



October 1, 2012

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

**Subject: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 – Marine Renewable Resources**

To the California Energy Commission:

On behalf of the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences at Cal Poly (CCMS), I am writing to comment on the Electric Program Investment Charge Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan. Our organization is involved in the marine energy sector in that we maintain a kilometer-long pier facility in San Luis Obispo Bay, The pier is an excellent platform for testing oceanographic equipment and for developing engineering solutions to pressing environmental and social needs. For example, the pier has been used to test new technologies being developed for production of ocean wave energy.

We appreciate the inclusion within the Triennial Investment Plan of ocean wave energy and offshore wind energy, and support full funding for: *Strategic Objective S4, "Develop Emerging Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Generation Technologies and Strategies to increase power plant performance, reduce cost and expand the resource base"*, (page 60)

- a. *S.4.4 – Proposed Funding Initiative – Investigate the Economic, Environmental and Technical Barriers to Offshore Wind in California* (page 66)
- b. *S4.5 – Proposed Funding Initiative - Investigate the Economic, Environmental and Technical Barriers to Wave Energy Conversion in California.* (page 67).

The CCMS particularly supports the establishment of testing facilities for wave and offshore wind projects (*S10.2 – Proposed Funding Initiative – Support Demonstration Testing and Verification Centers to Accelerate the Deployment of Pre-Commercial Clean Energy Technologies* (page 104). Several other U.S. states, such as Oregon and Hawaii, already have such testing facilities in place, and the marine renewables industry is being drawn to those states for technology commercialization and manufacturing. Such facilities must be established in California in order for the state to be competitive in this major emerging industry. EPIC program funding levels should be programmed as an appropriate match for that of the U.S. Department of Energy, which is considering a major offshore wind project at Point Conception.

The CCMS is pleased that the U.S. Department of Defense is referenced as a participating organization in the EPIC program, (page 107) which has an ambitious renewable energy goal system-wide, including for ocean wave energy production. They are extremely supportive of the marine renewable sector, and have always been an active participant in our industry organization, the Ocean Renewable Energy Council (OREC).

# CAL POLY

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The CCMS also supports the suggestion of an Advisory Group involving the marine energy sector, (Page 165), and feel that the Ocean Renewable Energy Council would be the correct organization to oversee the formation and management of this Advisory Group. This Advisory Group can be beneficial in support of *S.14 Strategic Objective under Market Facilitation, "Collaborate with Local Jurisdictions and Stakeholder Groups, etc.)*. – (page 132). Such coordination is an extremely important element in the success of wave energy and offshore wind projects. Such projects face complex multi-agency permitting jurisdictions and other challenges, which are both time consuming and expensive for individual technology companies to surmount. An Advisory Group, particularly with funding to assist on a project-by-project basis, could significantly reduce permitting time for these projects, and also help to convey a unified message to all stakeholders regarding these emerging sources of energy.

Please do not hesitate to contact our organization for support or further involvement in this vital program for our marine renewables industry.

Sincerely yours,



Dean E. Wendt, Ph.D.  
Professor and Interim Director