



Opening Remarks to 2023 Pacific Offshore Wind Summit

Sacramento – May 9, 2023

Adam Stern, Executive Director, Offshore Wind California

Welcome to the 2023 *Pacific Offshore Wind Summit* in Sacramento. After many months of planning, it's great to see everyone here!

I want to begin by acknowledging that this city is located on the traditional territory of the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok peoples. We honor their Elders, past and present, and recognize their continued connection to this land. We also recognize the diverse indigenous peoples who continue to live and work here today. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather and share knowledge on this land and commit ourselves to respecting the sovereignty of indigenous peoples and their right to self-determination.

I want to thank our board and staff at *Offshore Wind California*, our Summit sponsors, and our terrific team of Summit organizers. When we launched OWC in 2019, we started with just seven developers and one nonprofit. Now we have almost 50 member companies, including developers, technology and service firms, environmental consultants, legal experts, global energy companies, and supply chain businesses. And our push for offshore wind is backed by a broad coalition of industry leaders and labor unions, environmental and environmental justice activists, clean energy and consumer advocates, many of whom are gathered today in this room.

What a difference a year makes! In March 2022, we held our Summit in San Francisco – a meeting that helped mobilize supporters and momentum for California to adopt ambitious offshore wind planning goals – to generate up to 5 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and a nation-leading 25 GW by 2045.

It set the stage for last December's first-ever federal lease auction for floating wind off California's coast. The auction identified five provisional leaseholders who stand ready to deploy floating turbines in federal waters off California's Central and North Coasts, and start realizing offshore wind's benefits for climate, clean energy, jobs, and grid-reliability. I want to thank and congratulate all of you for working together to make that possible.

This year, we're convening in Sacramento, the state's policy center – with more than 730 Summit attendees – as the California Energy Commission works with other state agencies to prepare a strategic plan to responsibly develop offshore wind as required under AB 525.

To be successful, we must move forward with speed and scale on these essential next steps:

- Investing in upgrades to port and transmission infrastructure
- Establishing a mechanism to procure offshore wind at scale
- Setting an efficient and comprehensive roadmap for permitting
- Developing a sustainable supply chain and workforce
- Engaging with stakeholders to ensure we protect our environment, marine, and cultural resources
- And it means federal and state officials working to identify suitable sea space and more call areas to reach our 25 GW goal.

Over the next two days, I hope you will immerse yourself in the rich program of speakers and panels to address these issues, and take advantage of the opportunities to network.

In offshore wind, we have a remarkable technology that turns ocean wind into clean power. We have the know-how to build floating platforms, towers and turbines, to tug them out to sea, and send clean power to the grid through advanced transmission lines. We can create a whole new industry and thousands of family wage jobs and we can do it in ways that help communities facing unfair environmental burdens.

The key to success is taking advantage of the current political moment when we have a federal administration in Washington that has embraced offshore wind and state agencies with experience building new clean energy markets. In this room, we have the people who can make this happen. Let's use our time together wisely.

Now, I'd like to introduce *Offshore Wind California's* new Board Chair, Ruth Perry, Head of Regulatory Affairs for Shell Renewables and Energy Solutions.