

Good afternoon!

The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting will begin at 5 p.m. PT.

If you are encountering any technical issues, please contact Jasmine King at jking@kearnswest.com





BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Draft Environmental Assessment

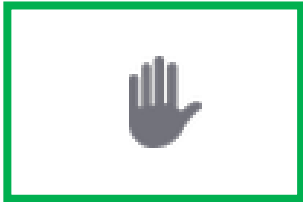
April 19, 2022

BOEM Pacific Regional Office

Zoom Webinar Instructions – Members of the Public



- Members of the public will be muted throughout the meeting and will not be able to unmute themselves.



- Members of the public will have the opportunity to share verbal public comments during the public comment opportunity. The public comment period is at the end of this meeting, after the presentations and a Question-and-Answer (Q&A) period.



- Use the “raise hand” feature or, if on the phone, dial *9 to indicate you would like to provide public comment.
- The Q&A function will be open for questions related to the NEPA process. This is NOT the place to submit comments.

This meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the BOEM website.



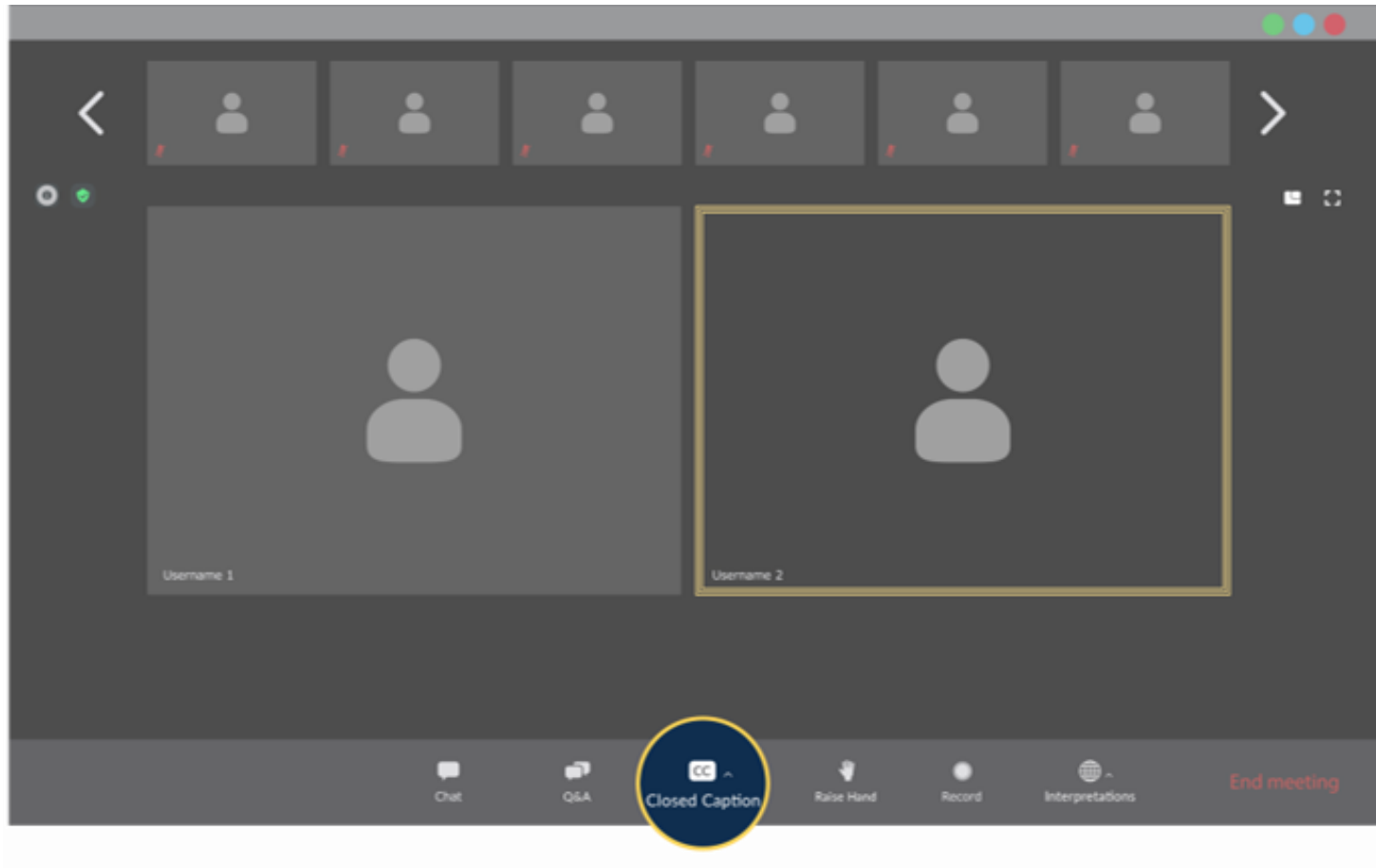
Zoom Webinar Instructions – Technical Assistance

- We will share relevant links and information through the "chat" feature.
- Please use the “chat” feature *only* for requests for technical assistance.
- If you are participating by phone, raise your hand for help by dialing *9.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties throughout the webinar, please email Jasmine King at jking@kearnswest.com or message “Technical Assistance” in the “chat” feature.



