OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY COALITION
The Marine and Hydrokinetic Energy Trade Association

August 17, 2012

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

RE: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 -- Comments on Funding Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy

Dear Commissioners:

The Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition (OREC) is the national trade association for companies engaged in the responsible commercialization of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies. We represent more than 40 companies including companies located in San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and in the San Francisco Bay Region. In 2012 more than half a dozen projects will be deployed in U.S. waters. The first, a tidal energy generator with a power purchase agreement approved by the Public Utilities Commission in Maine, will be delivering electricity to the grid as early as next week. Other projects are being deployed in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. We applaud the State of California's commitment to clean energy, green jobs, and sustainable economic development as embodied in the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC).

We encourage investment in applied research and development, technology demonstration and deployment and market facilitation for ocean renewable technologies as California possesses abundant ocean renewable energy resources.

The Electric Power Research Institute located in Palo Alto has assessed ocean wave energy potential along the U.S. coasts. Researchers at Virginia Tech and DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory supported the report and data validation. In total, electric generation from waves could amount to more than 1,170 TWh/year, which is almost one third of the 4,000 TWh of electricity used in the United States each year. Much of this energy is off the coast of California.

Advances in the technologies to capture the energy of waves, tides and free moving rivers have been significant over the past decade. In countries like Scotland, Ireland, Spain,Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and others these technologies have been tested and are putting electrons into their local grids. As a clear leader in clean energy, California can help make the U.S. competitive in this market

The United Kingdom's Carbon Trust, in July 2011, wrote:

> "Plan for scaling up manufacturing sites – We estimate that the worldwide tradable market for marine energy devices accessible to UK based business is up to £340 billion, peaking at £29 billion per year, and that UK industry could capture 22% of this, or around £76 billion to 2050."

The Ocean Energy Systems Implementing Agreement of the International Energy Agency estimates:

> "By 2030 ocean energy will have created 160,000 direct jobs and saved 5.2 billion tonnes of CO_2 emissions."

This is a significant market globally and important for California due to its abundant ocean resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. We look forward to your strong support for ocean renewable energy and a bright and prosperous future in California.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Neill