



May 5th, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Gov. Newsom,

Cc: Chairman Hochschild, Commissioner Vaccaro, Vice Chair Gunda, Commissioner McAllister, Commissioner Monahan,

The [Offshore Wind Now](#) coalition¹ is made up of labor, environment, environmental justice, business groups and local elected officials standing together in support of California going big on offshore wind.

We urge you to set California on track for an offshore-wind-powered future by setting a bold enforceable planning target of 20,000 MW (20 GW) of offshore wind and a minimum requirement of at least 10,000 MW (10 GW) of offshore wind by 2045, and a 5,000 MW (5GW) goal with a minimum requirement of at least 3,000 MW (3GW) by 2030.

This coalition stands together with shared urgency around the importance of tapping into more clean energy in our cutting-edge state, as well as local, skilled and trained jobs. At a time when many of us are still reeling from the economic impacts of COVID, offshore wind development could create 65,000 high-road jobs during the construction phase, and 4,500 ongoing operations

¹ Offshore Wind Now coalition website, <https://www.offshorewindnow.com/>

and maintenance jobs, according to a recent study from the Schwarzenegger Institute². This would not only be life-changing for working people and their families, but would boost the economy in regions where it is much needed.

Offshore wind offers the promise of a new source of clean energy -- producing power in the evening and at night when the sun isn't shining -- while also supporting the state's leadership as a clean energy innovator, through the creation of a new global industry and economic sector with a domestic and local supply chain providing career-track, family-sustaining jobs in hard-hit areas. Development of offshore wind will provide a consistent clean energy source that can increase the state's energy resilience and put us on a path to achieving 100% renewable electricity ahead of the state-mandated 2045 requirement.

Furthermore, the [Joint-Agency SB 100](#) report concluded that California will need to develop a massive and diverse renewable energy portfolio, including at least 10,000 MW of offshore wind, in order to achieve its SB 100 goals most cost-effectively. To realize a large-scale offshore wind industry over the next two decades, the state must set a strong, meaningful goal and begin planning to reach that target today.

Offshore wind is an essential strategy in our transition away from fossil fuels. The wildfires, drought and extreme heat of the last year provide tangible and devastating evidence of the threats we face from global warming. The recent IPCC report urges action at every level of government, and California must do all that it can to decarbonize the electric power sector as quickly as possible to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

California has incredible offshore wind potential with enough power to meet 158% of our 2019 electricity use from offshore wind alone, after accounting for exclusion zones, according to the Environment California Research and Policy Center report, [Offshore Wind for America](#).³

Besides the many global and climate benefits of California making offshore wind a top priority, its construction, maintenance and operation will create high-quality local jobs that will uplift under-served frontline communities through thoughtful local and targeted hiring.⁴ These are jobs for a skilled and trained workforce that is readily available in areas that will sustain offshore wind, and it will only serve to strengthen the economies of these communities. Grid infrastructure and improvements can bring energy equity to California's frontline and rural communities. Launching a new offshore wind industry at scale in California requires planning and coordination among agencies to address issues of sea-space planning, environmental permitting, electric transmission, port improvements. Local employment and workforce training, but without a clear, bold target, it is impossible to create a plan. The skilled and trained labor workforce is readily available to provide all that is needed -- with this plan in place.

If California sets an ambitious goal, it would also send a strong signal to the market and to the federal government that California needs and is preparing for offshore wind. The President set a goal of 30,000 MW by 2030, and ambitious goal setting has been successful on the East Coast, where states have set a combined 39,000 MW of offshore wind targets, and 13 projects are currently in development.

² California's Offshore Wind Electricity Opportunity. The USC Schwarzenegger Institute for state and global policy, by Adam Rose, PhD, DanWei, PhD and Adam Einbinder.

³ Offshore Wind for America, Environment California Research and Policy Center, by Hannah Read and Bryn Huxley-Reicher.

⁴ California Offshore Wind: Winding Up for Economic Growth and Environmental Equity, Brightline Defense Project.

Setting a strong target now will help California continue its record of climate leadership by embracing offshore wind as the next technology in our clean energy future. This target will also aid and strengthen many communities in California that were impacted during the COVID recession, while ensuring good-paying jobs for thousands of working people.

Sincerely,

Eddie Ahn
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