



MEETING SUMMARY

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT MORRO BAY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

APRIL 19, 2022
9 A.M. – 12 P.M. PT
VIRTUAL MEETING

I. Introduction

As part of the public comment process, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hosted two virtual public meetings to present the Draft Morro Bay Environmental Assessment (Draft EA or “Draft”) and gather public input on the content of the Draft. This summary covers the second of the two meetings (the first took place on April 14, 2022).

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Ninety-eight participants attended. Government participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, Tribes, and local governments. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the media. The meeting began at 9 a.m. and ended at 10:36 a.m.

The meeting recording and presentations are available at: www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA.

Meeting objectives:

- Provide information on the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Morro Bay Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on issues or concerns with the content of the Morro Bay Draft EA.
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.

This document summarizes key outcomes and next steps from the meeting. It focuses on public comment input received rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West (K&W) facilitated the meeting.

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Draft EA Meeting Highlights
 - A. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - B. BOEM Wind Energy Authorization Process Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California

- C. Overview of NEPA and the Draft EA
 - D. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
 - E. Public Input Opportunity and Discussion
 - F. Closing Remarks
- III. Appendices
- A. Agenda
 - B. Registered Attendees List
 - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
 - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
 - E. Poll Results

II. Draft EA Meeting Highlights

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

1. Jenna Tourje, Facilitator with Kearns & West

The meeting opened with a welcome to participants, followed by a summary of meeting objectives and guidance on navigating the Zoom Webinar. The facilitator presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations, and the second determined the number of participants planning to provide oral comments at the meeting. Appendix E contains polling results.

2. Richard (Rick) Yarde, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, BOEM Pacific Office

Richard Yarde explained BOEM's renewable energy authority and BOEM's directives to provide advance lease sales and complete review of at least sixteen construction and operation plans (COP) by 2025. Mr. Yarde explained how participants could provide public comments.

B. BOEM Wind Energy Authorization Process Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California

Jennifer Miller, Acting Renewable Energy Section Chief, BOEM's Pacific Office

Jennifer Miller presented an overview of BOEM's planning approach for offshore wind energy, BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process, the history of Central Coast offshore wind energy planning, and the status of BOEM's authorization process in the environmental review processes. BOEM shared its offshore wind energy gateway for data collection on a publicly accessible website: <https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>. Currently, the BOEM Morro Bay WEA is between the planning and analysis phase and leasing phase.

Ms. Miller reiterated the amount of interagency coordination, regulatory processes, and stakeholder engagement and consultation that has and still must occur, noting that there will be another opportunity for a 60-day public comment period after the Proposed Sale Notice that precedes the leasing phase. She explained that there are two areas that BOEM is considering for leasing: the Humboldt WEA and the Morro Bay WEA, both of which will have their own environmental review processes. Following the PSN, BOEM will publish a Final Sale Notice and conduct a Lease Auction. Ms.

Miller asked that further questions on the BOEM California Outer Continental Shelf leasing process be directed to her (jennifer.miller@boem.gov) and Sara Gultinan (sara.gultinan@boem.gov).

C. Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Content of the Environmental Assessment (EA)

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific

Lisa Gilbane presented an overview of NEPA, the content of the draft EA, and of concurrent consultation efforts. Ms. Gilbane explained that NEPA dictates that BOEM assess the environmental consequences of proposed actions, which for this analysis include the reasonably foreseeable site characterization and assessment activities by a lessee to gather information about the WEA. Her overview of the draft EA noted the environmental resources and socio-cultural considerations analyzed. She also explained that the impacts of COPs are not being considered in the analysis in the Draft EA but will be considered in another NEPA process once a COP is submitted.

Ms. Gilbane highlighted the multiple consultations BOEM is conducting concurrently with NEPA process, including National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act.

Ms. Gilbane emphasized that the PSN will be released for Humboldt and Morro Bay together in Spring/Summer 2022, and there will be a 60-day comment review period. Ms. Gilbane invited participants to submit comments, direct further questions to her (Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov) and visit BOEM's website.

D. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions related to the draft EA and NEPA process for the Morro Bay WEA. BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered such topics as:

- Members of the public asked about the PSN leasing and timeline.
- Members of the public asked about the various NEPA environmental reviews and how these processes work. Some asked why the EIS does not occur before the leasing stage. Others requested that the EIS look at the holistic impacts of offshore wind.

Appendix E contains the questions and responses.

E. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

Ms. Tourje invited participants to provide oral public comments. A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- Revise language to include local hires with an accredited apprenticeship: Include the terms "accredited apprenticeship" and "local hires" to guarantee jobs to the local workforce.
- Holistic review: Provide a holistic review when planning and analyzing environmental impacts locally and across wind energy projects.
- Collaborate with fishing communities: Continue collaboration with fishing due to the importance of recreational fishing along the coast of California.

Appendix D lists public comments.

F. Closing Remarks

Lisa Gilbane thanked participants for their time and comments. She encouraged participants to submit further comments via mail and email and to visit www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA to and view meeting recordings.

Ms. Gilbane noted the next steps in the environmental review process and that the public comment period ends May 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST / 8:59 p.m. PST. Comments can be submitted through Regulations.gov under the docket number BOEM-2021-0044.

III. Appendices

A. Agenda

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Morro Bay Draft Environmental Assessment Public Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. PT

Registration:

https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A71WPOIARn2IbAnrbQyjXw

Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.
- Solicit public input on the WEA and Draft EA.

Agenda Item	Presenter
Welcome and Webinar Guidance	Kearns & West Facilitator
Overview of Morro Bay Draft EA	Jennifer Miller, BOEM Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
Clarifying Questions on Draft EA	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM Kearns & West Facilitator
Public Comment	Participants Kearns & West Facilitator
Closing Remarks	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM

B. Registered Attendees List

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Lindsey	Amtmann		Other
Morten	Andersen	DNV	Business/Industry

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Susanne	Andresen	Esgian	Business/Industry
Michele	Baker	York Precision Machining & Hydraulics	Business/Industry
Jack	Barkowski		Other
Cory	Barringhaus		Business/Industry
Claire	Behrens	AFRY Management Consulting	Business/Industry
Brian	Benito		N/A
Gayle	Bennie	SSE Renewables	Business/Industry
James	Bernthal-Hooker	4C Offshore	Other
Scott	Bloom		Other
Lindsay	Bonito	CA Natural Resources Agency	Government
Tracy	Borneman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Government
Elizabeth	Bradley	Tetra Tech	Business/Industry
Naomi	Brandenfels	Quinault Indian Nation	Tribal/Indigenous
Jenny	Briot		N/A
Albert	Brocone		Other
Ryan	Brown	energyRe	Business/Industry
Bohdan	Buchynsky	Diamond Generating Corporation	Business/Industry
Becky	Cairns		Government
Chloe	Campbell	SSE	Business/Industry
Amanda	Canepa		N/A
Sam	Cohen		N/A
Brian	Coleman	GO-Biz	Government
Margaret	Corvi	Consultant	Tribal/Indigenous
Julia	De lamare	nrdc	Non-governmental organization
Casey	Dennehy		Government
Gene	DePuy	Monterey Bay Aquarium	Non-governmental organization
Brett	Diener	Manson Construction Co.	Business/Industry
Crystal	D'Souza	CDFW	Government
Dan	Duke	H. T. Harvey & Associates	Business/Industry
Jonathan	Duran	SWRCC	N/A

