



Statement by *Offshore Wind California* Praising Approval by California Energy Commission (CEC) of Final Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Strategic Plan to Advance California Offshore Wind

July 10, 2024

We applaud the California Energy Commission (CEC) for its approval today of the state's [final strategic plan](#) to deploy California offshore wind at scale, as directed by the [AB 525](#) law signed by Gov. Newsom in 2021. We recognize that this strategic plan is probably the most comprehensive floating offshore wind plan in the world. Its final approval marks a watershed moment in California's course and commitment to go big on offshore wind, and achieve its nation-leading goal to deploy [25 gigawatts \(GW\)](#) by 2045.

The thoroughness with which the Commission has approached this two and a half-year effort has been well worth the wait. The real challenge that begins now is to turn the plan into steel in the water, clean energy on the grid, and thousands of family-wage jobs, among other benefits, all while protecting marine life and Tribal resources. We appreciate the process the Commission has created for this plan and the consultation with all the stakeholders who have participated. This is the way to get things done in California – responsibly, caring for the strong legacy with natural resources we have in California, and delivering many benefits for which generations will be grateful.

The final AB 525 strategic plan outlines the essential next steps to bring California offshore wind online, including investments in a multi-port strategy and new electric transmission, an efficient and timely process for permitting, a robust supply chain and workforce training, engaging key stakeholders, and identifying suitable sea space to reach 25 GW of offshore wind and help California meet its ambitious climate, clean-energy, and grid-reliability goals.

California is setting a course to be a global leader on floating offshore wind and to make it a central part of its diverse clean-power portfolio to generate [100%](#) clean electricity by 2045. Finalizing the CEC's strategic plan for offshore wind follows earlier action by California lawmakers last fall to [enact](#) the ground-breaking [AB 1373](#), which enables the state to procure large-scale, long lead-time clean energy resources such as offshore wind.

Floating offshore wind – which generates steady, reliable power night and day – will be key for complementing other renewable energies like solar and ensuring a strong, secure clean power future for all Californians. Since releasing the draft strategic plan in January, the Commission and staff have worked to refine its details with input from industry experts and other key stakeholders, including at the recent [Pacific Offshore Wind Summit](#) in Sacramento. The CEC's determination and direction has been clear, and we thank all who have participated.

Offshore wind promises to deliver a host of [benefits](#) for California workers, residents, and electricity ratepayers. Deploying 25 GW off the state's North and Central Coasts will create [thousands](#) of family-wage jobs and supply clean power to up to [25 million homes](#). Offshore wind can also save ratepayers [billions](#), help avoid rolling blackouts, and bring real environmental and health benefits, all while coexisting with other ocean users and protecting California's coastal communities and cultural resources. As an industry, we're committed to work with state and federal agencies, the State Legislature, and key stakeholders to realize the promise of California offshore wind.

Adam Stern, Executive Director, [Offshore Wind California](#) (OWC), a trade group of offshore wind developers and technology companies