



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# California Offshore Wind PEIS Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

Welcome, thank you for joining us today

The presentation will begin at 10:00 am  
Before we begin, you can visit the virtual meeting room at:  
[www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis](http://www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis)



February 6 & 8, 2024

# Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Logistics

BOEM Opening Remarks

Presentation: Background on California Offshore Leasing Process

Presentation: Overview of Programmatic Environmental Review Process

Public Scoping Comments

BOEM Closing Remarks

*Note: This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on BOEM's website here:*

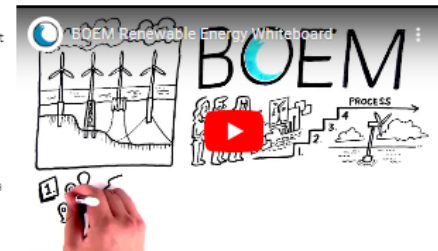
[www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis](http://www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis)

## California Offshore Wind Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement



[Virtual Meeting Room](#) [Virtual Meeting Schedule](#) [How to Comment](#) [Resources](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Welcome to the California Offshore Wind Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Virtual Meeting Room. Your participation is an essential part of BOEM's renewable energy program and environmental review process.



On December 19, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which will analyze potential impacts of Federal offshore wind energy development activities on the five offshore wind lease areas off California's central and north coast. The purpose of the PEIS is to propose programmatic mitigation measures and analyze the impacts from the human and natural environment that could result from adopting those measures.



# Zoom Platform

## If you need help with the Zoom platform:

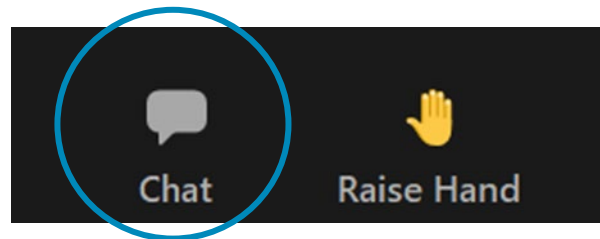
- Use the chat feature at the bottom of the screen
- Send an email to [CAOSWPEIS@icf.com](mailto:CAOSWPEIS@icf.com)

## To call in to the meeting:

- Phone number: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)
- Meeting ID: 871 5395 0489
- Password: 631 305

Please close all apps and programs and limit other streaming or downloads

All participants are on mute until the public scoping comment session



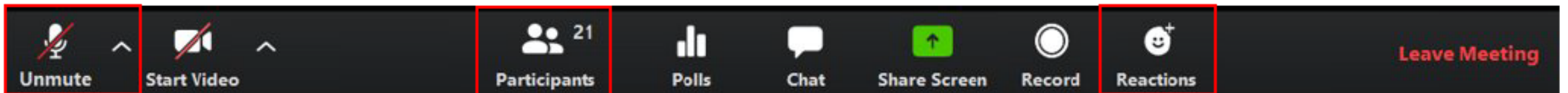
# Participation

Please remain on mute unless called upon

- Click the “Mute/Unmute” button (online) or press \*6 (phone)

You can indicate that you have a question or comment by raising your hand

- Click “Raise Hand” button found under “Reactions” or “Participants” (depends on Zoom version)
- For those on the phone, press \*9 to raise your hand

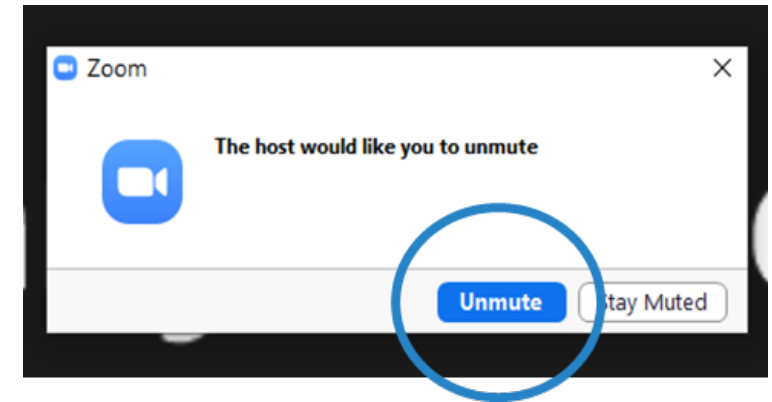


**NOTE:** Participants are muted by default, video feeds are turned off.

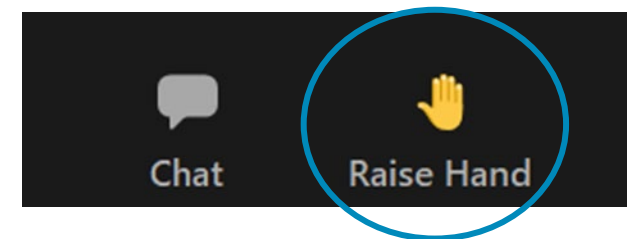
# Public Scoping Comments

Public scoping comment session will follow the presentations

- People who pre-registered to comment will go first
- If you did not pre-register but would like to comment, you can 'raise your hand' to be called on



This meeting is being recorded.



Media representatives, please refer any queries to:

John Romero, Pacific Region Public Affairs Officer  
[John.Romero@boem.gov](mailto:John.Romero@boem.gov)



Office of Communications | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



# Participation Guidelines

“Honor” the agenda.

Participate actively and respectfully.

Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you.

Please 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.