Zoom Webinar Instructions – Closed Captioning

Closed Captions can be found here:



Meeting Objectives

1. Provide information on the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) environmental review process.
2. Inform comments on the Morro Bay WEA.
3. Answer clarifying questions related to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
4. Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on the Morro Bay WEA Draft EA.



Agenda

- Facilitator's Welcome
- Welcome & Opening Remarks
- Presentation – Draft Environmental Assessment
- Clarifying Questions on the Environmental Assessment Process
- Public Comment Opportunity
- Closing and Next Steps



Process Guidelines

- “Honor” the agenda.
- Participate actively and respectfully.
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue.
- Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you.
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Poll 1 – Who has joined the webinar?
Identify your affiliation



Poll 2 – Public Comment

Are you planning on providing public comment today?



Welcome & Opening Remarks

Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment



Overview

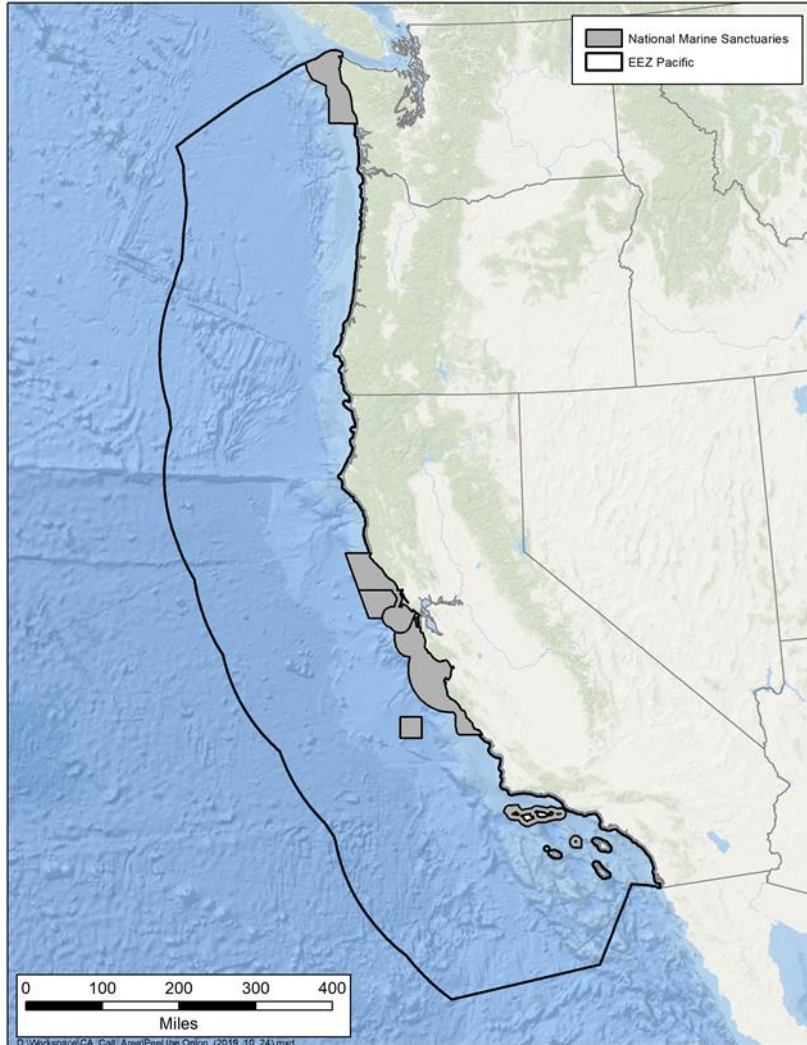
- BOEM Authority & Jurisdiction
- BOEM Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process
- Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California
- NEPA Overview
- Content of the Draft EA & Close-up of Selected Resources
- Central Coast Next Steps



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BOEM's Renewable Energy Authority



- **Mission: Manage the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way**
- **Jurisdiction on the U.S. West Coast**
 - Federal waters from 3 to 200 nautical miles (i.e., the OCS)
 - Excludes National Marine Sanctuaries
- **BOEM's Regulatory Authority**
 - Energy Policy Act of 2005: Amends Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to authorize DOI to act as "lead" agency for certain alternative energy and marine-related uses on the OCS



