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How big are proposed wind turbines off SLO County coast? Bigger than some California landmarks

Floating wind turbines are assembled at Ocean Winds' WindFloat Atlantic facility in Portugal. *Courtesy of Ocean Winds*



By Jennifer Robillard

In December, five companies won leases to develop offshore wind energy farms off California's coast.

Three leases were offered off the Central Coast in the so-called Morro Bay wind energy area, while two leases were offered off the Northern California coast titled the Humboldt wind energy area.

This Morro Bay wind energy area [could generate 2.9 gigawatts of electricity at peak capacity](#) should it be fully built out, according to a September article by The Tribune. And the wind turbines, which would be floating in the Pacific Ocean about 20 miles west of San Simeon and Cambria, would stand at about 1,100 feet tall from water line to top of the blades.

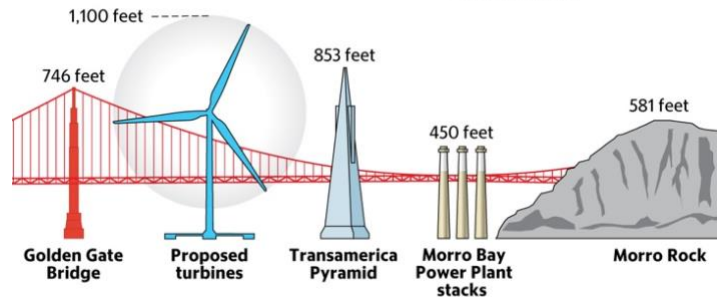
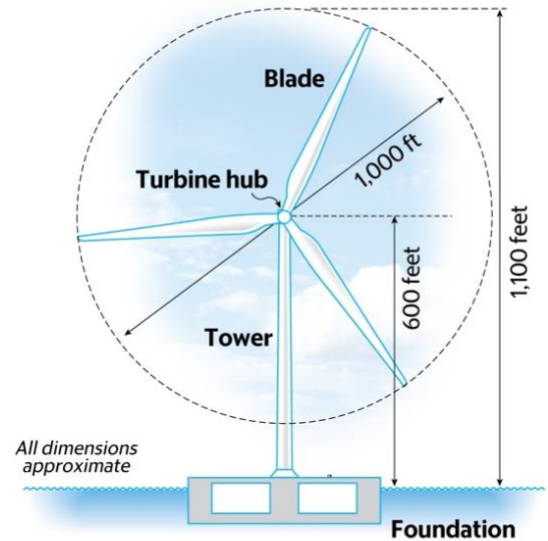
Just how tall is that? Taller than some well-known landmarks. Take a look:

TOWERING TURBINES

The proposed floating wind turbines off Morro Bay could be more than 1,000 feet tall. How they compare to local and state landmarks:

Read more on this offshore project in these stories:

- [Could SLO County get a \\$2.4 billion port to support offshore wind? Here's what state says](#)
- [5 companies win California offshore wind energy leases with \\$757 million in bids](#)



Graphic: NATHANIEL LEVINE | Sources: Moffatt & Nichol, Tribune research, Wikipedia Commons

Energy captured by offshore wind turbines on the Central Coast would be transmitted by cable to shore, where it could connect to California's grid through either the Morro Bay Power Plant or Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, which is scheduled to close in 2025.

Floating turbines would be connected by cables and anchored to the ocean floor.

U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

How Offshore Floating Wind Farms Work

