

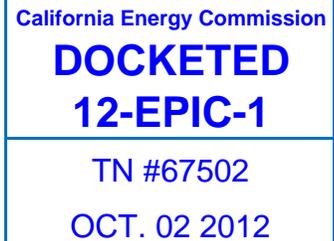


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California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



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

As a long-time educator and researcher in renewable energy at the University of California - Davis, I am writing to comment on the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan. Over the past years, faculty, students and staff at UC Davis have been actively involved in the renewable energy sector including research, development and demonstration of land-based & off-shore wind energy and marine & hydrokinetic systems.

1. We appreciate the inclusion within the Triennial Investment Plan of off-shore renewable 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. *S4.2 – Proposed Funding Initiative – Develop Innovative Tools and Strategies to Increase Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Power Plant Performance and Reliability* (page 63)
  - b. *S4.4 – Proposed Funding Initiative – Investigate the Economic, Environmental and Technical Barriers to Offshore Wind in California* (page 66)
2. As many of the State’s marine energy organizations are university-based laboratories, we fully support the funding for *S5.3 – Proposed Funding Initiative – Develop Analytical Tools and Technologies to Reduce Energy Stresses on Aquatic Resources and Improve Water-Energy Management* (page 73). In this regard, the University of California system is home to several coastal research facilities which can be utilized to support this research.
3. We particularly support the establishment of advanced Technology Readiness Level (TRL) offshore testing facilities for 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, Hawaii and Maine, have already have limited capability testing facilities in place. Currently, the only advanced TRL-level offshore testing facilities are in Europe, and the marine renewables industry is being drawn to those areas for technology commercialization,

manufacturing and other supply chain enterprises. 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, or cost share, for that of the U.S. Department of Energy, which is considering \$50.6 million in funding a major offshore wind demonstration project offshore of Point Conception. This leveraging of Federal funds with State R&D funds is consistent with the policy framework advanced by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA).

4. We are 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. 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).

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

Sincerely,



C.P. "Case" van Dam  
Warren and Leta Giedt Endowed Professor  
Chair, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering