



**BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting
on Next Steps to Advance Offshore Wind Power off the California Coast**

**Public Comments
July 13, 2021**

I'm Adam Stern, executive director of Offshore Wind California (OWC), a business association dedicated to the responsible development of offshore wind power for our state.

I want to start by thanking BOEM and all the other federal and California state agencies, as well as local and tribal leaders, engaged in the environmental reviews and leasing process of the first areas for offshore wind development off California's central and north coasts. We support your efforts to make this process as transparent and productive possible.

We agree with President Biden and Governor Newsom that California can play a key role in helping the nation reach the president's goal of generating 30 gigawatts (GW) of U.S. offshore wind power by 2030. California has huge potential to use its offshore wind resource to achieve its ambitious clean energy and climate goals. This untapped energy source will complement our state's existing supply of solar and onshore wind, help balance the grid, boost California's economy and jobs, save on ratepayer bills, and help mitigate clear and present climate dangers.

The recent heat waves in California and the rest of the West and extreme weather elsewhere in the U.S., have underscored that we're facing a climate emergency. Not some time in the distant future, but now. We need to move rapidly to advance the planning and deployment of offshore wind: Our nation's clean energy and climate future depends on it.

California has developed an impressive mix of renewables, primarily solar and onshore wind. But when the sun goes down, we still rely on peaker plants powered by natural gas (a fossil fuel), for as much as 60% of our electricity. More solar and battery storage will help, but is unlikely to scale fast enough to close the gap at an affordable price. Unless procurement of additional renewables dramatically accelerates, the planned closure of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in 2025 will temporarily make the situation worse.

Offshore wind, which blows strongest in the evening, is an ideal resource to provide clean, reliable, utility-scale power around the clock. Floating wind turbines deployed out at sea and over the horizon can send electricity to urban coastal centers through undersea cables that don't pollute and can't catch fire. The benefits of offshore wind for California's clean energy portfolio are clear. The time to act is now.

We look forward to engaging with this task force to share our industry experience and expertise and to outline a road map to achieve an initial goal of 3 GW of offshore wind power for Golden State residents and workers by 2030, and at least 10 GW by 2040. This will require a dedicated and focused effort to advance the first two call areas through the necessary environmental reviews. We also encourage BOEM to designate additional call areas at Mendocino and Del Norte off the Northern California coast.

To realize offshore wind's promise and reach these ambitious gigawatt goals, it will be crucial to move forward with the leasing process, complete the environmental reviews, upgrade port infrastructure, build offshore wind's supply chain, and streamline federal and state permitting while protecting wildlife and cultural resources. Offshore wind can be an important part of our new clean energy economy, in California and America. There's no time to lose. Thank you.