



REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

Humboldt County • Arcata • Blue Lake • Eureka • Ferndale • Fortuna • Rio Dell • Trinidad • Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

March 27, 2014

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

12-EPIC-01

TN 72856

MAR 28 2013

RE: 2015-17 Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program - Second Triennial Investment Plan

Dear Energy Commission Staff,

I am writing to encourage the Commission to include strong support towards developing California's significant offshore renewable energy resources in the 2015-17 EPIC Triennial Investment Plan.

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is a local government Joint Powers Agency representing the County of Humboldt, the seven Cities within the County, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. The Energy Authority develops and implements sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in Northern California. We have conducted multiple energy planning initiatives, including the completion in 2012 of our "RePower Humboldt" strategic plan for renewable energy development in the region (CEC PIR-08-034); this effort identified offshore energy as a potentially key resource that can contribute to achieving a regional renewable energy portfolio of 75% or greater.

We have a special interest in offshore energy given the exceptional resources in our area—the wave power density off Humboldt ranges from 30-40 kW/m, ranking it among the best resources in the U.S. The offshore wind resource near Humboldt Bay is also among the best in the nation, and developers including Makani Power and Nautica Wind Power have explored Humboldt as a pilot offshore wind site. Humboldt Bay is the only deep-water port in the state north of San Francisco, with extensive port infrastructure and power interconnection capacity ideal for supporting offshore energy development, and the Humboldt Bay Harbor District recently acquired a large industrial ocean and dockside site, formerly occupied by a pulp mill, with plans to renovate it as a marine energy research facility, among other uses.

At a state level, the substantial wind and wave energy resources off the coast of California have the potential to significantly contribute to the State's long-term climate action goals, but realizing that potential will require significant investment in research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects to move the technology to full commercialization.

The federal government has already demonstrated support for development of off-shore renewable energy, and has invested \$227 million since 2011 for offshore wind research, development, and demonstration projects and also has made significant investments in wave and tidal power R&D as well. This includes interest in projects off of California's coast; DOE supported PG&E's WaveConnect project with \$1.2 million in federal funding (DOE contract FG36-08GO18170) and will contribute \$750,000 million to the CalWave project (under DE-FOA-0000847) which is a collaboration between Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Humboldt State University, the Energy Authority, and several other private and public partners to assess wave energy potential off the coasts of Humboldt and Santa Barbara Counties.

However, the majority of progress toward developing offshore renewable energy to-date has taken place outside the U.S. and in other coastal states such as Oregon. We feel that the time is now for California to not only catch-up with these other efforts but to take a leadership position in bringing offshore renewable energy technology to maturity. The Commission has an opportunity to do that by including substantive support in the EPIC Investment Plan for offshore wind and wave energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the second triennial investment plan for EPIC; please contact me at any time if you have any questions or we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew R. Maslow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Executive Director

707-269-1700