**Poll #1 – Who has joined us today?**



**Poll #2 – Is this your first meeting on offshore wind activities?**

# Opening Remarks

**Lisa Gilbane**

Environmental Analysis Section Chief

BOEM, Pacific Regional Office

[lisa.gilbane@boem.gov](mailto:lisa.gilbane@boem.gov)

# BOEM PROGRAMMATIC EIS FOR CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE WIND: PUBLIC MEETING

Theresa Stevens, PhD  
Senior Project Manager  
Regulatory Division  
Los Angeles District, North Coast Branch

February 2024



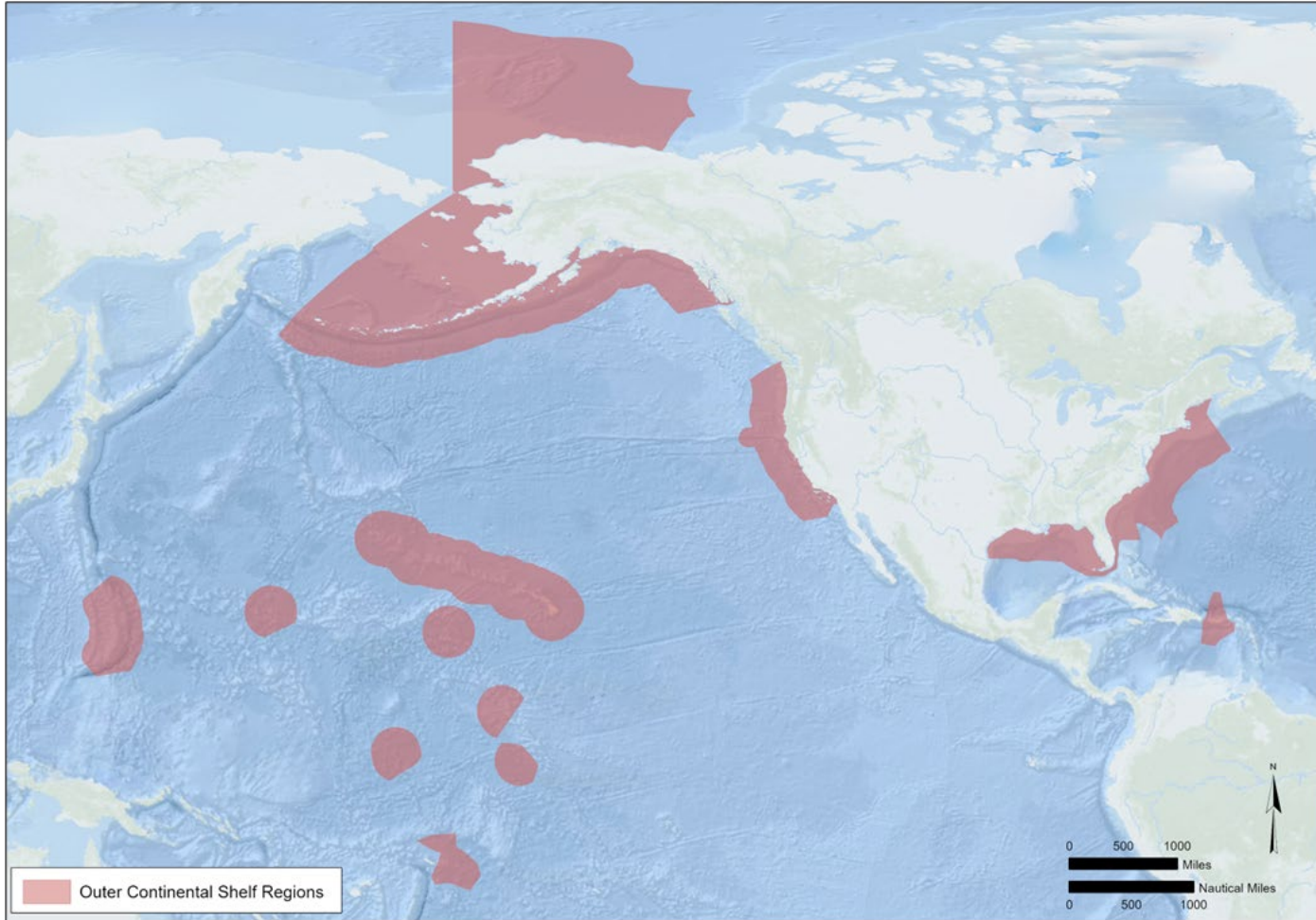
US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# California Leasing Process History

**Matthew Blazek**

Renewable Energy Specialist  
BOEM, Pacific Regional Office  
[matthew.blazek@boem.gov](mailto:matthew.blazek@boem.gov)

# Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)



Mission: Manage the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way

## Agency Jurisdiction

- 3.2 billions acres offshore the 50 U.S. states, five territories with civilian government, and significant acreage offshore other U.S. territories
- Excludes National Marine Sanctuaries





# BOEM's Staged Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process



**Planning & Analysis**

~ 2 YEARS

- Intergovernmental Task Force
- Request for Information or Call for Information and Nominations
- Area Identification
- Environmental Reviews

**Leasing**

~ 1-2 YEARS

- Publish Leasing Notices
- Conduct Auction or Negotiate Lease Terms
- Issue Lease(s)

**Site Assessment**

UP TO 5 YEARS

- Site Characterization
- Site Assessment Plan

**Construction & Operations**

~ 3 YEARS (+25)

- Construction & Operations Plan
- Facility Design Report and Fabrication & Installation Report
- Decommissioning
- Environmental and Technical Reviews