From Executive Orders to BOEM Action

Presidential Goals

Cut greenhouse gas emissions by **2030** to half of 2005 levels

Reach 100% carbon pollution-free power sector by **2035**

Achieve a net-zero economy by no later than **2050** while creating good paying, union jobs

Presidential Policies

Feb 2021: EO 14008 takes a government-wide approach to the climate crisis, includes Section 207 to increase renewable energy production

Mar 2021: Deploy 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030, while protecting biodiversity and promoting ocean co-use

BOEM Directives

Advance lease sales and complete review of at least 16 Construction & Operations Plans by **2025**

Hold lease sales in California (**Fall 2022**) and Oregon (**2023**)





Environmental Assessment Public Meeting, Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

**BOEM Wind Energy Authorization Process
Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California**

April 19, 2022

Jennifer Miller | Acting Renewable Energy Section Chief



BOEM's Staged Offshore Wind Authorization Process

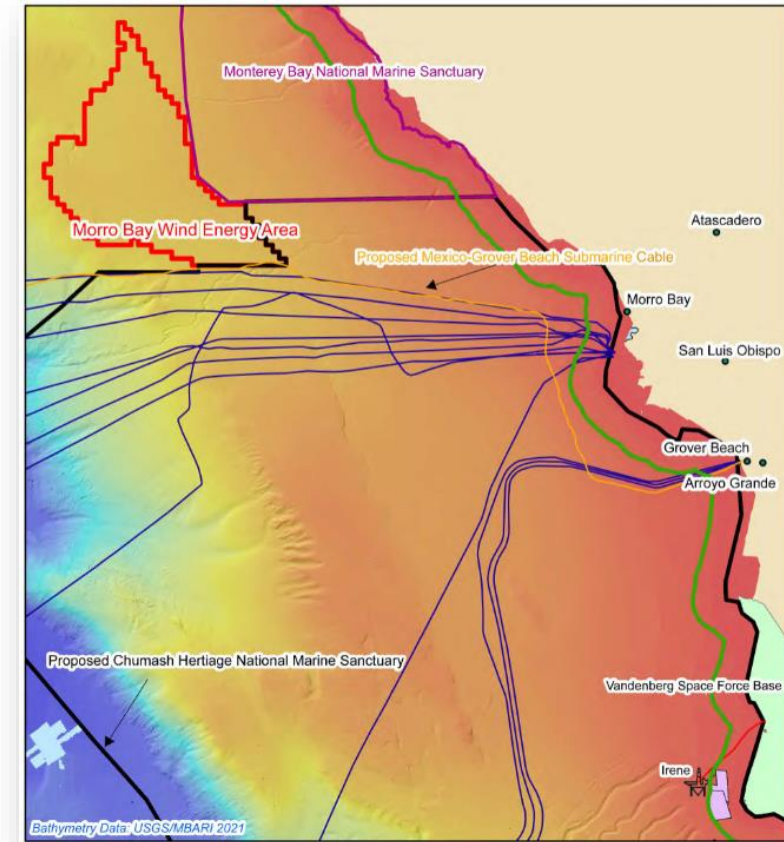


BOEM coordinates and consults with affected Tribal, State, and local governments and other Federal agencies
Multiple opportunities for public input



History of Central Coast Offshore Wind Energy Planning

- Established the BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (2016)
- **BOEM-State Close Coordination**
 - State-wide coordination, outreach and engagement with Tribal Governments, State of California, and public stakeholders with over 80 meetings
 - Created Offshore Wind Energy Gateway for data collection in publicly accessible website:
<https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>
- **Published Call for Information and Nominations (Call) in the Federal Register in October 2018:**
 - 118 comments, 14 nominations total, 11 nominations for Morro Bay Call Area
- **Additional Call published in July 2021 for extending Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas**
 - 62 comments, 6 additional nominations
- **Scientific studies to support informed decision-making**

