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California Energy Commission
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Subject: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 – Comments on Funding to Support California Marine Energy Industry

Thank you for the opportunity to comments on the EPIC Program, and attend your hearings in Los Angeles.

My name is William F. Lyte, president of Protean North America, Inc. We are a developer of ocean wave energy devices, based in Santa Barbara, California.

My numbered funding suggestions below address the needs of the entire U.S. wave and marine energy industry, which is looking to California for leadership.

As introduction to my funding suggestions:

- California is traditionally the hub of innovation, with its globally-recognized State universities, This innovation should extend to the development and use of marine energy technology, given California's 1,000 miles of coastline with excellent marine energy, and commitment to a future supplied by renewable energy.

- The U.S. Navy, with bases in San Diego, Oceanside, Seal Beach, Channel Islands, Ventura/Oxnard and Monterey, is already a leader in wave energy research. Their primary worldwide wave energy research and engineering center is located at Port Hueneme, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Engineering Service Center (ESC), which operates their Wave Energy Test Site (WETS) in Hawaii.

- California's engineering industry, with more than 1,000 firms in the State, is a global leader in ocean wave energy. Among the firms active in wave energy in California are SAIC, AECOM, Tetra Tech, HDR, Moffatt & Nichol and Sound & Sea Technology. California also has a strong offshore systems manufacturing industry which can be applied to marine energy.

- There has been considerable U.S. Department of Energy funding for wave energy research, including for projects in California. This can be used to leverage CEC EPIC funds. One such U.S. DOE project would help to fund the planning for a dedicated marine energy demonstration facility at Point Conception, in association with existing offshore oil platforms.

Specific EPIC Program Funding Suggestions

Therefore, I have the following suggestions regarding use of CEC EPIC funds for support of California's ocean wave energy industry, and marine energy in general.

1. **Fund the establishment of a test location for marine technology in California.** Other states have funded such facilities (Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Florida). Firms with marine technology have no choice but to go to states where test facilities are located. Once there, they will expand and manufacture in those states.
2. **Fund a study through the California State Lands Commission of existing offshore electrical infrastructure**. The offshore cabling and associated facilities for oil facilities, power plants, orts, and other facilities may be valuable in support of marine energy projects. Information on these facilities is very difficult to obtain. There should be an inventory of such facilities, their status and condition, and availability.
3. **Fund a State representative, probably within the California Energy Commission, to serve as liaison for all marine energy project activities**. This will help interested wave energy project developers in working in California.
4. **Monitor and fund promising marine energy technology.** Work to ensure that the firms with it establish and maintain their operations in California, including manufacturing.
5. **Fund marine-energy-related desalination research and technology deployment**. Most ocean wave systems can power desalination systems, providing valuable water for California. This program can be conducted in association with California's coastal water agencies such as Metropolitan Water District of Orange County.
6. **Fund "marine energy" innovation clusters, linked to coastal UC, CSU and Community Colleges**. The most promising areas for these currently are in the Humboldt, San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, Ventura/Santa Barbara, San Pedro Bay, and San Diego areas, where there are considerable university, port, industrial, military resources to support such clusters, as well as good marine energy resources.
7. **Fund marine energy research planned for the Port of Los Angeles City Dock #1 project.** This will be a global center of marine research, in association with the Southern California Marine Institute (11 California universities) plus other organizations.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.