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





# Renewable Energy Process: Call, Wind Energy Areas, and Lease Areas

## Call for Information and Nominations (Call)

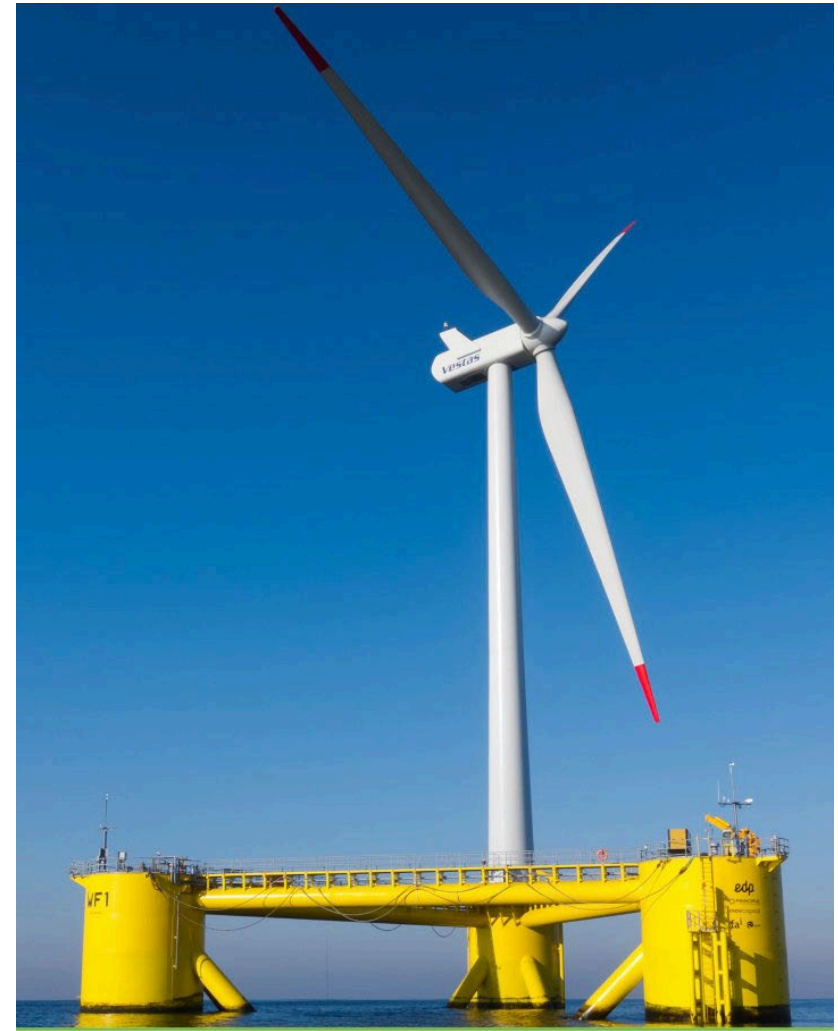
- Calls for formal public comment about the area, uses, and concerns
- Requests nominations of interest for development

## Wind Energy Area (WEA)

- An area within a Call Area identified by BOEM for environmental review
- Basis for a lease area(s)

## Lease Area

- Areas BOEM would offer for lease during a Lease Sale



Aguçadoura WindFloat Prototype  
October 2011 - 4KM Offshore of Aguçadoura, Portugal





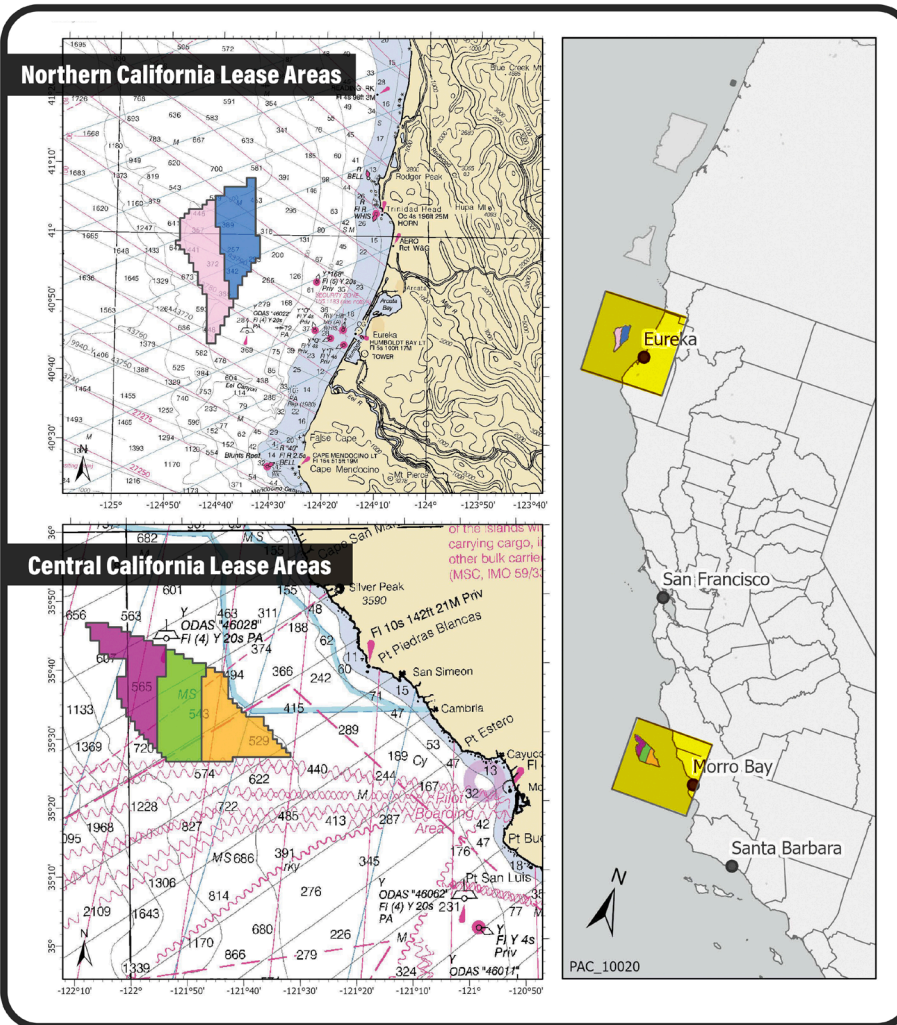
# California Lease Sale Results (December 2022)



## Winners of the California Lease Areas, \$757,100,000 in High Bids

OCS-P0561	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	\$157,700,000
OCS-P0562	California North Floating LLC	\$173,800,000
OCS-P0563	Equinor Wind US LLC	\$130,000,000
OCS-P0564	Golden State Wind, LLC	\$150,300,000
OCS-P0565	Invenergy California Offshore LLC	\$145,300,000

**BOEM** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management





# Programmatic Environmental Review of the California Offshore Wind Leases

**Melanie Hunter**

National Environmental Policy Act Project Lead

BOEM, Pacific Regional Office

[Melanie.hunter@boem.gov](mailto:Melanie.hunter@boem.gov)

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Background

- **NEPA** is a procedural law intended to ensure that Federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions in the decision-making process.
- **Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)** are prepared to provide a full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts of an action for decision makers and the public.
- An EIS considers **Reasonable Alternatives** to Federal actions that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.
- A **Record of Decision (ROD)** is prepared after an agency issues a final EIS. The **ROD** states the agency's environmental decision.



