's Windy City over here. By all means, put them in
23 Downtown Chicago. But I don't think putting them in the
24 very last sanctuary that exists for so many species -- and
25 I'm telling you, biodiversity loss is going to get us long

1 before climate change. When you keep taking cogs out of
2 the wheel, the whole system collapses.

3 So please consider the fact that number one,
4 you're living, we're living on stolen lands, but that's a
5 fact. That is a fact. And then that's where you're
6 sitting now today listening to this. And so, you must
7 consider their perspective first and foremost.

8 Second of all, please consider wildlife and
9 consider the people who have commented here today.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. BASTIDA: Great. Thank you so much for
12 everybody's comments that have made comments today.

13 I'm going to turn it over to Elizabeth Huber.
14 She's the Director of the Siting, Transmission, and
15 Environmental Protection Division in the Energy Commission.

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17
18 MS. BARMINSKI: Thank you, Jack, and thank you for everyone
19 behind the scenes today. This has been a long day, but I
20 think a very productive day. It took us back two years ago
21 when Assemblyman Chiu introduced AB 525 and the work that's
22 been conducted and the meetings and the conversations since
23 then.

24 So, with that, a friendly reminder that we are
25 back in a week and a half on March 29th.

1 And now I have the honor to re-introduce and
2 bring up Chair David Hochschild, who has been our
3 inspiration and our leader here at the CEC and helping us
4 move toward 100 percent clean energy.

5 So, Chair, thank you for closing out today's
6 workshop.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, thank you so much,
8 Elizabeth.

9 And let me just begin by thanking all
10 stakeholders who hung in there, really all day, to provide
11 this valuable feedback and comments.

12 And thank you again to our sister agencies, the
13 Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, Ocean Protection
14 Council, Fish and Wildlife, and others who've been engaged,
15 as well as the local governments and tribes, for all
16 sharing your perspectives and coming together to discuss
17 these important topics.

18 You know, I just wanted to say, I think it might
19 be useful to recap a little bit about what was the origin
20 of the directive from the legislature and the governor to
21 move to 100 percent clean energy. And I think really the
22 premise is we're suffering climate consequences that are
23 totally unprecedented and threaten absolutely every
24 species, threaten the livability of our state and our
25 planet, and that we do have to do the really hard work to

1 decarbonize.

2 If I could snap a finger and go to a zero-impact
3 clean energy resource that would accomplish that, I would
4 do it. The reality is that this is a choice between
5 really, really tough options. And there's actually
6 opposition to terrestrial wind on land, opposition to solar
7 on land, opposition even to geothermal on land. And of
8 course, you know, we heard some of the concerns around
9 offshore wind as well. Every one of these choices are
10 tough and there's pros and cons.

11 But at the end of the day, you know, the position
12 we're in now, we have a state law that requires us to get
13 to 90 percent clean carbon-free electricity, we're at over
14 60 percent today, and to get to 100 percent by 2045, that's
15 the direction of SB 100. And we've also been directed by
16 the governor and the legislature through AB 525 to do
17 offshore wind. And we're trying our best to do it the
18 right way and to attentive to all these concerns, and to
19 get as much good science as quickly as possible and to have
20 a process where everybody has their voice heard and we work
21 through these issues together. The costs of inaction on
22 climate are unacceptable, I think, for all of us. We have
23 to address this issue and we have to find the best path
24 forward.

25 I did want to just highlight, you know, this

1 is -- offshore wind is one element of a much larger
2 strategy. And we are doing really the most aggressive
3 energy storage build out in the world right now with ten
4 gigawatts of energy storage we've built in the last five
5 years, as well as all these other clean energy resources,
6 including new geothermal and new solar and so forth. And
7 so this is one element of a much bigger program to
8 decarbonize.

9 And, you know, concurrent with all this is this
10 transition to electric vehicles. We're at about 25 percent
11 of new vehicle sales being electric, about 1,200 electric
12 vehicles being added a day in California.

13 And I think the other thing just to bear in mind
14 is the communities that are stuck with living proximate to
15 these old gas, fossil fuel-burning power plants,
16 particularly the OTC plants, but so many others. And so
17 that is a voice we've heard loud and clear over a number of
18 years now and trying to support the retirement of those
19 facilities ultimately while supporting grid reliability.

20 That's the line we have to walk in. These are
21 really tough choices. And I just wanted to acknowledge how
22 tough on all those. And there isn't an easy answer and
23 there isn't a pathway that is without impact because, if
24 there were, I would love nothing more than to be able to do
25 that.

1 So let me just, again, thank everybody for
2 sharing their perspective. And this is really, you know,
3 another milestone in what will continue to be a robust
4 dialogue.

5 I especially wanted to thank Elizabeth Huber and
6 her terrific team for running this program today and for
7 all their hard work. And with that, thanks to all
8 for participating and we'll see you soon.

9 MS. BARMINSKI: Thank you, Chair Hochschild, for
10 your closing comments.

11 I'd also, as we end our day, like to thank Jack
12 Bastida online for facilitating all of these comments, as
13 well as Elizabeth Huber and Elizabeth Barminski for
14 handling the auditorium.

15 Thank you all for your attendance, participation,
16 and tribal government and public comments today.

17 Again, as Elizabeth indicated a moment ago, this
18 was workshop one of two. The workshop next week is on
19 March 29th, and it's focused on sea space permitting and
20 transmission. Presentations will be posted to the event
21 page from today, including a Zoom recording from today, and
22 later a professional transcript that takes about a week to
23 prepare and get up. We encourage you to file
24 comments on the draft plan. All comments are due on the
25 draft Strategic Plan and both workshops by April 22nd.

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And we are adjourned. (The workshop adjourned at 4:39 p.m.)