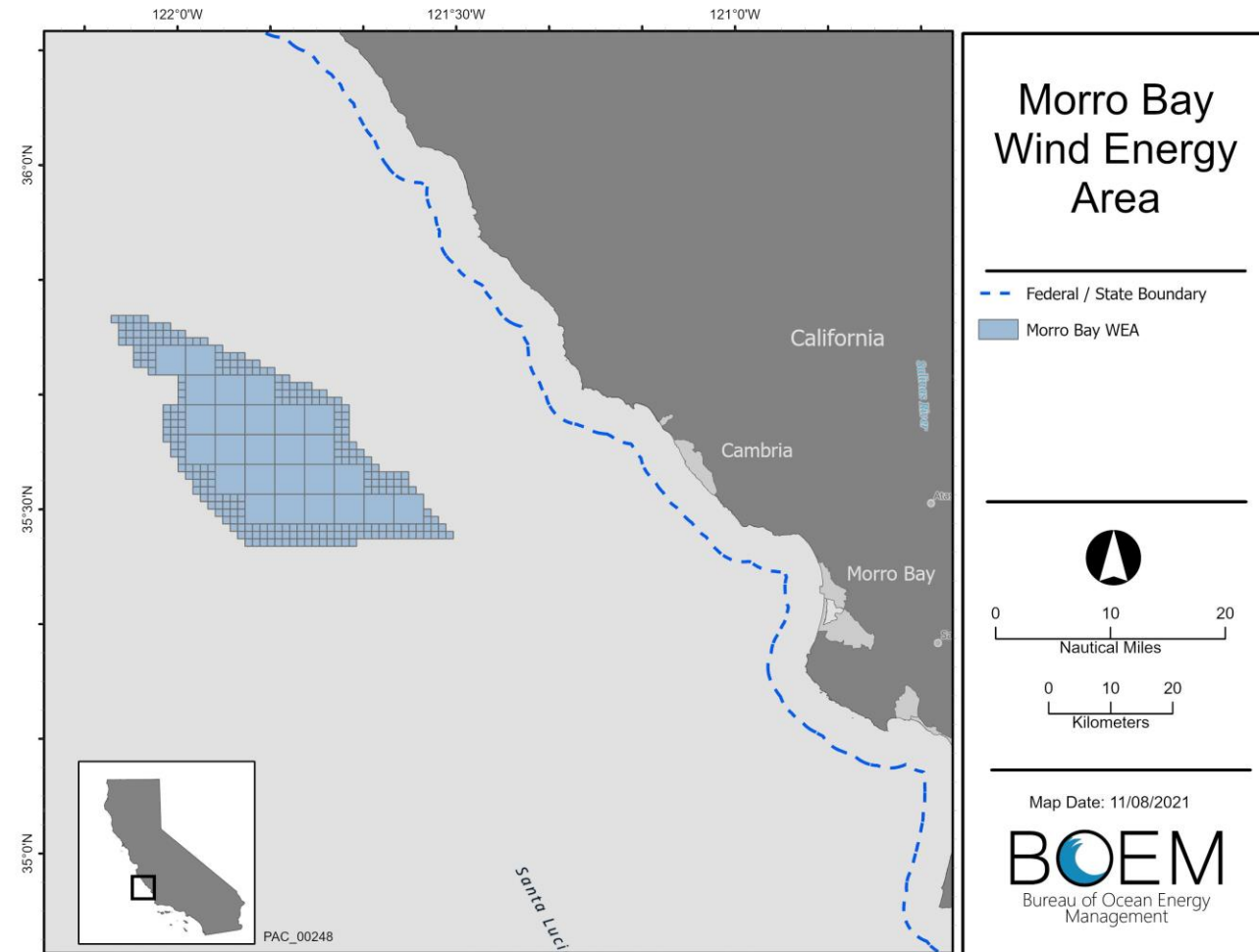


Morro Bay Draft EA, p. 5

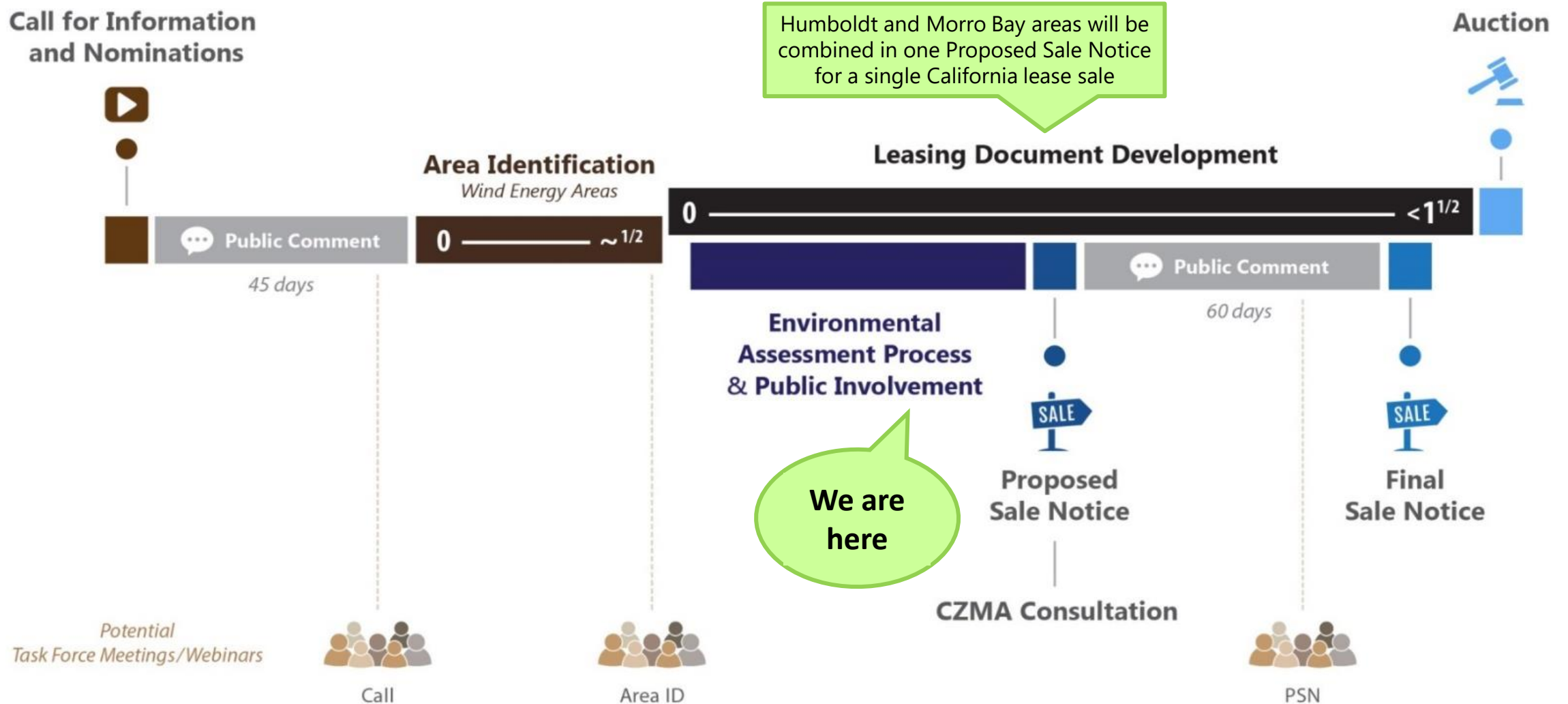


History of Central California Offshore Wind Energy Planning

- Designated Morro Bay Wind Energy Area in November 2021 and started environmental review
 - 240,898 acres (376 square miles)
 - 20 miles from shore
- Additional Resources
 - www.boem.gov/morrobayEA
 - [Morro Bay Area ID Memo](#)
 - [California Outreach Summary Report \(2018\)](#)
 - [California Outreach Summary Report Addendum \(2021\)](#)



Current California Status in BOEM's Authorization Process



BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



Questions: Jennifer Miller & Sara Gultinan

jennifer.miller@boem.gov

sara.gultinan@boem.gov

