



**Comments to the California Coastal Commission on
Advancing Offshore Wind Power off the California Coast
September 9, 2021**

I'm Adam Stern, executive director of Offshore Wind California (OWC), a business association of offshore wind developers and technology companies. I'd like to commend all of the state and federal officials for your thorough and thoughtful presentations today. We look forward to working with you to ensure this important resource is responsibly developed off the California Coast. I also want to thank the members of the Coastal Commission, staff and the participating public for the chance to speak briefly today about offshore wind power and the opportunity it presents to help power California's clean energy future.

This is an important week for offshore wind in the Golden State. California's Senate is poised to join the state Assembly in approving AB 525, a bill that directs the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish offshore wind targets for 2030 and 2045, requires the CEC and other agencies to develop a permitting roadmap involving all affected stakeholders, and also works to strengthen marine and coastal protection and address environmental concerns. The measure passed by an overwhelming bipartisan 71-1 vote in the Assembly, with broad support from clean energy advocates, labor, environmentalists, and environmental justice activists. It follows the Biden Administration and Governor Newsom's announcement in May opening call areas on our Central and North coasts to an initial 4.6 gigawatts (GW) of clean offshore wind power.

Bipartisan support for offshore wind continues to grow from state lawmakers and voters. For Californians, supporting clean energy means making choices on what kinds of power generation will provide the most benefits, have the fewest negative impacts, and work together to supply reliable, pollution-free electricity night and day. In a recent SB 100 report, the state's energy agencies concluded that California will need a large, diverse renewable portfolio, including at least 10 GW of offshore wind capacity, to achieve its 100% clean energy goals by 2045.

Ten GW of power, the peak output of offshore wind farms in the proposed portfolio, represents almost 15% of the state's current electricity needs, during late afternoon and evening hours when electricity use is high and solar generation is fading. Building 10 GW of offshore wind power capacity would create tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs, save ratepayers up to \$2 billion for installed clean power capacity, generate billions for the state's economy, and enable our state to cost-effectively meet its 100% clean energy goals.

Based on experience with projects in Europe and a growing number of projects on the East Coast of the United States, we're confident that we can develop offshore wind in a way that's environmentally responsible, protects our coastal and marine resources, and co-exists with other ocean users. We're committed to working with the Coastal Commission and other state and federal agencies to complete review of the federal government's proposal to lease wind energy areas off Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay and for site assessment work and the formulation of development proposals. This will be followed by comprehensive review of specific project proposals.

A few closing facts: Offshore wind would be deployed on only a small fraction of California's 840-mile coast. Floating wind turbines required for the state's deep ocean waters would be 20-30 miles out at sea and over the horizon, and send clean power to coastal population centers through undersea cables that don't pollute and can't catch fire.

That's important given our clear and present climate dangers. The recent spate of wildfires and heat waves in California, and extreme weather elsewhere in the U.S., underscores that we're facing a climate emergency. Not some time in the future, but now. Offshore wind is an important part of the solution, and we need to move forward with its planning and deployment. Our nation's clean energy and climate future depends on it. Thank you.