

POLITICO

May 14, 2024

AS GOES CALIFORNIA

California doesn't have any offshore wind, and it may not still for a while. | Steve Helber/AP



By **ALEX NIEVES** and **CAMILLE VON KAENEL**

CATCHING THE WIND:

A sense of optimism mixed with unease pervaded the Pacific Offshore Wind Summit in Sacramento today, where industry leaders and state and federal officials gathered to talk transmission, ports and jobs — all pieces of a puzzle meant to save California’s climate dreams but that is taking longer to piece together than the most ambitious would like.

“Everything just takes too damn long, and I don’t say that lightly,” said Assemblymember **Jim Wood**, whose North Coast district is home to one of California’s first offshore leases. He said he wanted to see a “quarterback” coordinate between all the state agencies with a hand in the pot, from the California Public Utilities Commission to the California Coastal Commission (each the target of blame for logjams, depending on who you ask.)

California’s goal is for offshore wind to provide 5 gigawatts of energy by 2030 (though conference attendees suggested 2031 or 2032 might be more likely).

And that’s not even accounting for the wild card of a potential President Trump — who [said this weekend](#) he would issue an executive order targeting offshore wind on day one, without providing more details. But with the next federal lease sale in California not scheduled for 2028, the industry is focused on the state, not the federal government, according to industry observers at the summit. — **CvK**

BONUS: Brian White — an offshore wind lobbyist leading a panel — asked lawmakers the chances of a climate bond passing. Sen. **John Laird** said, “better than 50.” Assemblymembers **Cottie Petrie-Norris**, **Wood** and **Rick Chavez Zbur** gave it 60 percent.

TRANSITIONS

WINDS OF CHANGE:

Vineyard Offshore — the Boston-based company with a federal lease to develop offshore wind off the coast of far Northern California — has made its first local hire in Humboldt County: **Jaclyn Robinson**, a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is the company’s new West Coast tribal lead. She was spotted in Sacramento today networking with attendees at the Pacific Offshore Wind Summit. — **CvK**