



July 16, 2021

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Sent via email*

**Subject: Declaration of bipartisan commitment to advance offshore wind planning and development on the Central Coast of California**

President Biden and Governor Newsom:

In support of Federal and State wind energy goals, as a bipartisan coalition of local leaders, we are writing to declare our commitment to advance the responsible and proactive planning for the development of offshore wind off the Central Coast of California. We respectfully request your consideration in allocating state and federal funding for a feasibility analysis to assess possible locations for a clean energy port and other infrastructure needs on the Central Coast.

San Luis Obispo County's coastline is uniquely situated to catalyze offshore wind development given existing critical transmission infrastructure, both at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, the state's last operating nuclear power plant slated to shut down no later than 2025, as well as the already shuttered Morro Bay Power Plant. Our community is also nearest to the Morro Bay 399 Area which would support approximately 75%, or 3 gigawatts, of California's designated area to develop offshore wind.

Our community's commitment to the future of the offshore wind industry is underscored by several critical actions:

1. **San Luis Obispo County Resolution.** On June 22, 2021, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors took action to approve a resolution recognizing the need of renewable wind power generation and clean energy infrastructure as long-term economic benefits to SLO County. This resolution resolves to support Federal and State initiatives aimed at developing wind, energy storage, and other forms of renewable energy needed to offset the loss of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, as well as taking action to advocate for state and federal funding to advance feasibility studies for locating a clean energy port and supporting infrastructure in SLO County for the development of offshore wind energy. Additionally, this resolution resolves to work in partnership with our commercial fishing industry to analyze the economic impact of this new industry on the established commercial fishing industry.
2. **Morro Bay 399 Area.** Thanks to Congressman Salud Carbajal's negotiation efforts including an amendment to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act and written commitment from the Navy to collaborate on identifying an area for wind development off the Central Coast, the Morro Bay 399 Area was announced by federal and state officials on May 25, 2021. The agreement was announced after years of negotiations between federal, state, and local partners resulting in agreement on the size and location of an offshore wind project that serves the environmental, energy, and national security interests.
3. **California Assembly Bill 525.** On Feb 10, 2021, AB 525 was introduced by Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham to the California State Legislature as one of the bill's primary authors. The bill is also co-authored by Senator John Laird showcasing broad bipartisan support from the legislators representing the Central Coast. The bill would require the California Energy Commission to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind development off the California Coast.
4. **Economic Impact Report.** We have worked proactively at the community level to organize a broad-based coalition to adapt to the changing energy landscape. Through thoughtful planning, we are addressing the impacts of the closure of Diablo Canyon, our largest private sector employer, the reimagining of our regional economy to support the economic transition of our workforce, as well as the considerations for highest and best reuse opportunities for the industrial site at Diablo Canyon. On May 26, 2021, REACH and California Polytechnic State University released an Economic Impact report that analyzed the economic benefit of a 3 GW wind farm to San Luis Obispo County and the State of California. The study detailed an annual economic benefit to the county of \$262M, including 650 good-paying union jobs, and an annual economic benefit to the

state of nearly \$400M and 1,100 jobs; these economic benefits are contingent upon the development of a clean energy port, representing a significant opportunity to mitigate the economic impacts of the nuclear plant closure, offering job opportunities and economic diversification to the Central Coast region.

5. **State and Industry Roundtables.** We also conducted two roundtable meetings - one with California state agency leaders and one with offshore wind industry leaders in order to collaborate on the needs for industry development in California. When polled about the infrastructure needs in California, 96% of industry leaders believe that an assembly/operations & maintenance port will be required on the Central Coast, and 100% believe that a port in Humboldt will not be sufficient to serve the entire needs across the state of California.

The Central Coast of California is pivotal to the discussions and considerations for how this new industry will be cultivated on the West Coast. We are ready and willing partners to ensure the thoughtful integration of this industry into the fabric of our regional economy.

We believe our community has a critical role to play in the nation's renewable energy future, and your support will help us accelerate good-paying, future-oriented jobs in a burgeoning sector of the clean energy economy.

