



Comments by *Offshore Wind California* to California Energy Commission (CEC) Business Meeting Regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Offshore Wind Planning Goals for 2030 and 2045

July 13, 2022

I'm Adam Stern, executive director of *Offshore Wind California*, a trade group that represents the offshore wind industry. We want to thank the Commissioners and staff for their ongoing work to finalize the Commission's report on the state's AB 525 offshore wind planning goals. And special thank yous to Chair Hochschild and Vice Chair Gunda for spending time with us recently.

As an industry, we're continuing to encourage the Commission to approve planning goals of 5 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and at least 20 GW by 2045. We believe these goals are well-supported by the latest research and more fully take advantage of the many benefits that economies of scale can bring Californians from responsibly developing offshore wind. Here are several key points to consider:

- First, what the Commission is being asked to set – per AB 525 – are planning goals, not 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 necessary to deploy offshore wind – including transmission, port infrastructure, workforce development, and a sustainable supply chain. Setting goals below the state's ultimate need for offshore wind risks significant missed opportunities to right-size planning, program and investments that will help deliver the full benefits of this new industry.
- Second, as has been discussed in today's hearing, new data and analysis presented by Walt Musial with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)¹ at the CEC's June 27 workshop shows that 5 GW by 2030 and at least 20 GW by 2045 are goals that are very achievable when factoring in industry's most likely power density scenarios. Doing the math with NREL's new data shows these goals can be reached at the designated Wind Energy Areas at Morro Bay and Humboldt, and other wind areas that are being studied for future offshore sea-space planning with the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), CEC and other state agencies.
- Third, it's important to emphasize that the industry can deploy the first 5 GW of offshore wind by 2030 within existing lease areas, **and without need for additional sea space**. That's a key point to consider as the Commission strives to balance sea space user needs. For the next 15 GW or more – to reach 20 GW or more by 2045 – there's plenty of time and sea space to consider for additional offshore wind areas.
- Finally, industry trends and data all point to increased U.S. and global reliance on offshore wind, and growing benefits of offshore wind as part of a diverse renewables portfolio to help California meet its SB 100 clean power and climate objectives. Ambitious planning goals will send an important signal to industry and other agencies that California is committed to move forward as a leader on offshore wind.

Thank you very much.

¹ Offshore Wind Research Summary – California Study Results, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Walt Musial, Presentation to California Energy Commission Workshop, June 27, 2022, p. 8.