For more information on renewable energy offshore California,
visit: www.boem.gov/California



Environmental Assessment Public Meeting, Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act Content of the Environmental Assessment

April 19, 2022

Lisa Gilbane | Environmental Analysis Section Chief



BOEM is guided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

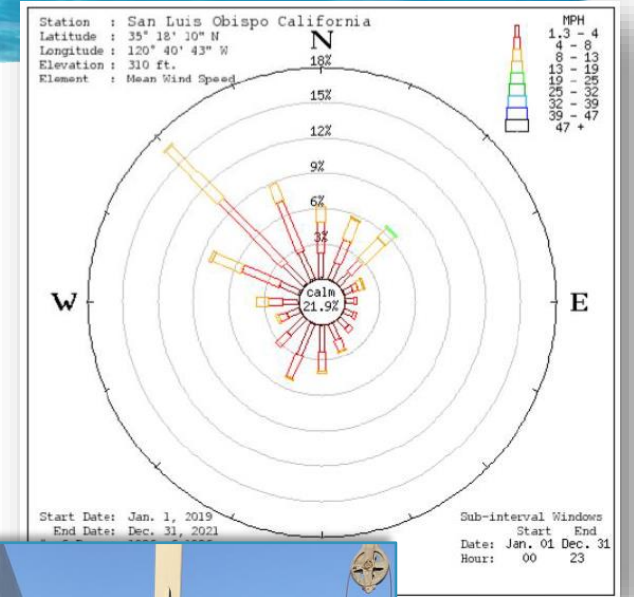
- NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental consequences of proposed actions.

Proposed Action

Issuance of commercial lease(s) within the Wind Energy Area (WEA) for wind energy production, including reasonably foreseeable site characterization & assessment activities by a lessee to gather more information about the WEA

