



Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Scoping for the Development of an Environmental Assessment

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. PT

I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted public scoping to inform the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Morro Bay Energy Area (WEA), which is located approximately 20 miles offshore the central California coastline. BOEM is hosting two virtual scoping meetings during the 45-day scoping period to outline its formal environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to solicit public input on issues to be considered. The first virtual scoping meeting took place on December 1, 2021, and the second is scheduled for January 5, 2022. The public scoping period will end on January 11, 2022. The summary covers the meeting on December 1, 2021.

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, tribal nations, and local government. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the press. Approximately 95 participants attended the meeting. The meeting closed 30 minutes after the last participant provided public comment.

Recordings of the meetings and transcripts are available at the following link:

www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide information about the Morro Bay WEA environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Morro Bay WEA.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the Morro Bay WEA Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the scoping process.

This document summarizes key outcomes and next steps from the meeting. It focuses on public comment input received rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West (K&W) facilitated the meeting.

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Scoping Meeting Highlights
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 - B. Agenda Review
 - C. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Wind Energy Leasing in California
 - D. Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Morro Bay
 - E. Clarifying Scoping Process Questions
 - F. Public Comment Opportunity
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 - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
 - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
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II. Scoping Meeting Highlights

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

1. *Jenna Tourjé, Facilitator with Kearns & West*

The meeting opened with a welcome to participants, followed by a summary of scoping meeting objectives and guidance on navigating the Zoom Webinar. The facilitator presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations, and the second determined the number of participants planning to provide oral comment later in the meetings. See Appendix E for the polling results.

2. *Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, BOEM Pacific Office*

Lisa Gilbane presented on BOEM's environmental assessment process. She noted there will be an additional scoping meeting on January 5, 2022. She explained the purpose of the scoping meeting, where it fits in the NEPA process for the Morro Bay Environmental Assessment. Ms. Gilbane explained that participants have the opportunity to make a public comment and explained the process of making a public comment. She welcomed participants and thanked them for their participation.

B. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Wind Energy Leasing in California

This segment of the meeting communicated BOEM's role in future renewable activities within the State of California, particularly related to BOEM's Offshore Renewable Energy Program (OREP) and leasing process. This session also provided Central Coast status updates and next steps.

Jean Thurston-Keller, CA Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordinator for BOEM's Pacific Office, presented an overview of BOEM's planning approach for offshore wind energy, BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process, the leasing and environmental review processes, and the next steps for offshore wind energy development at Morro Bay. She provided a Central Coast Status update for Morro Bay WEA following modifications to the Morro Bay Call Area and extensions areas that were considered following the call for information and nominations in July 2021.

Ms. Thurston-Keller reiterated the amount of interagency coordination, regulatory processes, and stakeholder engagement and consultation that has and still must occur, noting that there will be another opportunity for a 60-day public comment period after the Proposed Sale Notice that precedes the leasing phase. She explained that there are two areas that BOEM is considering for leasing: the Humboldt WEA and the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA), both of which will have their own environmental review processes. Following the Proposed Sale Notice, BOEM will publish a Final Sale Notice and conduct a Lease Auction. Ms. Thurston-Keller invited further questions on the BOEM California Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Process to be directed to herself at jean.thurston-keller@boem.gov.

C. Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Morro Bay

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific, presented on the Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Morro Bay. Ms. Gilbane highlighted this scoping meeting as the first step in the environmental assessment process, detailed the type of public comment that BOEM hopes to gain in the scoping process, and pointed to some of the intergovernmental agency consultation that will occur during the environmental assessment through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, the Coastal Zone Management Act with the California Coastal Commission, the Endangered Species Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. She provided a timeline of the Environmental Assessment (EA) schedule and the environmental resources and socio-cultural considerations for the EA.

Ms. Gilbane explained the types of data that have been received, including relevant data on impacts to fisheries, fishing communities, viewsheds, noise, environmental, vessel traffic, and potential economic benefits. Ms. Gilbane concluded her presentation by inviting participants to submit comments and to direct further questions to herself at Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov.

D. Public Clarifying Questions

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions related to scoping for the environmental assessment on the Morro Bay WEA. BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered such topics as:

- The lease and funds;
- Public comment process; and
- Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement process.

Appendix C contains additional details on public clarifying questions and responses.