# What's in an EIS?

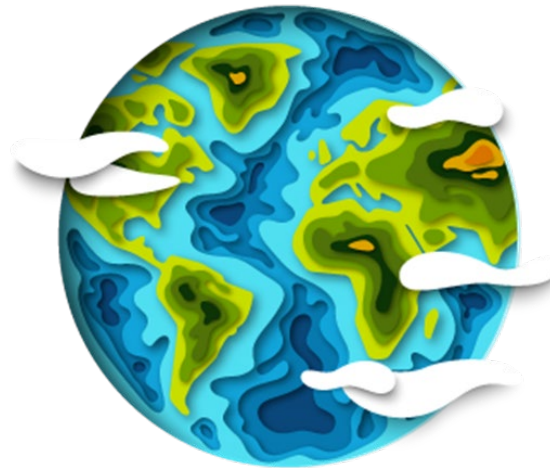
Analyzes a proposed Federal action, and that actions potential impacts to the human and natural environment

## Proposed Action

Action being analyzed.

## Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives that could reduce or eliminate impacts. At a minimum, proposed action and no action alternative.



## Effects

Beneficial and adverse effects.

Affected environment description includes reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned actions other than the Project.



# Programmatic EIS (Tier 1) vs Project-Specific EIS (Tier 2)

## Tier 1: Programmatic

- Includes high level analysis of potential impacts across a broad geographic region, not any particular project
- Considers mitigation measures that could be applied across a broad geographic region (programmatic mitigation measures)
- Includes cumulative impact analysis

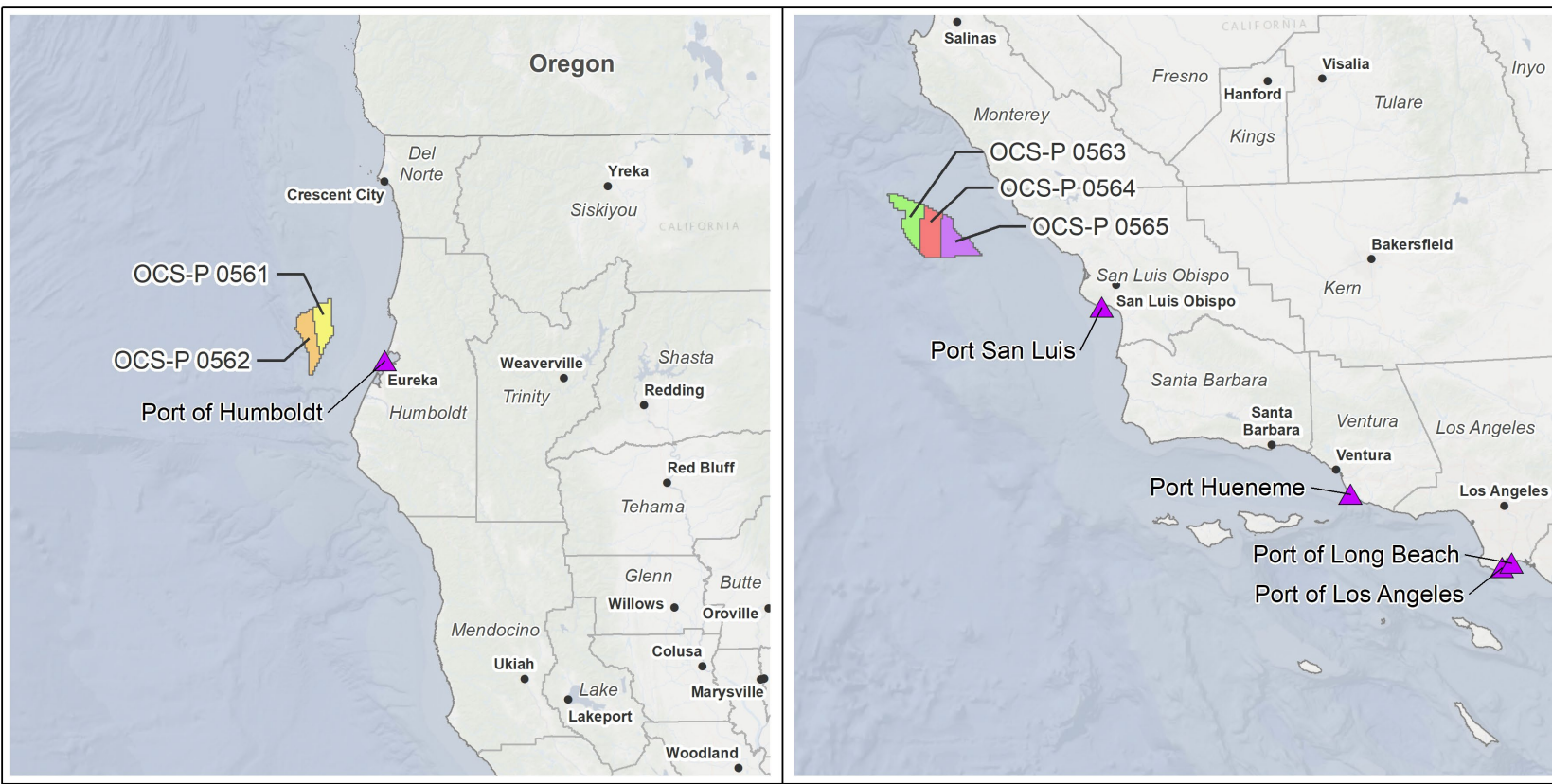
## Tier 2: Project-Specific

- Incorporates analyses done in the Programmatic EIS by reference where applicable
- Focuses on site-specific impacts of a particular project
- Analyzes additional mitigation measures that could be applied to a particular project



# Proposed Action for the California OSW Programmatic EIS

- Identify, analyze, and adopt potential **mitigation measures** for the 5 leased areas that may be incorporated into future **Construction and Operations Plans (COPs)** or imposed as conditions of approval of COPs.