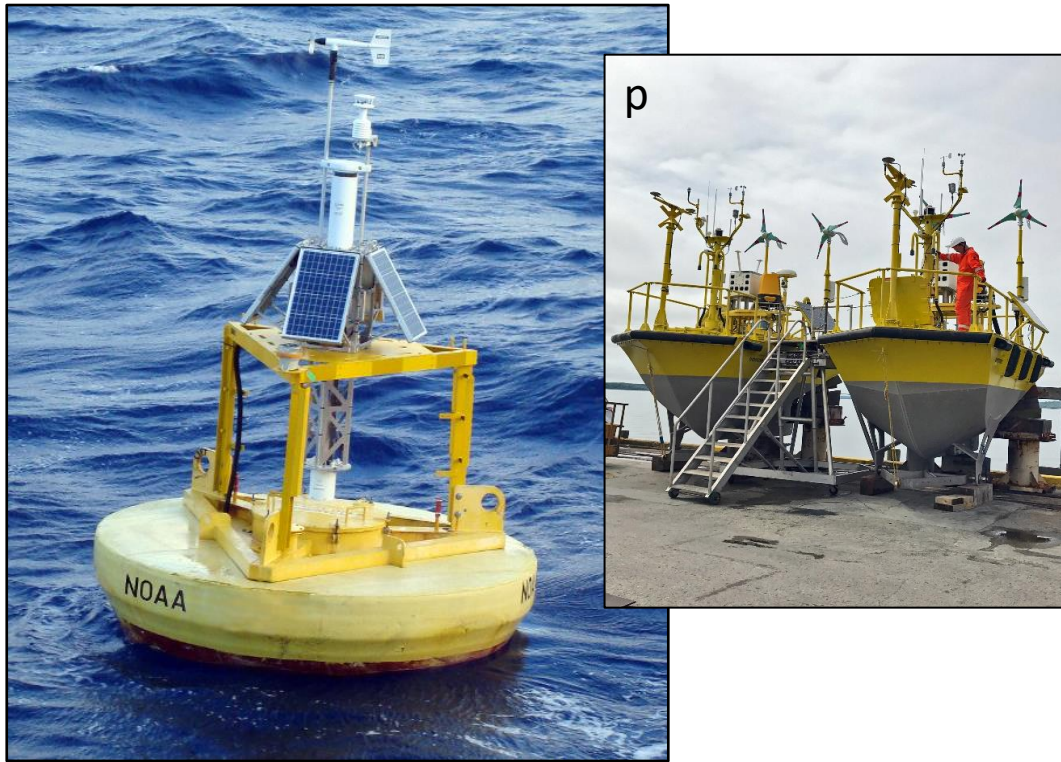
- Construction and operation of a project is not being considered today. Potential impacts from those activities are evaluated once a project plan is submitted.
- Public participation is a key component of the NEPA process.

Thank you for your participation!

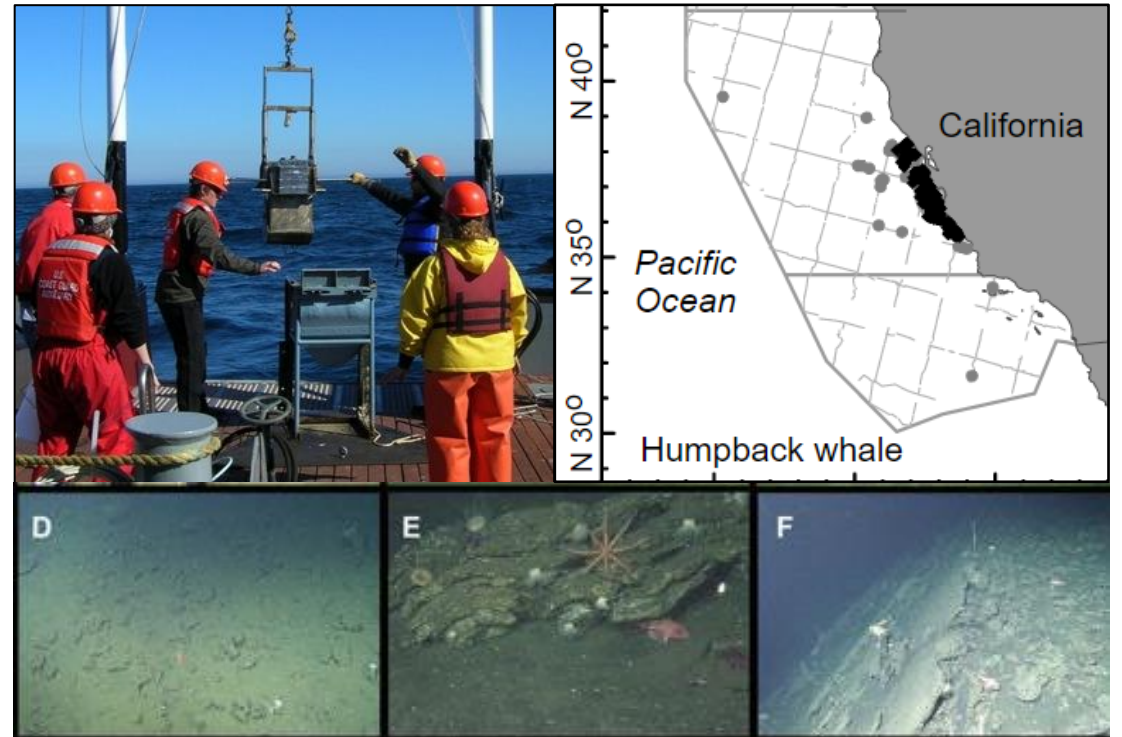


What are Site Assessment & Characterization Activities?