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
David	Eller		Business/Industry
Lissa	Eng		Government
James	Falino		Other
Shilo	Felton	National Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Rachelle	Fisher	Strategic Earth Consulting	Business/Industry
Luisa	Florez		N/A
Tom	Fulton	Acteon	Business/Industry
Javier	Goas Martin	OW Ocean Winds	Business/Industry
Sophie	Godfrey-McKee	NOAA	Government
Claire	Gonzales	UCSB	Academia
Tom	Goulding	Renews	Press
Juan	Gracia	EPI Group	Business/Industry
Ashley Nigel	Grainger	Offspring International Ltd	Business/Industry
Mark	Griffin	Schmitz & Associates	Business/Industry
Kerry	Griffin		Government
Karen	Grimmer	MBNMS	Government
Tom	Hafer	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization	Business/Industry
Donald	Haldane	SSE Renewables	Business/Industry
Krystal	Harwick	HDR	Business/Industry
Jack	Haynie	Baird & Associates	Business/Industry
Geoffrey	Hebertson	Rystad Energy	Academia
Christine	Heinrichs		Community-Based Organization
Kristen	Hislop	Environmental Defense Center	Non-governmental organization
Katherine	Hoff	CLEE (UC Berkeley)	Academia
Breana	Inoshita	Downey Brand	Business/Industry
Dan	Jaynes		Business/Industry
Cheryl	Johnson	AECOM	Business/Industry
Carlaine	Johnson	Shell Renewable Energy Solutions	Business/Industry
Nicole	Johnson	SLR International Corporation	Business/Industry
Andrew	Johnson	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Michael	Karavolias		Government
Kate	Kelly	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Jeremy	Kemp		Non-governmental organization

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Michael	Khus-zarate	Proposed Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary Campaign	Tribal/Indigenous
Nancy	Kirshner-Rodriguez	Business Network for Offshore Wind	Non-governmental organization
Sharon	Kramer	H.T. Harvey & Associates	Business/Industry
Sean	Kuschel	Washington State Department of Ecology	Government
Juliet	Lamb	The Nature Conservancy	Non-governmental organization
lynsey	lambert	SGRE	Business/Industry
Jim	Lanard	Magellan Wind	Business/Industry
Glenn	Legge	HFW USA	Other
Max	Liebergesell		Government
Sarah	Lim		Other
Eric	Lin		Other
Alden	Lundy	BOEM	Government
Nicolas	Mac Ferran	SBM Offshore	Business/Industry
Idalia	Machuca	DNV	Business/Industry
Jonah	Margulis	Aker Offshore Wind	Business/Industry
Aoife	Mc Govern		Business/Industry
Margarita	McInnis	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Manley	McNinch	SWRCC	Non-governmental organization
Daniel	Mendelsohn	Innovative Environmental Science, LLC	Business/Industry
paul	michel	NOAA Sanctuaries	Government
Jacqueline	Moore	PMSA	Business/Industry
Caroline	Mueller	Avangrid Renewables m	Business/Industry
Joao	Neves	X1 Wind	Business/Industry
Jeremiah	OBrien	F/V Aguero	Community-Based Organization
Kelsey	Owens		Business/Industry
Rachel	Pachter		Business/Industry
Alex	Perez	Swrcc	Business/Industry
Robert	Perry	Synergistic Solutions	Business/Industry
David	Perry	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	Other

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Larry	Phillips	American Sportfishing Association	Non-governmental organization
Torbjorn	Prestegard	Aker Offshore Wind	Business/Industry
Morty	Prisament	Green Planning Collab (GPC)	Other
Sergey	Provanov	Freelance Consulting	Business/Industry
Benjamin	Purper	KCBX	Press
Cristi	Reid		Government
Gregg	Rivoir	Underground Solutions, Inc.	N/A
Bennetta	Robinson	AFL-CIO	Other
Cotton	Rockwood	Point Blue Conservation Science	Non-governmental organization
Emma	Ross	USACE	Government
AJ	Rumfola	Virginia Tech	Other
Hudson	Sangree	RTO Insider	Press
Kelly	Sarber	Strategic Management	Business/Industry
Annie	Secrest	County of San Luis Obispo	Government
Katie	Segal	UC Berkeley	Academia
Prianka	Sharma	Office of Advocacy, US Small Business Administration	Government
Jason	Shi	BSEE	Government
Karie	Silva		Business/Industry
Charles	Smith	GHD	Business/Industry
Stacey	Snow	Jacobs	Non-governmental organization
Tom	Sooter		Other
Esther	Sperling		Government
Jay	Staton	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Government

