

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 29, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 22-140

**RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CONCERNING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, offshore wind energy development is a crucial strategy to address global climate change and to meet the state and federal administrations' ambitious climate and renewable energy targets; and

WHEREAS, significant development of offshore wind energy in the County of Humboldt requires both offshore and onshore development activities, which can significantly impact the region's economy, communities, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the offshore wind industry develops and operates equitably and sustainably, and in partnership with the region's communities, to address the area's unique assets, needs, and connections with natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt is deeply committed to ensuring that the development of the offshore wind industry in this region yields a strong slate of community benefits, minimizes and mitigates impacts wherever possible, compensates communities for unavoidable impacts, and generates robust and sustainable economic opportunities for the region's communities; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) offshore wind Final Sale Notice for wind lease areas in the Humboldt Bay offers tremendous opportunities to pursue and achieve community benefits, including through a 20% workforce and/or supply chain development credit, a 5% General Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) credit, and a 5% Lease Area Use CBA credit; and

WHEREAS, concentrated and coordinated effort will be required to ensure that the offshore wind industry in the Humboldt Bay region is developed sustainably in a way that benefits Tribal Nations and underrepresented communities, advances racial equity, protects the environment and builds a thriving, equitable, and sustainable local economy, including through the development and negotiation of CBAs and other agreements; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt has been an active partner in the Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) and the broader North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network (Network), and has proactively communicated and coordinated with the Humboldt Bay Harbor District, commercial fisheries, and other regional communities and stakeholders, to work toward a broad vision and roadmap for offshore wind development in our region; and

WHEREAS, the CORE and the Network represent a diverse group of Tribal Nations, local government agencies and educational institutions, labor leaders, local community-based

organizations, and community residents, and has participated in BOEM's offshore wind lease sale process to seek robust community benefits stipulations and bid credits; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations; Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color; and frontline communities bear the brunt of devastating impacts of climate catastrophe, energy vulnerability, and long-term impacts of extractive over-harvesting of natural resources, and are therefore critical partners and leaders in developing an equitable and sustainable path to offshore wind development; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt recognizes Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and other rights of Native American Tribes, as well as the specific and intentional historic trauma to Tribal Nations and Peoples by the federal, state, and county/local governments and previous destructive natural resource industries in the North Coast region; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt and the surrounding region have rich fisheries, which are foundational to Tribal Nations, the commercial fishing economy, and marine species, and which will be affected by this new industry; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt Bay has historically been California's largest fishing port, with North Coast fisheries currently contributing forty million ex-vessel dollars to the local community; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative loss of community fishing grounds and port fishing infrastructure by OSW development will impact fishermen, the fishing industry, Tribal fisheries and underserved North Coast fishing communities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt recognizes that BOEM's wind lease area auction is a key step in the path to offshore wind development and is merely the beginning of what will hopefully be a long, productive, and collaborative partnership with wind developers and the region's diverse communities and constituencies; and

WHEREAS, necessary infrastructure investments throughout the greater Humboldt Bay region needs to be planned, prioritized, and sequenced in order to prepare for and maximize economic opportunities for projects related to offshore wind energy in particular, and the blue/green economy more generally; and

WHEREAS, investments in port, peninsula, and bay infrastructure are a critical early step in the County's overall economic development strategy for offshore wind, and are needed to minimize adverse community and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, to stimulate job creation, equitable economic development and prosperity for a diverse population, the County and various stakeholders must collaborate to prioritize early investments in such infrastructure, without which the site development for an array of economic development projects will not be possible; and

WHEREAS, offshore wind development, if pursued thoughtfully and in genuine partnership with the County of Humboldt, Tribal Nations, and the region's other local governments, communities, and stakeholders, can help promote a diverse and thriving economic landscape;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The County of Humboldt believes that Offshore wind energy development is a key strategy to fight global climate change. The County is prepared to do its part to ensure the equitable and sustainable economic development of this new industry in the County and region, while helping ensure that any unavoidable impacts are mitigated and minimized. Offshore wind energy development provides a unique opportunity for diversification of the County's economic engines, and should be developed in full collaboration with local stakeholders, including Tribal Nations, local organizations and industries, fisheries and local government entities.