# Initial Alternatives for California OSW Programmatic EIS

## Alternative A

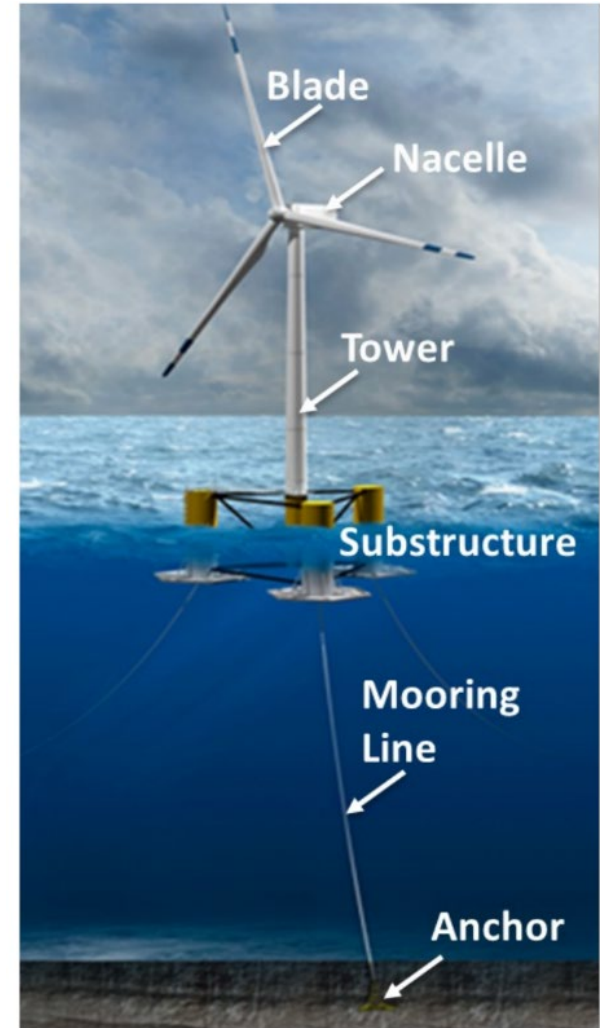
- No Action: no offshore wind development in the California Lease Areas

## Alternative B

- Offshore wind development in the Lease Areas – *without* mitigation

## Alternative C – Proposed Action

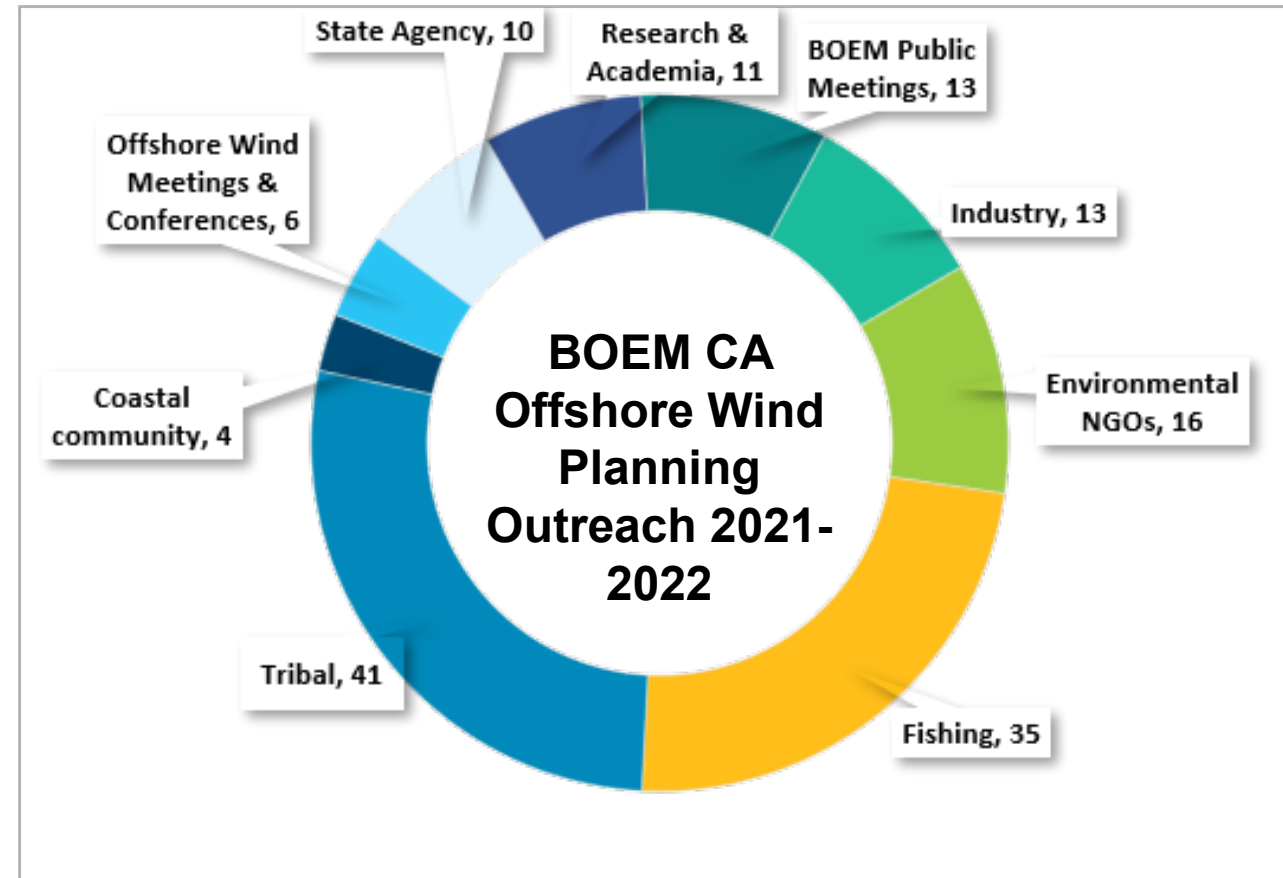
- Offshore wind development in the Lease Areas – *with* programmatic mitigation measures



# Collecting and Providing Information

## Overview of key input

- Fishermen are concerned about potential impacts to their current activities and long-term livelihood.
- Concern about environmental, visual, and noise impacts from offshore wind.
- Concerns with maritime vessel traffic patterns and offshore wind.
- Interest in potential economic impacts from offshore wind development.



