



Comments by Offshore Wind Industry to California Coastal Commission (CCC) Hearing Approving Conditional Concurrence on Consistency Determination for Humboldt Wind Energy Area

Ventura, California — April 7, 2022

Adam Stern — Executive Director, *Offshore Wind California (OWC)*

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.

My main message for you today is that I speak on behalf of 45 companies in the industry, and we are unified in support of the Coastal Commission's staff report and its conditions. This decision would reflect 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 we already have.

Last week, our organization hosted the *Pacific Offshore Wind Summit* in San Francisco. More than 600 leaders attended, including top federal and state officials, offshore wind industry representatives, and environmental, environmental justice, tribal, and labor advocates. We engaged in substantive consideration of many issues that need to be addressed to make our state a leader in offshore wind, as it is in other sources of renewable energy. The Coastal Commission's decision today to move forward on offshore wind would send a key signal that our state can build a clean energy future while protecting the environment.

Paula Major — Vice President, U.S. Offshore Wind, *Mainstream Renewable Power*; Board Chair, *OWC*

Thank you. I'm Paula Major. I'm the Board Chair of *Offshore Wind California*. I also represent *Mainstream Renewable Power*. We're a pure play renewable energy company and we've developed 20 percent of the offshore wind power in the UK that is either in operation or under construction.

Offshore wind power represents a big opportunity to responsibly supply competitively priced clean electricity to help meet our clean energy goals and mitigate our growing climate risks, while protecting our marine, coastal and cultural resources. Along with this opportunity comes challenges and a lot of hard work ahead. That's because offshore wind power depends on economies of scale to realize its promise and potential here in California.

California has been here before. We've learned to develop new opportunities at scale in smart, environmentally responsible ways. Today, offshore wind power is that opportunity. 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.¹ The study's "SB 100 Core Scenario" calls for 10 GW of offshore wind by 2045, or as much as the model would allow. In its first-ever 20-year outlook, the CAISO [California Independent System Operator] included 10 GW of offshore wind for transmission planning.²

Last year, the Biden Administration and Governor Newsom worked together to open up the way for the first 4.6 GW of offshore wind. BOEM [the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management], the California Energy Commission [CEC] and other agencies are taking the steps to implement these new initiatives. The Coastal Commission's

¹ [SB 100 Joint Agency Report: Charting a Path to a 100% Clean Energy Future](#), March 15, 2021.

² [California ISO Draft 20-Year Transmission Outlook](#), January 31, 2022.

action today would represent another important milestone that demonstrates California's determination to move forward with developing new clean energy sources in smart, environmentally responsible ways.

Varner Seaman — Offshore Wind Program Director, *American Clean Power – California*

Chair Brownsey, members of the Coastal Commission, Jack, my name is Varner Seaman and I'm the offshore wind program director for *American Clean Power* association. *American Clean Power* is a national trade association that is multi-technology and renewable energy companies working in onshore wind, offshore wind, solar power and battery storage. I'm here today to speak in support of the staff report and encourage you to move forward with adopting the recommendations and conditions in the staff report.

Our support for the staff report, we hope and trust, is taken as the clean energy sector acting in good faith and making the commitments we need to meet the standards for 'responsible' development. By supporting the staff report, we're also saying that we support the judgment and professional work of the dozens of folks who have been listed throughout the state, looking at the leadership of Karen Douglas [former CEC Commissioner, now Senior Advisor, Energy to Gov. Newsom], and folks at the California Energy Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, the Coastal Commission, Dr. [Kate] Huckelbridge [Senior Deputy Director, CCC] and all the folks who have been named. We very much appreciate the collaboration that we believe is unprecedented, including the collaboration with BOEM and the federal agencies.

The staff report puts conditions in place for activities under the lease auction and we accept these conditions and understand that they are necessary and important. With that said, these requirements are not a cakewalk; these are tough requirements. These provisions do come with a cost and those costs have real impacts on the cost of development through some added complexity.

In some ways, the conditions that we're looking at here are more stringent than what has been put in place on the East Coast. We accept these costs and we accept these conditions with an understanding that offshore wind needs to be responsibly developed. We need to work with our partners in the state towards a common goal with a brighter future. We hope our support for this report is seen as a good faith expression of our understanding of the need to avoid and mitigate the potential species impacts, as well as to actively involve tribes, fishing groups and local environmental justice communities in the planning for offshore wind. Thank you very much for the Commission's work. Thank you to all the staff and we appreciate you moving forward with this.

Whitney Fiore — Senior Consultant, Natural Resources and NEPA, *SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Good morning. My name is Whitney Fiore and I am with *SWCA Environmental Consultants*. We work with the *Offshore Wind California* coalition helping with permitting support specific to offshore wind. A lot of what I was going to say has already been said by your capable Dr. Huckelbridge and Director [Douglas] Boren [Pacific Regional Director, BOEM].

What we really wanted to stress here is that this is the first step in the permitting process for offshore wind. We believe this step is very important for the development of offshore wind in that site control is necessary for developers to conduct these very necessary surveys and studies that support a construction and operations plan that provides meaningful, responsible and thoughtful development.

We would like to also mention that while this step is the first step, the next step we would go through is to provide that construction and operations plan. That will include an analysis of impacts, avoidance and minimization and mitigation measures that are so very important to all ocean users. We understand that is a necessary part of this process and we are ready to make the commitment to responsible offshore wind development off shore California. Thank you.

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