

PRESS RELEASE

Offshore Wind California Applauds Biden Administration for Clearing the Way to Bring Gigawatts of Clean, Utility-Scale Offshore Wind Power to the Golden State

Menlo Park, CA, May 25, 2021—[Offshore Wind California](#) (OWC), a group of wind industry leaders, applauded an [announcement by the Biden Administration today](#) that the Departments of Interior and Defense have reached agreement on California sea-space and other issues, clearing the way to move ahead with responsible development of the Golden State's multi-gigawatt (GW) offshore wind power potential on its Central and North coasts.

"This is the breakthrough California's offshore wind industry and workers have been looking for," said [Adam Stern](#), Executive Director, OWC, a trade group of offshore wind developers and technology firms. "We look forward to partnering with federal and state agencies to map out a path to achieve a minimum of 10 GW of clean, offshore wind power for Golden State residents and workers by 2040. An interim goal of 3 GW by 2030 will contribute to President Biden's national goal of 30 GW by the end of this decade—from both the East and West coasts. We commend the Departments of Interior and Defense, with support from Governor Newsom, for reaching this agreement. To meet these ambitious goals, we'll need to complete environmental reviews, upgrade port infrastructure, build offshore wind's supply chain, and streamline federal and state permitting while protecting wildlife and cultural resources. Full speed ahead!"

Responsible development of offshore wind will be essential for California to reach its clean energy goals and reduce its climate risks, while also creating thousands of high-skilled jobs and protecting marine and coastal resources. On May 14, [Governor Gavin Newsom](#) committed \$20 million in California's proposed FY 2021-22 budget as a down payment to spur offshore wind power. In the [state Assembly](#), AB 525, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu with bipartisan support, calls on state agencies to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind, of which at least 10 GW will be needed for California's 100% clean energy portfolio, according to a [recent interagency report](#).

The [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (NREL) estimates California's technical potential for offshore wind power at well over [100 GW](#), including up to [8.4 GW](#) in the federal [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's](#) current designated call areas. Deeper West Coast waters require floating technologies and these are being [deployed](#) now in various [markets](#) around the world. [NREL](#) estimates that building 10 GW of offshore wind power in California would support thousands of jobs, supply [competitively priced](#) power, and generate [\\$20 billion](#) in GDP by 2050.

Offshore Wind California's board member companies include [Aker Offshore Wind](#), [Equinor](#), [Magellan Wind](#), [Mainstream Renewable Power](#), [Ørsted](#), [Principle Power](#), the [Pacific Ocean Energy Trust](#), and [Shell](#). Responsible development of clean, offshore wind power—which at 10 GW would supply enough electricity for at least 3.5 million California homes—has [wide support](#) among labor, industry, environmental, and other groups.

For more on the Biden Administration's offshore wind announcement for California, go to: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-opens-pacific-coast-to-new-jobs-and-clean-energy-production-with-offshore-wind-development/>

About OWC – *Offshore Wind California* is a coalition of industry partners with a shared interest in promoting policies and public support for responsible development of offshore wind power in California. Its members are dedicated to providing an independent voice and industry expertise to facilitate offshore wind deployment off California's coast. OWC undertakes public education and advocacy of this renewable resource as part of a comprehensive solution to California's energy needs. OWC is a nonprofit, 501(c)(6) organization. For more information, go to www.offshorewindCA.org. Follow us [@offshorewindCA](#).

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