# California Offshore Wind Programmatic EIS Review Process

~2 YEARS

## Public Scoping Began on December 20, 2023

- Published Notice of Intent in *Federal Register*
- Public comment period
- BOEM invited Tribes to participate as a cooperating Tribal Nation
- Hold 2 virtual public meetings
- Receive input on issues and alternatives

## Draft PEIS Autumn 2024

- Prepare with cooperating agencies/entities
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*
- Public comment period
- Hold public meetings

## Final PEIS Summer 2025

- Address public comments with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*

## PEIS Record of Decision (ROD) Late 2025

- Minimum 30-day waiting period after Final PEIS

BOEM will conduct a project-specific EIS on COPs once they are received and would require similar steps





# Expected Outcomes of Record of Decision (ROD) for California Programmatic EIS

Identify programmatic mitigation measures which:

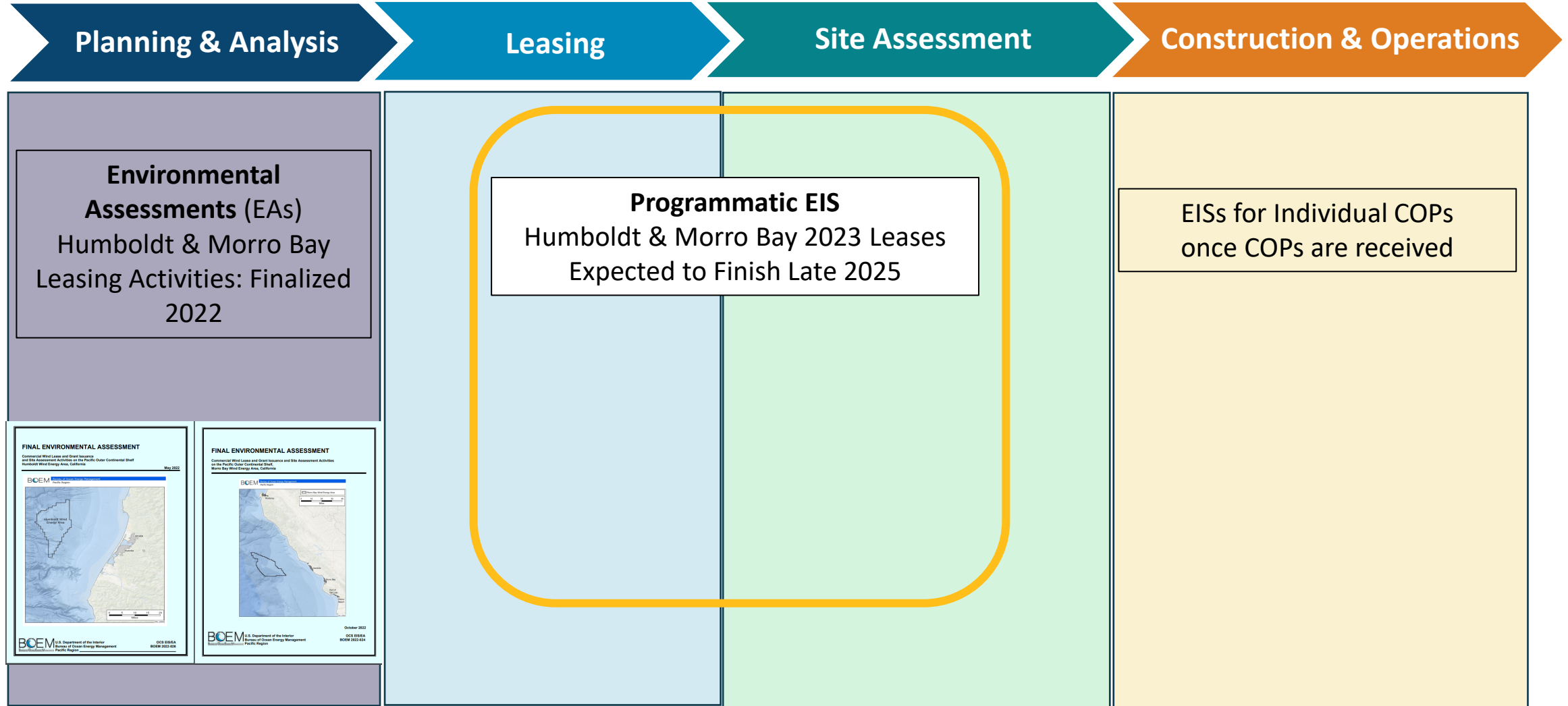
- May be incorporated directly in COPs by lessees; or
- May be required by BOEM as conditions of approval for COPs

Ability for projects proposed within lease areas to use a tiered environmental review process that builds on the outcomes of the PEIS in later project-specific analyses.