2. The County recognizes that offshore wind development will affect Tribal Nations and their citizens. The County commits to working collaboratively with and supporting the leadership of Tribal Nations in addressing the effects of and advancing Tribal interests in offshore wind development.

3. The County recognizes that Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) and the broader North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network Community Benefits Network (Network) have been a leading community partners in advocating for offshore wind workforce development and community benefits, and have raised important issues before BOEM, other federal agencies and the State of California. The County supports these efforts, and will continue to participate as partners with the CORE Hub and the Network in advocacy and negotiation of community benefits related to offshore wind development.

4. The County acknowledges that offshore wind development will have unavoidable impacts on regional fisheries, including Tribal fisheries. The County intends to work collaboratively with representatives of affected local businesses, industries and Tribal Nations to ensure that any impacts are mitigated, and to ensure compensation and support regarding unavoidable impacts, and to inform the region's transition process.

5. The County recognizes that many other local stakeholders and residents will be directly and indirectly affected by offshore wind development in our region. The County intends to engage in sustained and proactive outreach to receive input from these communities regarding offshore wind development, and to help ensure that this new industry is a net benefit for the County and the region, with broadly-beneficial community benefits, and avoidance of concentrated negative impacts.

6. Offshore wind development offers tremendous opportunities for employment, training, career development, and other workforce systems. The County will work collaboratively with resource partners, future employers, Tribal Nations, and labor and industry representatives, to help establish and support sustainable workforce development pathways for onshore and offshore construction, operations, and associated activities.

7. For these reasons, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors strongly supports continued and enhanced County engagement in all processes described above, including partnering to create a regional vision and roadmap for offshore wind development, advancing funding opportunities to support regional agency and regional capacity, negotiation of community benefits, local outreach and engagement, and taking other steps appropriate to facilitating the offshore wind industry's long-term and sustainable development, for the benefit of our community.

8. The County Administrative Office and staff are therefore directed to continue or undertake the following activities related to offshore wind development:

- a. work collaboratively with local stakeholders in creating a regional vision and roadmap for offshore wind development to prepare our community for sustainable and equitable development of the offshore wind industry;
- b. collaborate and engage with Tribal Nations regarding offshore wind development and its effect on and opportunities for Tribal Nations and their citizens;
- c. partner with CORE Hub and the Offshore Wind Community Benefit Network in pursuing community benefits agreements with offshore wind development leaseholders and other developers;
- d. support and/or participate in negotiations of community benefits agreements or similar agreements related to community benefits, workforce development, procurement, and mitigation of impacts, with offshore wind development leaseholders and other project developers, participants and affected stakeholders;
- e. engage in outreach and stakeholder input efforts to ensure that all affected and interested members of the Humboldt County community and region are aware of offshore wind development activities and can participate in public processes regarding such activities;
- f. coordinate with the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District regarding community benefits opportunities regarding District activities related to offshore wind;
- g. coordinate with other state, federal, Tribal and local government entities to shape offshore wind development to maximize environmental and economic benefits, and minimize adverse impacts;

- h. assist in planning and advancing onshore infrastructure upgrades that are essential for development of the industry, and are needed to minimize adverse impacts;
- i. on behalf of the County and the Board of Supervisors, submit letters of support and requests for funding and regulatory or legislative frameworks related to regional agency and growing regional capacity to facilitate sustainable development of the offshore wind industry in the region; and
- j. take all reasonable additional steps to support offshore wind development in a manner that maximizes the benefits to the region, while minimizing and mitigating any unavoidable impacts, as described herein; and
- k. report to the Board of Supervisors as needed regarding negotiations, initiatives, and efforts as described herein.

Dated: November 29, 2022



VIRGINIA BASS, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Madrone and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Madrone, Wilson, Bass, Bohn, Bushnell
NAYS: Supervisors
ABSENT: Supervisors
ABSTAIN: Supervisors

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be an original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



By: Nikki Turner

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California