E. Public Input Opportunity and Discussion

Ms. Tourje invited participants to provide oral public comment. A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- Sociological impacts – Participants urged BOEM to hire local skilled and trained workforce, noting that hiring local workforce boosts economic development and mitigates greenhouse gases and environmental impacts by reducing workforce travel.
- Whales – Participants expressed concern for whales from the turbines and urged BOEM to conduct more in-depth studies.
- Research and impact analysis – Participants expressed the importance of conducting thorough and holistic studies that encompass enough baseline data to understand potential impacts to ecosystems and species on shore.
- Fish and Essential Fish Habitat – Participants noted much of the Wind Energy Area is within the federally designated Essential Fish Habitat Area and inquired how BOEM plans to assess the effects of anchoring.
- Support for offshore wind energy development – Participants expressed their general support for offshore wind energy development in California.
- Environmental Assessment – Participants inquired about the Environmental Assessment process, items considered, and suggested additional considerations.

Appendix D contains a more detailed accounting of the public comment provided.

F. Overview of Action Items and Closing Remarks

Lisa Gilbane thanked participants for their time and comments provided. She encouraged participants to continue to submit further comments via mail and email. Ms. Gilbane noted there will be an additional scoping meeting on January 5, 2022. She described the next steps in the Environmental Assessment process and explained that as soon as the draft Environmental Assessment is released in early 2022, the public again will have the opportunity to provide comment.

Lisa Gilbane concluded the meetings by inviting participants to go to boem.gov/MorroBayEA to provide further public comment and to view recordings of the scoping meetings.

III. Appendices

A. Agenda

AGENDA

Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

Scoping for the Development of an Environmental Assessment

Webinar

Webinar Registration

December 1, 2021: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm PST

Registration Link: https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G3Vh1BFzQZCfpS7LsNxCSQ

Meeting Objectives

- Provide information about the Morro Bay WEA environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Morro Bay WEA.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the Morro Bay WEA Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the scoping process.

Agenda

Time (PT)	Agenda Item	Presenter
5:00 – 5:05 pm	Webinar Instructions and Guidance	Kearns & West, Facilitator
5:05 – 5:10 pm	Opening Remarks	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
5:10 – 5:20 pm	Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in California	Jean Thurston-Keller, BOEM
5:20 – 5:30 pm	Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Morro Bay County	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
5:30 – 6:00 pm	Clarifying Scoping Process Questions	

Summary – Dec-1-2021 MORRO BAY WIND ENERGY AREA SCOPING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Time (PT)	Agenda Item	Presenter
	<p><i>Interested individuals will be provided an opportunity to ask clarifying question on the environmental scoping process.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will submit their questions via the Zoom Q&A function. Relevant questions will be read aloud by the facilitator.</i></p>	
<p>6:00 – 7:50 pm</p> <p><i>(or until public comment ends)</i></p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <p><i>Participants may provide input verbally during the meeting by clicking the “raise hand” icon to enter the queue or dialing *9. Those who wish to provide verbal input will be given a 3-minute time amount. The queue of comments and questions will be moderated by the facilitator.</i></p>	
<p>7:50 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks/ Adjourn</p>	<p>Lisa Gilbane, BOEM</p>

B. Public Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization/Agency	Sector Category
Kevin	Homrighausen	Latham & Watkins	Business/Industry
Kevin	Wedman	NV5	Business/Industry
Meghan	Cornelison		Government
Grace	Saunders	BHFS	Other
Katie	Segal		Academia
Chris	Rein	Environmental Design and Research, DPC	Business/Industry
Thalia	Kruger	Principle Power	Business/Industry
Richard	Leamon		Other
Nick	Bauer	WSP	Business/Industry
Heather	Mann	Midwater Trawlers Cooperative	Business/Industry
Jenny	Vick		Other
Simon	Poulter	Padre Associates, Inc.	Business/Industry
Alexis	Bahou	Tetra Tech	Business/Industry
Brian	Owens	CDFW	Government
Tammer	Botros	BP	Business/Industry
Eric	Hawkinson	Tetra Tech	Business/Industry
Christopher	Potter	California Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Jeffrey	Nield	EDR	Business/Industry
Albert	Brocone	Epsilon Systems	Non-governmental organization
Carrie	Pomeroy	UC Santa Cruz	Academia
Stephen	Ferry	Santa Barbara Audubon Society	Community-Based Organization
Manley	Mcninch	SWRCC	Business/Industry
Katy	Wilson	Sempra Infrastructure	Business/Industry
Mike	Cullen		Business/Industry
Mike	Okoniewski	West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group	Business/Industry
Karen	Grimmer		Government
Julia	Lewis		Business/Industry
Micah	Mitrosky	IBEW	Other
Ying	Tian	WSP USA	Business/Industry
Ryan	Mccarthy		Business/Industry
Nancy	Kirshner-rodriguez	Business Network for Offshore Wind	Non-governmental organization
Doug	Davy	Jacobs	Business/Industry
Brian	Lefebvre	Castle Wind	Business/Industry
Scott	Morris	SME	Other