**The Record of Decision (ROD) for the California Programmatic EIS will NOT approve any activities.**



# NEPA Review Points for California Offshore Wind Development



# BOEM Consultations with Agencies

- **Concurrent with PEIS**
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, Section 106) – Programmatic Agreement with CA SHPO, ACHP, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
  - Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) – California Coastal Commission (CCC) Consistency Determination
  - Endangered Species Act (ESA Section 7) – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS)
  - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat) – NOAA NMFS
- **Post PEIS – consultations at COP**



# Topics to be Covered in the Programmatic EIS

## Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Benthic (seafloor) Resources
- Coastal Habitats
- Birds and Bats
- Fish



## Socioeconomic

- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Navigation and Vessel Traffic
- Airport, Military, and Scientific Uses
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Recreation and Tourism
- Demographics and Employment
- Visual Resources
- Tribal Values

## Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

# Humboldt: Anticipated Environmental Topics of Concern

## Commercial fishing

- Fishing grounds
- Gear entanglement

## Cultural and Tribal resources

## Connecting to onshore transmission lines\*

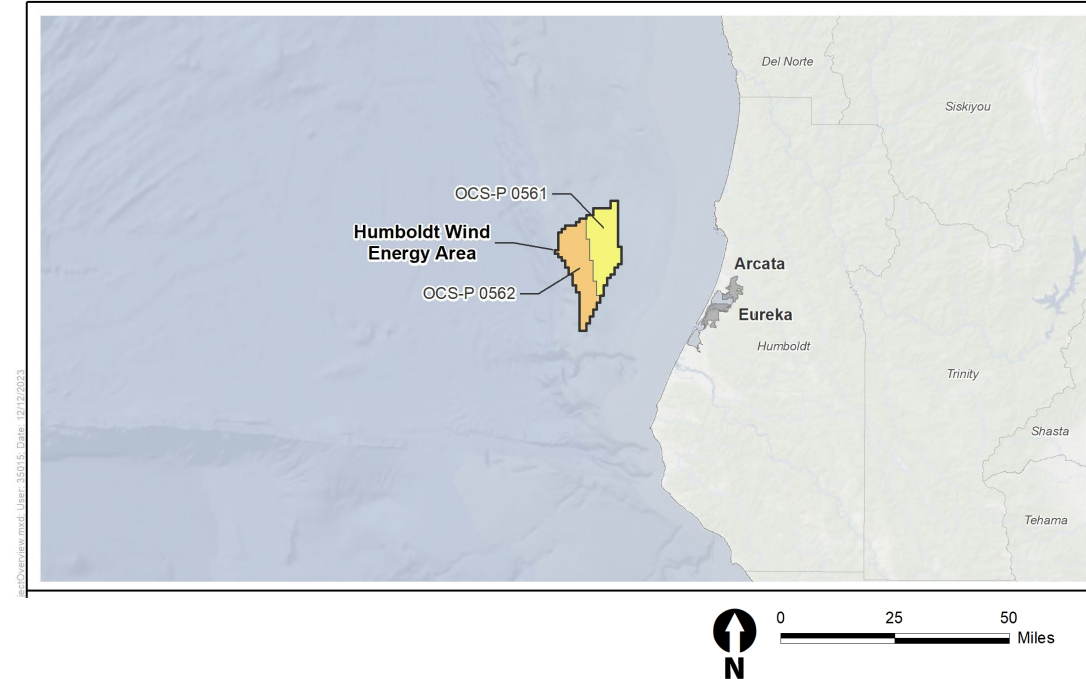
## Views from beaches, State Parks, other public places

## Opportunities for economic benefits

- Concerns about adequate affordable housing/workforce

## Distance from other ports, population centers

\*Onshore elements are analyzed in the Draft PEIS to support the evaluation of a complete project; however, BOEM's authority extends only to the activities on the Outer Continental Shelf.



# Morro Bay: Anticipated Environmental Topics of Concern

## Commercial and recreational fishing

- Fishing grounds
- Gear entanglement

## Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

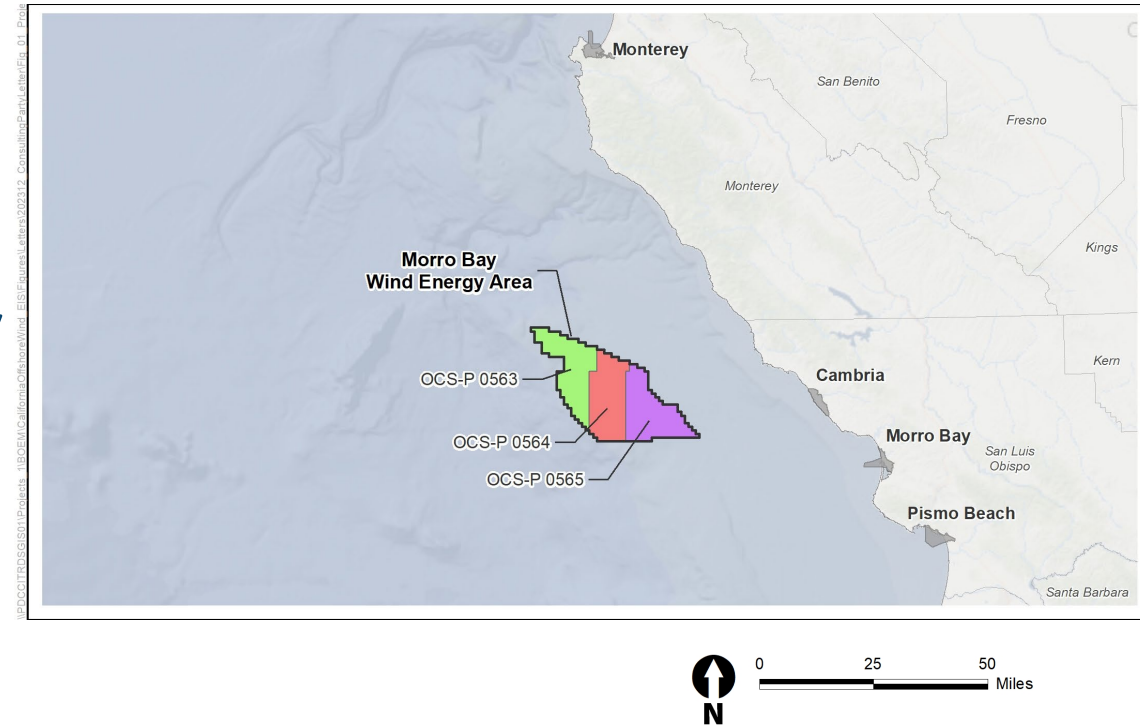
## Cultural and Tribal resources

## Views from beaches, State Parks, other public locations

## Prospective areas for cable landfall – Morro Bay Power Plant, Diablo Canyon\*

## Distance from major ports

\*Onshore elements are analyzed in the Draft PEIS to support the evaluation of a complete project; however, BOEM's authority extends only to the activities on the Outer Continental Shelf.



# Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS

Published in the *Federal Register* on December 20, 2023



<https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2023-0061-0001>



Docket Number: BOEM-2023-0061



Starts the EIS process



Initiates 60-day public comment period, ending **February 20, 2024**



# Scoping Comments

## Key element of NEPA

Environmental analysis guided by local expertise and perspectives = more informed decisions



Types of information BOEM is looking for:

- Significant **issues** to be analyzed in the EIS
- **Sources** of information to include in the EIS
- Data **gaps** and information needs
- Input into the **alternatives**





# Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

## Live Virtual Meetings

Tuesday, February 6, 2024	10:00 a.m. Pacific
Thursday, February 8, 2024	5:00 p.m. Pacific

## Virtual Meeting Room

[www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis](http://www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis)

Meeting  
Information

Project  
Posters

Presentations

How to  
Comment



# How to Comment



<https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2023-0061-0001>

Preferred

## At this meeting

“Raise your hand” in the Zoom meeting during the listening session portion

## Via Mail: In an envelope titled: “California OSW PEIS”, addressed to:

Chief, Environmental Assessment Section,  
Office of Environment,  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102  
Camarillo, California 93010

## Online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Enter BOEM-2023-0061; click “search.” Use the “Comment” button

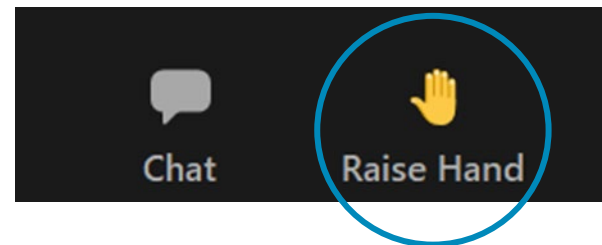
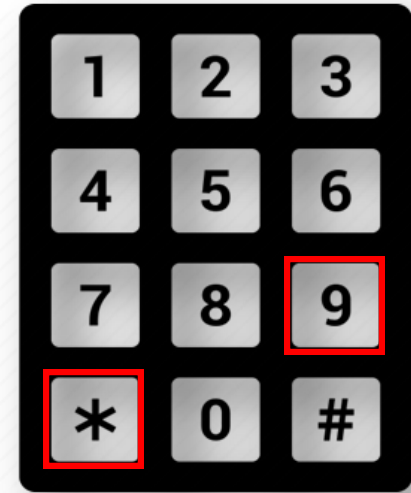
**Comments due by February 20, 2024 8:59 PM Pacific / 11:59 PM Eastern**



# Public Scoping Comments

## Order of Public Scoping Comments

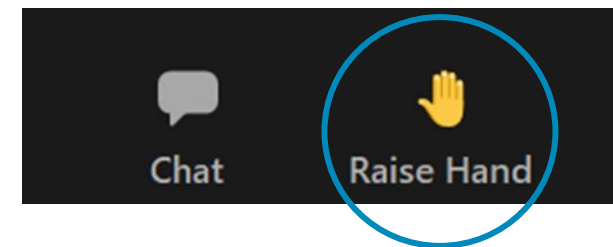
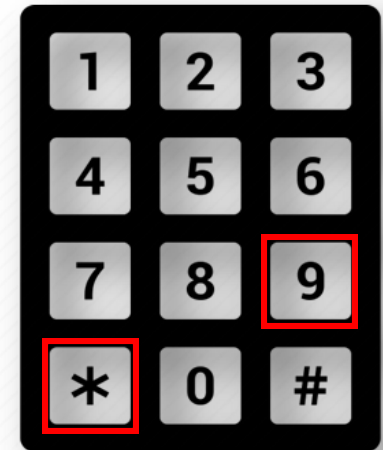
- We will start by calling on those who registered in advance to comment. The Facilitator will call on them in the order they registered
- Once those comments are completed, others will be invited to comment
- Commenters will be called on by the Facilitator in the order they raised their hands



# Public Scoping Comments

## Open for Public Scoping Comments

- To comment, use the 'raise hand' button in Zoom (or \*9 for phone-only participants)
- When you are called upon, the Facilitator will invite you to unmute your line
- Please state and spell your name when you begin
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes. For testimony more than 3 minutes, you can submit your comments in writing



# Participation Guidelines

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Participate actively and respectfully.

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Please 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.



# Public Scoping Comments Limited to Three Minutes



*Listening Session*



# How to Comment

Public Scoping Comment Period Open Until February 20, 2024 **8:59 PM Pacific / 11:59 PM Eastern**



## Public Scoping Meetings: February 6 and 8, 2024

For more information visit the BOEM virtual public meeting website

[www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis](http://www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis)



## In writing to:

CALIFORNIA OSW PEIS, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102, Camarillo, California 93010



Online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): Search for Docket No. BOEM-2023-0061

Click on the “Comment” button. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit Comment.”

Preferred

Comments submitted through traditional mail will be entered into the official docket on Regulations.gov



# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

BOEM.gov



Lisa Gilbane | Environmental Analysis Section Chief, Pacific Region Office | [lisa.gilbane@boem.gov](mailto:lisa.gilbane@boem.gov)





# The Meeting Has Adjourned

Public Scoping Comment Period Open Until February 20, 2024 **8:59 PM Pacific** / 11:59 PM Eastern



## Public Scoping Meetings: February 6 and 8, 2024

For more information visit the BOEM virtual public meeting website

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Click on the “Comment” button. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit Comment.”



Comments submitted through traditional mail will be entered into the official docket on Regulations.gov

