



Seafloor Mapping Lab

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

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
12-EPIC-01

TN # 66806

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Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01

August 16, 2012

On behalf of the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Seafloor Mapping Lab (SFML) and the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST), 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.

I applaud California's leadership in the development of clean energy technologies and encourage the State to include consideration of marine renewable sources as part of a sustainable energy portfolio for the future. California's 1000 miles of shoreline offers diverse opportunities for the development of clean wind, wave, thermal, tidal and ocean current-based energy sources. While many of the technologies needed to harness these naturally occurring renewables have been developed and employed elsewhere, the correct placement of the necessary infrastructure along California's exposed coast will require extensive assessment of the suitability and stability of the seabed. The recent completion of the State-wide Seafloor Mapping Project (<http://seafloor.csumb.edu/csmp/csmp.html>) which the SFML took a leadership role in, has revealed a remarkable diversity of habitats along California's continental margin, as well as episodic sediment deposition and erosion events resulting in vertical changes of several meters in the elevation of the seafloor. We now know that these events can lead to the burial and uncover of rocky habitat on the continental shelf, and thus could pose a significant threat to infrastructure placed on the seafloor. Understanding the nature of the seabed as well as the distribution, magnitude and causes of large sediment transport events will be critical to the design and siting considerations for any offshore energy infrastructure development. The 23-campus CSU COAST network and the SFML have the expertise to aid in the identification and assessment of sites for the development of marine renewable energy technologies, and welcome an opportunity to contribute in this effort.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rikk Kvitek', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Rikk Kvitek

Professor - CSUMB – Division of Science and Environmental Policy
Director - Seafloor Mapping Lab