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Amanda	Preece	Monterey Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Steve	Scheiblaue	Alliance Of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries	Community-Based Organization
Robert	Dooley		Business/Industry
Varner	Seaman	ACP-California	Business/Industry
John	Callahan	BOEM	Government
Anthony	Ventura		Other
Nick	Rahaim		Academia
Bernadette	Sullivan	Weideman Group	Non-governmental organization
J. Lilah	Ise	NOAA NMFS West Coast Region	Government
Amber	Sparks		Non-governmental organization
Nico	Turpin-invernon		Business/Industry
Carole	Mintzer	Sierra Club	Non-governmental organization
Zach	Fuerst		Business/Industry
Maxwell	Cohen	Orsted	Business/Industry
Jim	Weigand	Department Of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	Government
Adam	Stern	Offshore Wind California	Business/Industry
Tracey	Mangin		Academia
Kelsey	Shebey		Business/Industry
Bo	Buchynsky	Diamond Generating Corporation	Business/Industry
Steve	Chung	DOD	Government
Justin	Evans	Future Energy	Business/Industry
Greg	Haas	Congressman Carbajal	Government
Carl	Wurtz	Californians For Green Nuclear Power	Non-governmental organization
Autumn	Brown		Business/Industry
Hayashi		Marubeni	Business/Industry
Hayashi			
Lisa	Gover		Government
Steve	Black	Steve Black Strategies, Inc.	Business/Industry
Desray	Reeb	BOEM	Government
William	Standley	Bureau Of Land Management, California Coastal Natl. Monument	Government
Marco	Palombo	UCSB Bren School	Academia
Melinda	Marquis	NREL	Government
Mike	Hodgson	Santa Maria Times	Press
Kyle	Kowalski		Business/Industry

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Steve	Greenleaf	Brookfield Renewable	Business/Industry
Mike	Conroy	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations	Other
Mark	Hanin	Center For Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)	Non-governmental organization
Kristen	Hislop	Environmental Defense Center	Non-governmental organization
Leslie	Purcell		Community-Based Organization
Riley	Morris	Teya Services Llc	Non-governmental organization
Steve	Duboyce	US Navy	Government
Bob	Otten		Other
Frank	Pendleton	BOEM	Government
Carliane	Johnson	Seajay Environmental	Other
Jim	Lanard	Magellan Wind	Business/Industry
Boldmaa	Jargalsaikhan	JERA Co., Inc.	Business/Industry
Mackenzie	Shuman	The Tribune	Press
Scott	Mcmullen	Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee	Non-governmental organization
Ryuta	Yokoe		Business/Industry
Amy	Sparks		Business/Industry
Laura	Fiedler	San Luis Obispo County	Government
Susan	Chambers	West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Business/Industry
Alla	Weinstein	Castle Wind Llc	Business/Industry
Necy	Sumait		Government
Ashley	Grainger	Offspring International Ltd	Business/Industry
Sean	Oreilly	Jera Americas Inc	Business/Industry
James	Haussener	CMANC	Non-governmental organization
Matt	Valerio		Business/Industry
Christopher	Lindsey	SLR International	Business/Industry
Lydia	Lostan		Business/Industry
Sarah	Xu		Community-Based Organization
Kerry	Griffin		Government
Silvia	Yanez	WSP USA Inc.	Business/Industry
Wayne	Moody	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization	Community-Based Organization
Roger	Hewitt	NOAA - Southwest Fisheries Science Center	Government
Ron	Larsen	Sea Risk Solutions Llc	Business/Industry

