



**Prepared Remarks by *Offshore Wind California* to California Energy Commission (CEC)
Workshop on Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Offshore Wind Planning Goals for 2030 and 2045**

Sacramento, California — June 27, 2022

I'm Adam Stern, executive director of *Offshore Wind California*. We're a trade group that represents the offshore wind industry. We want to thank the CEC staff and commissioners, as well as the panelists, for their work and comments today in this second CEC workshop to discuss the AB 525 offshore wind planning goals.

As we noted earlier, we believe the multi-gigawatt (GW) goals being considered by the Commission in its AB 525 report represent an important milestone for California's offshore wind industry. They show that California is serious about developing large amounts of floating offshore wind here, to drive economies of scale and realize the substantial clean power, jobs, and climate benefits offshore wind can deliver for our state.

As an industry, we're committed to providing you with our best recommendations and the latest data on offshore wind technology and research to support the Commission's efforts to make California a leader in offshore wind, as it is in other clean energy sources.

That's why we're encouraging the Commission to going even bigger in its final report, and approve offshore wind planning goals of 5 GW by 2030 and 20 GW by 2045. We believe these goals are well-supported by the latest research and will more fully take advantage of the many benefits that economies of scale can bring Californians from responsibly developing offshore wind.

From the excellent testimony we've heard today, here are key points to consider:

- First, what the Commission is being asked to set, per AB 525, are planning goals, not procurement mandates. If we want to “go big,” we need to “plan big.” Ambitious planning goals are essential to appropriately size and scale the other key elements to deploy offshore wind, including port infrastructure, transmission, workforce development, and a sustainable supply chain.
- Second, new data and analysis presented today by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) shows that the 5 GW by 2030 and 20 GW by 2045 goals are very achievable, when factoring in the industry's most likely power density scenarios. And they can be reached at the two designated Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) at Morro Bay and Humboldt and two other wind study areas that NREL has assessed on the North Coast.
- Third, we're confident we can deploy the first 5 GW of offshore wind power by 2030, within existing lease areas at Morro Bay and Humboldt, without need for additional sea space. That's important to consider as the Commission strives to balance other sea space needs. For the next 15 GW – to reach 20 GW by 2045 – there's plenty of time and sea space to consider in wind areas that NREL has studied on the North Coast and elsewhere.
- Finally, industry trends and data all point to increased U.S. and global reliance on offshore wind, and growing benefits for California from including it in its diverse clean power portfolio. Ambitious planning goals will send an important signal to the industry and other agencies that California is committed to moving forward as a leader on offshore wind. And we're committed to working with you to make it a reality.

For California and offshore wind, going bigger is better. Thank you for your consideration.