

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	255853
Document Title:	Port of Long Beach Comments - Port of Long Beach Comments - AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Port of Long Beach
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
Submission Date:	4/22/2024 10:57:58 AM
Docketed Date:	4/22/2024

*Comment Received From: Port of Long Beach
Submitted On: 4/22/2024
Docket Number: 17-MISC-01*

Port of Long Beach Comments - AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



April 22, 2024

California Energy Commission (CEC)
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: **AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan**
Docket No. 17-MISC-01

Dear Chair Hochschild, Commissioners, and Staff:

The Port of Long Beach (POLB) is grateful to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for its hard work on the Draft Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan (Draft AB525 Report). The POLB agrees with the assessment in the Draft AB 525 Report that developing and deploying offshore wind energy at scale can provide economic and environmental benefits to the State and the nation by helping California meet its renewable energy and climate goals; contributing to a reliable and affordable energy portfolio to serve California's electricity needs; improving air quality, particularly in disadvantaged communities; developing an offshore wind energy supply chain; and creating job opportunities, including long-term skilled workforce. The POLB recommends the following be incorporated into the Final Strategic Plan:

- Provide strong recommendations and an actionable plan for implementation. Developing offshore wind and forming a new green industry in California will require a highly coordinated whole of government and public-private partnerships over an extended period of time to bring the pieces of the puzzle together successfully. The POLB recommends the Final AB 525 Report include strong recommendations and an actionable plan for implementation with specific and prioritized next steps, responsible party, and timeline for action. The Final AB 525 Report would serve as a roadmap and on-going reference for the whole of government at the local, state, and federal level as well as industry partners as we move forward together on the responsible, equitable and sustainable development of offshore wind in California over the next decade.
- Draw clear conclusions in the Final AB 525 Report that Port of Humboldt and Port of Long Beach are the best candidates for the necessary staging and integration facilities to achieve California's goals, and include a recommendation to develop a funding strategy to support the development of these two critical S&I facilities. The POLB is a strong supporter and concurs with the findings in the Draft AB 525 Report that it will take a multiport strategy to develop offshore wind, and recognizes the important role the many different ports and harbors in California will play in developing offshore wind. In

order to launch this new green industry and realize the benefits across those many ports and harbors, California must first start by establishing the critically needed staging and integration facilities. Within the multiport strategy, the Draft AB 525 Report noted that **“[Staging and Integration (S&I)] sites are the most critical that require urgent funding.”** The staging and integration facilities are long-lead time developments, which are complex and difficult to finance. POLB rose to the challenge to help the State identify a site that could help California create a resilient and sustainable energy source. To-date, POLB has expended millions of dollars demonstrating our commitment as a partner with the State. We must move forward expeditiously with the development of staging and integration facilities now so the facilities are ready in time to achieve California’s goals, which will require a robust funding strategy that leverages many different funding sources, including state, federal, and private.

We applaud the work of the CEC and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft AB 525 Report. The POLB looks forward to continuing to work with the CEC and the rest of the whole of government and industry partners to realize the full potential and benefits of floating offshore wind as we transition into a green economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cordero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mario Cordero
Chief Executive Officer