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Emily	Capello		Other
Andy	Johnson	Defenders Of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
John	Flaherty	Central Coast Outdoors	Other
Wayne	Winters	SNC Lavalin	Non-governmental organization
Mike	Conn	NV5 Geospatial	Other
Jordan	Greer	Moffatt Nichol	Business/Industry
Isabel	Kaubisch	ENBW North America	Business/Industry
Dan	Jaynes		Business/Industry
Laura	Morton	Perkins Coie, Llp	Business/Industry
Melodie	Meyer	Yurok Tribe Office of The Tribal Attorney	Tribal/Indigenous
Eleanore	Humphries	Monterey Bay Aquarium	Non-governmental organization
Edward	Leblanc	Orsted	Business/Industry
Ruth	Perry	Shell Renewables and Energy Solutions	Business/Industry
Donal	Courtney	Brookfield Renewable	Business/Industry
Caroline	Mueller	Avangrid Renewables	Business/Industry
Josh	Raper	Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters	Other
Oswaldo	Felix	EDF Renewables Inc	Business/Industry
Lena	Lee		Government
Alden	Lundy	BOEM	Government
Aoife	Mc goven		Business/Industry
Steve	Hunt		Other
Bk	Richard	None	Other
David	Weisman	Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility	Community-Based Organization
Christopher	Dorman	Mainstream Renewable Power	Business/Industry
Laurie	Beale	NOAA	Government
Cotton	Rockwood	Point Blue Conservation Science	Non-governmental organization
Nathalie	Schils		Business/Industry
Amy	Wolftrum	Monterey Bay Aquarium	Non-governmental organization
Rebecca	Trujillo	Chevron	Business/Industry
Kori	Cordero	Yurok Tribe	Tribal/Indigenous
Jenny	Briot		Business/Industry
Garry	George	National Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Claudio	Bazzichelli	Tiber International Group	Business/Industry

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Paul	Michel	NOAA West Coast Sanctuaries	Government
Tony	Parisi	Parisi Strategies/Castle Wind	Business/Industry
Claire	Gonzales		Academia
Karen	Pearson	0	Other
Daniel	Woodman	ODE (Offshore Design Engineering)	Business/Industry
Alison	Rowe		Non-governmental organization
Amanda	Schoen	Vestas	Business/Industry
Keith	Wingate	Interested Citizen	Other
Nancy	Rader	California Wind Energy Association	Business/Industry
Alberto	Tono	Falck Renewables	Business/Industry
Harvey	Schwartzman	Other	Other
Margarita	Mcinnis	CA State Lands Commission	Government
Jenna	Tourje		Other
Theresa	Stevens	USACE Los Angeles District Regulatory Division	Government
Michael	Wilks	Jacobs	Business/Industry
Julie	Sinton pruniski	Reach	Other
Bob	Erickson	CSA Ocean Sciences	Business/Industry
Kristen	Gulick		Business/Industry

C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participants asked clarifying questions in the Zoom Q&A box after both presentations. Detailed descriptions of questions and responses, for both sessions, are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

- *Question* Will the presentation slides be available after the meeting?
 - *Response:* Yes, the presentation will be available at www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA
- *Question:* Who gets the proceeds from the leases?
 - *Response:* It goes to the general fund.
- *Question:* For scoping, will you accept comments on studies BOEM should do and well as providing information BOEM?
 - *Response:* Yes, we have a studies process where we ask publicly for study ideas, which is a different part of BOEM, but also an opportunity on our website to submit study ideas.
- *Question:* When the Morro Bay wind energy area was reduced to 376 miles, is that square nautical miles or square statute miles?
 - *Response:* It's statute miles.
- *Question:* Would the site characteristic surveys/activities evaluated in the EA be limited to within the WEA or inclusive of related necessary connection activities (Cables etc.)?
 - *Response:* Our focus for our environmental assessment is offshore area, and that is what we will focus our document on but especially for consistency determination, we need to work with the State on related easements and things in terms of getting cables to shoreside. So, while our focus of the document is offshore, we welcome if you have comments or information that would be relevant and helpful.
 - In terms of being clear with jurisdiction, BOEM is not approved to authorize anything outside of the outer continental shelf, which is 3 miles offshore, but we have to work with the State.
- *Question:* When is the lease fee paid?
 - *Response:* There's an auction process, which has to be paid immediately after the auction is concluded. There's a lease specific bond that is required at the beginning after the lease is issued, so the auction amount and the lease specific bond must be paid. There are rental fees that are required while the survey work is being done, and then there are operation fees that come in after construction – where a portion of energy production is required to be paid to the general fund. Participants who want more specific information can contact Jean Thurston-Keller.
- *Question:* Define the general fund: is it the federal general fund or the US treasury?
 - *Response:* It is US treasury, federal.

