



## Comments by *Offshore Wind California* to California Coastal Commission (CCC) Hearing Approving Conditional Concurrence on Consistency Determination for Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

Del Mar, California — June 8, 2022

Thank you, Chair Brownsey and Commissioners. I'm **Adam Stern**, executive director of *Offshore Wind California*. We're a trade group that represents the offshore wind industry.

Speaking on behalf of 45 companies including offshore wind developers and technology firms, we are unified in our support of the Coastal Commission's staff report and its conditions for federal leasing activities in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area. Your endorsement of the staff report – similar to your unanimous action on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area in April – would reaffirm the Commission's historic commitment to protect California's coastal resources and heritage, while also advancing the state's clean energy and climate goals.

At a time when the effects of climate change, including extreme weather events, drought, heat waves, wildfires, and rising ocean temperatures are all around us, California needs to accelerate our progress towards 100 percent clean energy. Offshore wind provides an extraordinary opportunity to add a new renewable energy resource to the state's diverse portfolio and complement the solar and onshore wind that we already have.

Last month, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a draft Assembly Bill (AB) 525 report that proposed planning goals for responsibly developing offshore wind in our state: 3 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, 10-15 GW by 2045, and up to 20 GW by 2050.<sup>1</sup> More work is underway at the CEC to consider even bigger, accelerated goals.

Today, the Coastal Commission can take a key regulatory step to move ahead with plans for the federal lease auction in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area and send a signal that our state can build a clean energy future while protecting the environment.

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Thank you. My name is **Paula Major**. I'm the Board Chair of *Offshore Wind California*. I also represent *Mainstream Renewable Power*. We're a global developer of renewable energy and we've developed about 20 percent of the offshore wind projects in the North Sea, including those in operation or under construction.

Offshore wind power represents a major opportunity to supply competitively priced, responsibly developed clean electricity to help meet our carbon-free goals and mitigate our growing climate risks, while protecting our marine, coastal and cultural resources. Offshore wind depends on economies of scale to realize its promise and potential here in California.

California has developed industries at scale before, in smart, environmentally responsible ways. With consistent winds, vast coastlines, and a commitment to 100 percent clean energy, California is ripe to become a global leader in floating offshore wind.

Last year's joint agency report concluded that for California to reach 100 percent clean energy by 2045, it will need a diverse portfolio of renewable energy that includes offshore wind.<sup>2</sup> In its first-ever 20-year outlook, the CAISO (California Independent System Operator) included 10 GW of offshore wind for transmission planning.<sup>3</sup> As we heard, the California Energy Commission, in its draft AB 525 report, proposed planning goals that could reach up to 20 GW of offshore wind by 2050.<sup>4</sup>

Last year, the Biden Administration and Governor Newsom worked together to open up the way for the first 4.6 GW of offshore wind on California's coast. BOEM (the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management), the CEC and other agencies are taking steps to implement these initiatives. The Coastal Commission's action today would represent an important milestone that demonstrates California's determination to move forward with developing new clean energy sources in smart, environmentally responsible ways.

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<sup>1</sup> [Offshore Wind Energy Development off the California Coast: Maximum Feasible Capacity and Megawatt Planning for 2030 and 2045](#), California Energy Commission, Draft May 2022.

<sup>2</sup> [SB 100 Joint Agency Report: Charting a Path to a 100% Clean Energy Future](#), March 15, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> [California ISO Draft 20-Year Transmission Outlook](#), January 31, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Op. cit. California Energy Commission, Draft May 2022.