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Michael	Stocker	Ocean Conservation Research	Non-governmental organization
Danna	Stroud	GO-Biz	Government
Joe	Thacker	Jacobs	Business/Industry
Po-Chieh	Ting	EPA Region 9	Government
Pedro	Toscano	Carpenters B A	Business/Industry
Nico	Turpin-Invernon		Business/Industry
richa	Upadhyay		Government
Justin	van Emmerik	Willamette Technical Fabricators	Business/Industry
Loryann	Velez		Tribal/Indigenous
Anthony	Ventura	SWRCC Local 805	Business/Industry
Jenny	Vick	HDR	Business/Industry
Nicky	Virdee	SSE	Other
Kevin	Wedman	NV5	Business/Industry
David	Weeshoff	Pasadena Audubon	N/A
Alla	Weinstein	Castle Wind LLC	Business/Industry
Kate	Will	Triton Systems, Inc.	Business/Industry
Katy	Wilson	Sempra Infrastructure	Business/Industry
Brita	Woock	Orsted	Business/Industry
David	Wojtczak	Grid Focus	Business/Industry
Mike	Woods	Baird and Associates	Other
Sarah	Xu		Community-Based Organization
Alex	Yachanin		Business/Industry
Mario	Zuniga	US EPA	Government

C. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participants asked clarifying questions in the Zoom Q&A box after both presentations. Descriptions of questions and responses for both sessions are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

Questions

Materials

- When will the recording of this meeting be posted?
 - Slides for this presentation will be posted online on the day of the meeting (April 19). The meeting recordings must meet 508 Compliance and will take about two weeks. Meeting notes will be posted to BOEM's website.
- Will we be able to save the transcript for our notes?

- The presentation is currently available and BOEM will share a recording and notes summary. The transcript is added to the meeting video recording and is not uploaded as a separate document.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Can you explain how the draft EA fits into the NEPA review process?
 - NEPA requires federal action through an EA. In addition to the EA, BOEM incorporates a public comment process to assist and gather additional information and feedback.
- What is the strategy for looking at cumulative impacts if there is not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) until the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) stage?
 - Cumulative has a specific definition in NEPA. Cumulative impacts are discussed in the draft EA. It is related to other activities that are concurrent either spatially or temporally regarding proposed actions. This includes other buoys in place, other vessel traffic, and other projects with the same type of impacts. The Pacific Region does not have a COP yet because the COP is in a future stage.
- Why not begin with an EIS, which is typical with the oil and gas leasing process? Cumulative effects of onshore/nearshore support facilities in state waters could be significant, both positive and negative (both of which are required to be addressed per NEPA). Is an alternative approach to accomplish this via your process? Why not begin with an EIS?
 - BOEM must balance complying with federal law, engaging with members of the public, and gathering data for the project. BOEM continues to collect data and assess impacts after the leasing stage.
- The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) is interested in ensuring that there is an environmental review that considers the impacts of many developments. At what point will BOEM review the impacts of multiple offshore wind (OSW) projects?
 - As this meeting, BOEM is focusing questions on site characterization and site assessments. To expand on your question, please make an official comment or reach out to Lisa Gilbane.

Proposed Sale Notice/Leasing

- Please repeat the information regarding the PSN. Will Morro Bay and Humboldt call areas be captured in the same PSN document? When will the PSN be released?
 - One PSN will include both WEAs in Morro Bay and Humboldt. The specifics, terms, and conditions of the PSN will be available in the Spring/Summer of 2022.
- It seems like the BOEM lease auctions are structured in a way that the projects (and therefore the electricity that they sell) will be more expensive. Why doesn't BOEM offer these leases through reverse auctions, where developers would offer bids to sell electricity at the lowest price?
 - BOEM does not control the cost of energy. Arrangements are made between the power purchaser and the lessee regarding the cost of energy. BOEM has specific regulations and competitive processes. BOEM's jurisdiction on leases comes from regulatory guidance.