Site Assessment: Temporary placement of meteorological buoys, scientific sampling equipment



Site Characterization: Surveys to gather data on the geology, biology, and archaeological resources



Images courtesy of (top left) Oregon State University, (top right) K. Forin (NOAA), N. Prouty (USGS) and E. Lundsten (MBARI), and (Bottom Row) Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI).



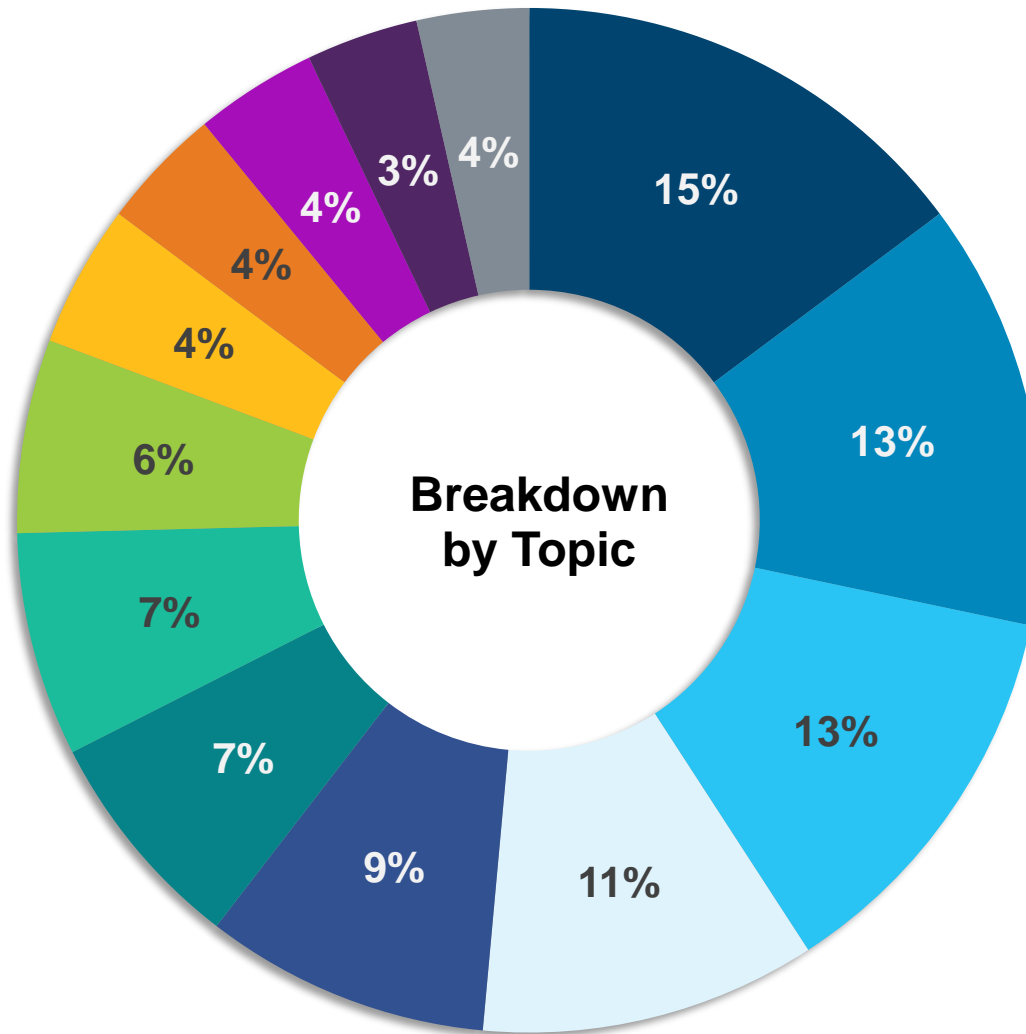
Public Comment from Scoping Covered Many Topics

88 unique submissions

- 2 form letter campaigns comprised 1,176 copies

Public comments can be viewed at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Docket: BOEM-2021-0044



- Purpose & Need
- Other
- Socioeconomics, EJ, & Tribal
- Process
- Environment & Habitat
- Fishing
- Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles
- Birds & Bats
- Air Quality & Climate Change
- Navigation
- Mitigation
- Fish & Essential Fish Habitat
- Lease Area



Guide to Notable Sections of the Environmental Assessment

In EA...	You can find...
Chapter 1	Introduction to the project
Chapter 2	Description of the proposed action
Chapter 3	Description of the Affected Environment and environmental considerations analyzed by resource
Chapter 4	Description of public involvement
Appendices A-D	Area ID Memo, Actions, Programmatic Agreement, Mitigation Measures for Marine Mammal Species



Resource Assessment

- Each resource is presented in the EA according to its **affected environment** and **potential impacts** to the affected environment that could occur as a result of leasing and site characterization.



