

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01

August 17, 2012

On behalf of the Biological Sciences Department and the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences (CCMS) at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, I am pleased to submit comments to the California Energy Commission on the development of the First Triennial Investment Plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program. COAST applauds California's leadership in the development of clean energy technologies and approaches and believes the State can lead the way for clean energy strategies nationwide.



*The Cal Poly Pier has been operated by the university since 2001 and is located in Avila Beach, CA.*

As one of the CSU's waterfront facilities, The Center for Coastal Marine Sciences maintains an excellent facility for access to the ocean to test new and innovative ocean technology, including the development of marine and hydrokinetic (MHK) technology and the evaluation of its performance and environmental impacts. Built in 1984 by Unocal Corp. to facilitate oil transport on the U.S. West Coast, the Cal Poly Pier now operates as a marine research facility. At 3000 feet long, it provides students, faculty and researchers with unrivaled

access to the marine environment of the Central Coast. Since 2001, when Unocal donated the pier to the university, CCMS staff has been converting the pier from a former industrial facility into a functioning research station. The pier now boasts a classroom/dry lab facility, a second floor conference room with 360 degree views of San Luis Obispo Bay, a flowing seawater system with wet-lab and aquarium space, and many other resources. The pier also supports various monitoring instruments such as a

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meteorological station, a fixed underwater instrument line, an automated water column profiler, and an acoustic wave and current meter. Sitting in 40 ft of water with significant electrical infrastructure, the facility has been used by private companies to test new wave energy technology and also as a platform for testing and developing ocean observing equipment including remotely operated vehicles and autonomous underwater vehicles. The pier maintains two full-time technical staff to participate in such projects.

As a member of the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST), Cal Poly is poised to become a member of a network of “plug-and-play” facilities in a variety of wave, tidal and physical environments with all the necessary components for developers to test their prototypes *in-situ*. Our marine sciences program is also an actively engaged in partnerships with state and federal agencies to develop user driven research for industry and government. We look forward to continuing this tradition as part of the EPIC program.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments,



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