

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	255600
Document Title:	Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Meeting Summary
Description:	Summary of OSW Tribal Working Group Meeting March 14, 2024
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	4/9/2024 3:48:57 PM
Docketed Date:	4/9/2024

Summary of 3/14/24 OSW TWG Comments (Comments provided after the AB525 draft release on January 19, 2024).

Tribal representatives had the following concerns and recommendations:

- In general, the draft strategic plan does not reflect tribal feedback. There are concerns that tribal feedback and comments submitted to the docket will not be incorporated into the final draft. This was identified as a continuous issue that tribal voices are not reflected in the state prepared reports and documents such as the offshore wind strategic plan.
- Tribal representatives had several questions and concerns about the community benefit agreement (CBA) requirements in the offshore wind leases. Tribes should be able to reap the benefits of a CBA or other community benefits even if they oppose offshore wind. Additionally, tribal representatives wanted to know what consequences lessees will face for not complying with the CBA requirements. There are concerns that if lessees are in non-compliance, they will not face consequences for 10 years. Lessees should face more immediate consequences for being in non-compliance with the CBA lease requirements.
- Page 65 of Volume II of the strategic plan reads: “Specifically, tribes have requested that the first leases should serve as demonstration projects to test out the new floating offshore wind technology, analyze the impacts on marine resources, and conduct further studies and monitoring to inform the decision to opening new sea space for additional offshore wind leases. In consultation, tribes have expressed the concern that the technology is too new, and the impacts are too unknown to support the increase of the lease areas and additional sea space currently being discussed by state and federal agencies.”
 - The phrase “tribes have requested that the first leases should serve as demonstration projects” should be deleted, and this section should clarify that many tribal people do not support offshore wind. The current phrasing is problematic because it suggests that tribes support or accept the first leases. Several tribal representatives do not recall saying that the first leases should serve as a demonstration project because they never supported the project to begin with. Many tribal representatives continue to be unsupportive of offshore wind because the impacts are unknown and much of the technology is still unavailable. Additionally, BOEM should not be moving forward with new lease areas.

Comments Collected from Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 3/14/24 Date.

Summary Approved by Offshore Wind Tribal Working Group Attendees on 4/5/24 Date.