

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	232933
Document Title:	UPDATED Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of CA
Description:	***This document supersedes TN 231989*** The public outreach process and comment deadline included in the original notice have been updated. Written comments were originally due May 15, 2020 and are now due July 31, 2020.
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov
CEC-57 (Revised 1/19)



Notice of Availability

“Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of California”

Docket 17-MISC-01

Please take notice of the attached update to the summary of next steps to consider offshore wind energy opportunities off the Central Coast of California, including opportunities for public participation.

On February 7, 2020 the California Energy Commission (CEC) announced the availability of a summary of next steps to consider offshore wind opportunities off the Central Coast of California.¹ This summary has been updated to reflect a new approach to public outreach consistent with the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health and local county orders to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The map included with the summary of next steps has also been updated to show additional geographic information.

Background

The first meeting of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (California Task Force) was held in October 2016, and the second meeting in September 2018. In October 2018, BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for three areas off the California coast, two of which are offshore the Central Coast: Morro Bay Call Area and Diablo Canyon Call Area.

Within BOEM’s published Call in 2018, the Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas were assessed as incompatible with wind energy development by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

On August 21, 2019, Congressman Salud Carbajal hosted a meeting with senior officials from DoD, BOEM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Sanctuaries), the CEC, and state and locally elected representatives to discuss a path toward finding a solution that accommodates a viable offshore wind industry on the Central Coast and meets the mission of DoD to test, train and operate.

¹The original Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind off the Central Coast of California (TN 231989) filed to the CEC’s Offshore Renewable Energy Docket on February 7, 2020 is available at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=231989&DocumentContentId=63852>.

At the August 21, 2019 meeting, Congressman Carbajal, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the State of California (State) agreed to participate in a series of meetings to identify solutions off the Central Coast. A group comprised of DoD, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, Congressman Panetta's office and the State led by Congressman Carbajal's office met multiple times following the August 21, 2019, meeting.

The State and BOEM are initiating a process to receive input from local, state, and federal agencies, tribal governments, stakeholders, and the public.

Oral comments: Oral comments will be accepted during public workshops. Public workshops to discuss the summary and map are described in the attached updated summary of next steps. The CEC will publicly notice such workshops in the future.

Written comments: Written comments must be submitted to the CEC's Docket Unit. Written comments were originally due May 15, 2020, however written comments are now due **July 31, 2020**. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., address, phone number, email address) become part of the viewable public record. This information may also become available via any Internet search engine.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached in a downloadable, searchable Microsoft® Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf) file. Maximum file size is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include the docket number, 17-MISC-01, and Offshore Renewable Energy in the subject line and send to docket@energy.ca.gov.

If preferred, a paper copy may be submitted to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 17-MISC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

News media inquiries can be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at 1-916-654-4989 or at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Questions on the subject matter of this document should be directed to Eli Harland at eli.harland@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5148.

Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of California²

Background

The first meeting of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (California Task Force) was held in October 2016, and the second meeting in September 2018. In October 2018, BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for three areas off the California coast, two of which are offshore the Central Coast: Morro Bay Call Area and Diablo Canyon Call Area.

Within BOEM's published Call in 2018, the Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas were assessed as incompatible with wind energy development by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The Diablo Canyon and Morro Bay Call Areas are heavily utilized by multiple DoD components and, based upon current and future expected use, DoD assessments have found wind development there to be incompatible with the wide array of critical DoD activities.

California's Clean Energy Goals and Offshore Wind

California is committed to a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the State's economy and has established long-term policies to reduce most of the GHG emissions from the electric sector by 2045. Developing a diverse portfolio of renewable resources is a key component of California's approach to building a reliable and cost-effective low-carbon energy system.

Existing transmission infrastructure on the Central Coast is designed to reliably deliver the output of both the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (~2,000 MW) and the retired Morro Bay Power Plant (~1,000 MW). Offshore wind from the Central Coast is an opportunity for a source of clean energy in proximity to existing transmission infrastructure and energy consumers.

Process and Outcomes

On August 21, 2019, Congressman Carbajal hosted a meeting with senior officials from DoD, BOEM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Sanctuaries), the California Energy Commission (CEC), and state and locally elected representatives to discuss a path toward finding a solution that accommodates a viable offshore wind industry on the Central Coast and meets the mission of DoD to test, train and operate.

