



# Offshore Renewable Energy & the California State Lands Commission

Jennifer Lucchesi Executive Officer, State Lands Commission California Ocean Renewable Energy Conference

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## California's Sovereign Lands



The Commission's jurisdiction is rooted in the Public Trust Doctrine. Tide and submerged lands and the beds of lakes, streams, and other navigable waterways are held in trust by the State of California for the benefit of the people of California.

#### Approximately:

- 4 million acres
- 120 rivers and sloughs
- 40 lakes
- Thousands of miles of non-coastal shorelines
- 1100 miles of coastline
- 3 miles offshore

#### CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION





#### The Public Trust Doctrine

The state's title to its tide and submerged lands is a title held in trust for the people of the state so that those citizens may enjoy the navigation of the waters, carry on commerce over them, and have liberty of fishing free from obstruction or interference from private parties.

Illinois Central R.R. Co. v. Illinois (1892) 146 U.S. 387, 452

## Jurisdiction and Management Responsibilities



Energy and Mineral Resources



Oil Spill Prevention



Marine Invasive Species Program



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#### The Commission as a Land and Resource Trust Manager







"The California State Lands Commission provides the people of California with effective stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through preservation, restoration, enhancement, responsible economic development and the promotion of public access."

# **Leasing Program**

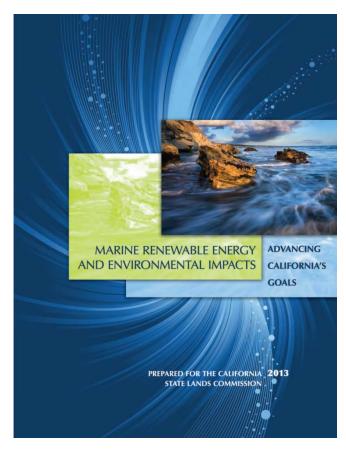
- The Commission leases its state sovereign lands to applicants interested in occupying state lands and developing state minerals and resources, consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine and in the State's best interest.
- The Commission often acts as the CEQA lead agency for offshore projects.



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## 2013 Report on Marine Renewable Energy and Environmental Impacts - Advancing California's Goals



http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Reports/MRE-AdvancingCAGoals.pdf

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# Efforts to Engage, Coordinate, and Collaborate

- BOEM California
  Intergovernmental
  Renewable Energy Task
  Force
- California Marine Renewable Energy Working Group
- West Coast Regional Planning Body



#### 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

"The Commission recognizes that the effects and challenges associated with climate change require the State to dramatically change the way it produces and consumes energy, and that there is a bridge to a sustainable future.

The Commission is committed to building that bridge through efforts to responsibly increase its renewable energy development and facility portfolio, while responsibly managing existing energy production and development leases."

California State Lands Commission 2016-2020 Strategic Plan



Photo Credit: Claire Fackler, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

# Thank You