- Geology
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine & Coastal Habitats and Associated Biotic Assemblages
- Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles
- Coastal & Marine Birds
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreation & Tourism
- Socioeconomics
- Historic Properties
- Environmental Justice
- Tribes

Virtual Meeting Page:

www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA



Selected Resource: Commercial Fishing

Selected Resource: Commercial fishing	
Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morro Bay Port Complex, in particular Morro Bay and Port San Luis
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space-use conflict• Reduced fishing efficiency• Entanglement with data buoys
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal to low, but some fisheries may be disproportionately affected



See **Section 3.7** for more information



Selected Resource: Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Selected Resources: Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles	
Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39 species of marine mammals• 4 federally listed sea turtles
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise from surveys• Collision with vessels• Entanglement in metocean buoy mooring systems
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negligible effects from acoustics• Negligible effects from vessel interactions• Discountable effects from buoys



See **Section 3.5** for more information



Selected Resource: Coastal and Marine Birds

Selected Resources: Coastal & Marine Birds	
Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 165 species of coastal and marine birds
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disturbance from noise and traffic• Lighting from buoys• Collision with buoys• Trash and debris
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal effect from buoys or traffic• Negligible effects from traffic and debris• SOPs will reduce impacts



See **Section 3.6** for more information



Selected Resource: Cultural Resources

Selected Resource: Cultural Resources	
Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation and tourism• Historic properties• Tribes
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trash and debris generation• Disturbance to seafloor• Impacts to Tribal resources
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negligible impact to tourism• No impacts to submerged archaeological sites



See **Sections 3.8 to 3.12** for more information



Road Ahead – Outlook and Next Steps

Finalize Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment (Summer 2022)

Publish Proposed Sale Notice

- Humboldt and Morro Bay leasing will be combined in one Proposed Sale Notice for a single California auction
- 60-day comment period

Publish Final Sale Notice

Lease Auction (Fall 2022)



BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



Lisa Gilbane | lisa.gilbane@boem.gov | 805-384-6387

For more information on the Environmental Assessment visit:
www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA

Clarifying Questions - Environmental Review Process



Questions – Environmental Review Process

- The Q&A function will be open for questions related to the NEPA process.
- BOEM will respond to questions relating to the process. All other questions will be noted by BOEM but not responded to as part of this meeting.
- Phone call-in users can dial *9 to verbally ask questions related to the environmental scoping process.

Public comment will be received immediately following questions relating to environmental scoping process



Public Comment Opportunity



Process Guidelines

- “Honor” the agenda.
- Participate actively and respectfully.
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue.
- Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you.
- Provide your name and affiliation when you speak.
- Please select the mute button to mute your audio to the phone when you’re not speaking.



What comments are we seeking?

The Environmental Assessment is a comprehensive review of impacts associated with lease issuance and expected future site assessment and characterization activities by the lessee

- Is the information accurately presented?
- Should new information relevant to the analysis be included?
- Are the potential impacts accurately described?
- Are the methodologies and any assumptions correct?
- Are the descriptions of the affected region, affected interests, and localities accurate?

 **Update!** Comment period ends **May 16, 2022** 11:59 p.m. ET/ **8:59 p.m. PT**

BOEM is
Asking for
Comments
on the
Content of
the EA



How to Comment



At this
meeting

Public Comment is
next...

Online

Go to:
Regulations.gov
Search for:
BOEM-2021-0044

By mail

Morro Bay EA
Office of Environment
BOEM
760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102
Camarillo, CA 93010

Update!

Comments are due by **May 16, 2022 11:59 p.m. ET/ 8:59 p.m. PT**



In-Meeting Public Comment Process

- **Pre-registered public comments will be taken first.**
- **To enter the discussion queue:**
 - Click the “raise hand” icon in the top of the webinar window; click again to lower your hand after speaking.
- **The facilitator will call on you when it is your turn to speak. You will then be unmuted.**
 - If you are a phone call-in user, dial *9 on your phone to Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue.
- **Provide your name and affiliation before you speak.**
- **Public comment will be recorded (3 minutes); please be respectful of everyone’s time and opportunity to speak.**



Closing and Next Steps

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief



How to Comment



- This meeting is now adjourned. You can provide comments in the following way by **May 16, 2022 11:59 p.m. ET/ 8:59 p.m. PT**
- Visit the virtual room meeting webpage for more information



Online

Go to:
Regulations.gov
Search for:
BOEM-2021-0044

By mail

Morro Bay EA
Office of Environment
BOEM
760 Paseo Camarillo,
Suite 102
Camarillo, CA 93010

Virtual Meeting Page:

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