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California lawmakers call for \$1 billion 'down payment' on offshore wind energy infrastructure

Offshore wind turbines used to produce electrical power. Turbines like these are envisioned to go miles offshore of Morro Bay and Humboldt County in Northern California. *Environment America*



LAWMAKERS RALLY FOR OFFSHORE WIND INFRASTRUCTURE

By **ANDREW SHEELER**

Good morning and welcome to the A.M. Alert!

If there's one thing Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur, D-West Hollywood, wanted the public to take away from his Tuesday press conference, it's that the state is not on track to meet its climate goals and that major steps are needed to correct that.

For example?

"Offshore wind is a crucial part of the strategy to achieve our goals," Zbur said at the presser.

Zbur and a number of other lawmakers were on hand to advocate on behalf of including a \$1 billion bond for seaport infrastructure improvement as part of a larger climate bond being considered in the Legislature and which voters may decide on this November.

California's seaports are simply not equipped right now to assemble these giant wind turbines, which are so large their arms could barely fit in Dodger Stadium, Zbur said.

"We need to make significant investments in our seaports to allow for these massive offshore wind turbines to be assembled, constructed and transported," he said.

Zbur said that \$1 billion is just a down payment on this infrastructure project, "albeit an important one."

"And that's why we're here today, to make offshore wind a priority. We must prioritize climate, climate bonds and offshore wind when we're allocating this year's budget," he said.