At the August 21, 2019 meeting, Congressman Carbajal, Congressman Panetta, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the State of California (State) agreed to participate in a series of meetings to identify solutions off the Central Coast. A group comprised of DoD, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, Congressman Panetta's office and the State led by Congressman Carbajal's office met multiple times following the August 21, 2019 meeting.

² This document was jointly prepared by Congressman Carbajal's staff, Department of Defense, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, NOAA Sanctuaries, California Energy Commission, and the California Ocean Protection Council.

The group did not re-examine areas within the Diablo Canyon Call Area at this time due to DoD's significant mission activities in the area.

The group focused on areas proximate to and within the Morro Bay Call Area that may be compatible with DoD operations. The group identified areas that include portions of the Morro Bay Call Area as well as an area to the north and to the south of the Morro Bay Call Area (North and South), described and mapped to solicit further input from interested stakeholders and the public. A brief description of each area is below as well as a map of the areas included at the end of this document.³

- The North area is approximately 149 square miles (starting at 15 miles from the coast) or 125 square miles (starting at 17 miles from the coast).
- The South area is approximately 90 square miles (starting at 15 miles from the coast) or 67 square miles (starting at 17 miles from the coast).

The group also discussed an approximately 90 square mile area within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) adjacent to the Morro Bay Call Area, identified as "Discussion Area" on the map at the end of this document. This area may be compatible with DoD's operations, however BOEM does not have authority to lease or develop a call area within any national marine sanctuary, and NOAA Sanctuaries has no provisions for leasing wind development within MBNMS at this time. The area is labeled "Discussion Area" on the map to facilitate stakeholder and public input.

Next Steps

At the California Task Force meeting on March 9, 2020⁴, the State and BOEM initiated a process to receive input on the North and South areas from local, state, and federal agencies, tribal governments, stakeholders, and the public. During the task force meeting, the planned public outreach to receive input was described, including a discussion, that the State and BOEM were anticipating at that time that it could be necessary to move forward with remote meetings instead of in-person meetings to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The State and BOEM are taking a revised approach to public outreach consistent with the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health and local county orders to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. As shown in the table below, the State and BOEM are scheduling remote public outreach meetings, including a remote public workshop.

The State and BOEM are committed to a broad public engagement process prior to taking any steps to act upon the North and South areas. As needed, any future in-person public workshop in the Central Coast community will be conducted as allowed by the California Department of Public Health and local county orders.

³ The areas shown on the map at the end of this document will also be available on the California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway at <https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>.

⁴ For more information about the March 9, 2020 BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting see <https://www.boem.gov/regions/pacific-ocs-region/march-9-2020>.

The State and BOEM will use current information and data, including but not limited to information on the California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway, as well as a public outreach process to evaluate potential conflicts and constraints for developing offshore wind in the North and South areas.

In addition to being able to provide public comment during the public workshops described below, the CEC will collect written comments in the California Offshore Renewable Energy docket: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>.

Currently Planned Public Outreach:	
Public Notice of Availability Released/Revised	February 7, 2020/May 7, 2020
BOEM-CA Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar	March 9, 2020
Public Workshop (webinar only)	June/July 2020
Big-Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Committee	June 2020
Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council	July 2020
Written comments due to the CEC	July 31, 2020
The State and BOEM will schedule additional remote public workshops as necessary, and offer to schedule remote meetings with tribal governments, as well as remote meetings with specific stakeholders (fishing industry, environmental organizations, offshore wind industry, etc.).	Scheduled as needed*
Public Workshop in the Central Coast community (in-person)	As Needed**

*The CEC will announce all remote public workshops using the “offshoreenergy” listserver. The CEC and BOEM will reach out to tribal governments and specific stakeholders to offer remote meetings.

** The State and BOEM are committed to a broad public engagement process prior to taking any steps to act upon the North and South areas. As needed, any future in-person public workshop in the Central Coast community will be conducted as allowed by the California Department of Public Health and local county orders.

Central California Areas of Interest