Timeline

- What is the timeline for wind energy projects moving forward?
 - COP decisions could take five years. Once BOEM issues a lease, lessees have five years to develop a COP to submit for review.

D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments were received during the meeting. These are summaries of the comments received and are not intended to be verbatim.

1. BOEM should require in the lease hiring local accredited apprenticeship workers. Requiring a skilled trained workforce will revitalize the community, support good jobs, and continue to build revenue for local restaurants, stores, and merchants. (Five commenters shared similar comments.)
2. The fishing industry feels disregarded in the draft EA and looks forward to more collaboration with BOEM. Regarding the federal consistency determination, Section 433 states that the Coastal Commission held a decisional hearing on April 7 for the Humboldt section. Can that be confirmed? When will BOEM submit a separate determination for the project?
3. There are concerns around the cumulative impacts on marine life. A programmatic EIS is more beneficial than an individual impact assessment with a Construction and Operations Plan (COP). The environmental review should include all reasonably foreseeable activities. While renewable energy is important, there must be careful consideration of environmental impacts while moving forward with offshore wind.
4. BOEM hiring local accredited apprenticeship workers will create local jobs to support workers looking for work after the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon power plant.
5. There should be a more detailed EIS as opposed to a Morro Bay specific EA to capture the nuanced impacts on the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM's draft EA overlooks the impacts of converting 10 GW into electricity. Currently, wind energy drives upwelling. A conservative model funded by the Ocean Protection Council indicated that energy conversion showed a decrease of 10%-15% in upwelling adjacent to the call area. If the transfer function were just linear, the area would support 10%-15% less life from whales and fishery. BOEM should conduct a responsible methodical assessment at a systematic level and consider the interacting systems. Moving forward with the EA is not sufficient and will result in additional problems.
6. Offshore wind is an important source of energy. Historically speaking, in the development of studies for MMS oil and gas, the Central Coast, Santa Maria Basin, and Santa Barbara had gas leases. Those sites and meetings hold a wealth of information on issues and stakeholders involved in comments on the lease sales. The Morro Bay coordination programs and Coastal Trails issues can be referenced as possible mitigation measures. In general, commercial fishing is synonymous with fishermen but not always. Fisheries from an ecological standpoint should be addressed. BOEM should consider onshore support for state waters, stage area supply vessels, and refer to commenting processes in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.
7. More than 375 square miles of impacted California coast interests the recreational fishing community of more than 55 million recreational fishers and anglers. As a group critically impacted by offshore wind, BOEM should understand the uncertainty relative to the deep-water impacts from offshore wind. BOEM should continue transparency and engagement with stakeholders involved.

8. The South Coast Air Quality Management District found that using skilled and trained accredited programs for workforce support within a 30-mile radius can result in a reduction in air pollutants.
9. Horizontal turbines impact birds and migration. Vertical access turbines do not injure birds.
10. There should be a more holistic planning process that started from the beginning. Offshore wind developments should analyze multiple projects holistically and not on a single ad-hoc basis to ensure smooth planning. BOEM should not defer thorough environmental review for future phases of commercial wind development. The WEA Morro Bay memorandum stated a further environmental review that will be conducted at subsequent stages of the regulatory process including if and when leases are issued and if and when energy facilities are proposed on any leases. The purpose of the WEA and leasing process is to allow the development of commercial wind projects. Identification of the WEA and issuance of leases does not happen in a vacuum. These actions are directly tied to future activities including subsequent site characterization and assessment in consideration of plans for construction and operations of specific projects. All of these phases are part of the same process.

E. Poll Results

Participant Affiliation

Affiliated Group	Number (out of 52)	Percent
Community-Based Organization	0	0%
Academia	1	2%
Government	15	29%
Non-governmental organization	8	15%
Tribal/Indigenous	1	2%
Business/Industry	25	48%
Press	2	4%
Other	0	0%

Public Comment: Are you planning to provide a public comment today?

Answer	Number (out of 140)	Percent
Yes	15	11%
No	125	89%