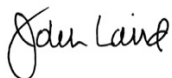
Please contact Annie Secrest with the County of San Luis Obispo at [ASecrest@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:ASecrest@co.slo.ca.us) or Julie Sinton Pruniski with REACH at [julie@reachcentralcoast.org](mailto:julie@reachcentralcoast.org) with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



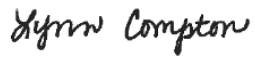
Salud Carbajal  
Congressman  
24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District



John Laird  
CA State Senator  
17<sup>th</sup> Senate District Congressional District



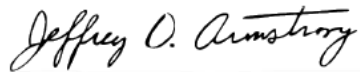
Jordan Cunningham  
CA State Assemblyman  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Lynn Compton  
Board Chair and 4th District Supervisor  
County of San Luis Obispo



Dawn Ortiz-Legg  
3rd District Supervisor  
County of San Luis Obispo



Jeffrey Armstrong  
President  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



Joshua Medrano  
Executive Secretary, Treasurer  
Tri-Counties Building and Construction Trades Council



Melissa James  
President/CEO  
REACH

CC:

Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior

Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense

Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy

Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation

Thomas Harker, Secretary of the Navy

Amanda Lefton, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director

Richard Spinrad, NOAA Administrator

Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor

Marybel Batjer, President, California Public Utilities Commission

David Hochschild, Chair, California Energy Commission

Dee Dee Myers, Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Scott Morgan, Acting Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

**Attachments:**

1. San Luis Obispo County Resolution

**Supporting Documents:**

1. California State Assembly Bill 525

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB525](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB525)

2. Economic Impact Analysis Offshore Wind

[https://reachcentralcoast.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic Value OSW REACH.pdf](https://reachcentralcoast.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic_Value_OSW_REACH.pdf)

IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

PRESENT: Supervisors John Peschong, Bruce S. Gibson, Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Debbie Arnold and  
Chairperson Lynn Compton

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-134**

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE WIND POWER GENERATION FOR, AND  
CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AS LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

The following resolution is hereby offered and read:

**WHEREAS**, power generation from the wind, including offshore wind, is being developed globally as a means of providing a clean, reliable energy source of energy as nations reduce dependence on fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Executive Administration has established a target of 30 gigawatts (GW) of installed offshore wind energy by 2030, and on May 25, 2021, announced plans to open Californiacoast to offshore wind development and allow wind power projects to be built in an area northwest of Morro Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, California, a pioneer and leader in renewable energy, passed the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 and directed that eligible renewable energy resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California customers by December 31, 2045; and

**WHEREAS**, San Luis Obispo County has been a leader in energy generation for over a century, including the current contribution of 2.2 gigawatts of carbon free, base load energy generated at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and, 800 megawatts of utility scale solar generation; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Interior, through its Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), has identified promising areas in Federal waters off the central and northern California coast for wind energy production; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal and State policy mandate and encourage local workforce partnerships and economic benefits to communities that help foster offshore wind energy production; and

**WHEREAS**, there is record demand for sustainable renewable energy and record investment by the private and public sector in its development; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2021, the Federal Government announced 399 square miles and a up to 3GW generation capacity of offshore wind energy with attendant economic benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has allocated \$3 billion in federal offshore wind loan guarantees and infrastructure investment for coastal ports; and

**WHEREAS**, plans need to be developed to improve existing waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities that can create nearly 12,000 specialized wind port construction jobs over 5 years and up to 650 operations and maintenance jobs annually, in perpetuity for a 3GW wind farm; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Coast encompasses ancestral homelands of the *yak tityu tityu yak tilhini* Northern Chumash people, the Aboriginal Titleholders; the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, and the County will coordinate with California Native American tribes regarding policies that may affect tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Luis Obispo acknowledges that the commercial fishing activities are coastal dependent uses receiving the highest priority under the California Coastal Act and the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and that the continuing viability of which is of critical importance to maintaining the commercial fishing industry along the California coast. And that the local commercial fishing industry is subject to substantial economic pressures, is vulnerable from a range of regulatory, economic, and market impacts, and that the cumulative effects of the [Project] coupled with these pressures, may impact its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Coast commercial fishing fleet contributes to the economy, quality of life, and culture of the region, the County commits to collaborate with the fleet regarding policies that may affect commercial fishing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, support Federal and State initiatives aimed at developing wind, energy storage and other forms of renewable energy needed to offset the loss of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, and advocate for state and federal funding to advance feasibility studies for locating a clean energy port and supporting infrastructure in SLO County for the development of offshore wind energy as may be planned by the Federal Government and the State of California that includes an analysis of the economic impact to the commercial fishing industry.

Upon motion of Supervisor Ortiz-Legg, seconded by Supervisor Gibson, and on the following roll call vote, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Ortiz-Legg, Gibson, Peschong and Chairperson Compton

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: Supervisor Arnold

The foregoing resolution is hereby adopted.

Lynn Compton

Lynn Compton

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

WADE HORTON

Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Aaron N. Chickering  
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO)

I, **WADE HORTON**, Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors thereof, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of an order entered in the minutes of said Board of Supervisors, and now remaining of record in my office.

Witness, my hand and seal of said Board of Supervisors on June 30, 2021.

**WADE HORTON,**

Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Aaron N. Chickering  
Deputy Clerk