- *Question:* Based on my understanding, Diablo Canyon, Del Norte, and Cape Mendocino have not been designated under any formal regulatory framework toward considered in a BOEM lease auction. Is there a chance those areas will be evaluated for lease in the future?
 - *Response:* Diablo Canyon was designated a call area and has not moved forward in terms of these sites becoming wind energy areas. We are not evaluating them now. This is a process where the State of CA and BOEM CA could issue new calls and new processes in the future, but our focus is currently on the Humboldt and Morro Bay processes.

- *Question:* The scoping at this point is designed to assess environmental consequences associated with issuing commercial wind leases. What about all the consequences which remain unknown or not understood?
 - *Response:* Under the NEPA for environmental assessments – we look at available data and do our best job at gathering and using data that we can find that is relevant to our decision – that is what we do going forward. It’s a little bit about this continuous process. We acknowledge that as we can fill gaps and find more information – that will be very helpful in using the new information when we move forward.

- *Question:* Your reference is to Environmental Assessment (EA) which generally is not as expansive as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EIS is a much more intensive process, is an EIS anticipated?
 - *Response:* There is a lot of difference between an EA and an EIS. Most of the regulations that are in place from the Council on Environmental Quality originally apply to an EIS. For an EA, we evaluate if there are significant impacts to the environment. At the end of an EA, we determine if there are significant impacts, an EIS is done. If no significant impacts are found, we write a finding of no significant impact.

- *Question:* Does it make sense to not scope out connection to shore at the same time as offshore?
 - *Response:* For scoping out, an EA or any kind of document can decide there is no significant need to investigate and discuss further. This [question] is talking about the offshore vs. the connection to shore and the focus of our document is the offshore wind energy area as that is what we have authority to decision maker to approve or not approve leases, so that has to be the focus for our decision maker. We are working with the State, so this has to be done in a way that complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other laws.

- *Question:* Will our comments go into the record and into the EA?
 - *Response:* All comments will be made available to see at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. A summary will be drafted to put comments into perspective and made available on our website. In our EA document, we try to reply to trends we see from comments and that is written into the NEPA regulations, so that is a part of our process.

D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments were received during the August 24 meeting at the 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. session. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

1. *Comment:* The table alignment should be considered as part of the EA because it is an extremely important part of the project, and if there is no good alignment or way to get an alignment to shore, what is the point of offering a lease for an area?
2. *Comment:* I believe I and people in my community will be environmentally impacted. BOEM should require offshore wind projects in Morro Bay should be built using local skilled and trained workforce. BOEM should provide good paying jobs for people in the local area as this will also greatly impact the local economy. Investing in growing, diversifying, and upskilling the local workforce can positively affect returns on climate mitigation efforts. The use of local state certified apprenticeship programs or trained and skilled workforce locally hired can result in air pollution reduction. With upcoming closing and decommissioning of Diablo Canyon, there is a great workforce to pool from in the area that are skilled and trained. Provide good paying jobs and keep local workforce working so they do not have to relocate.
3. *Comment:* I want to thank BOEM and CA State agencies and local and tribal leaders who have been instrumental in opening the Central Coast of offshore wind development. The recent joint agency SB100 report concluded that the state would need to develop a diverse renewable energy portfolio including at least 10 gigawatts of offshore wind to achieve its 100% renewable and zero carbon goals cost effectively by 2045. Ten gigawatts of offshore wind would supply almost 15% of the state's current electricity needs providing clean reliable energy that complements the states solar and other renewable resources. This is why my organization and member company supported the extensions to the Morro Bay call area proposed in July. Though BOEM has removed the east extension closer to shore, the final Morro Bay wind energy area designates 376 sq miles for development which expands capacity from original area and help drive economies of scale. Industry experts believe 1 gigawatt is the minimum size for an economically viable project. The Morro Bay wind energy area, as currently configured, is crucial if the state is going to reach 3 gigawatts by 2030 and build 10 gigawatts or more by 2040 and beyond. To realize the promise of offshore wind and reach these goals, we must move forwards with the leasing process to sail in 2022, complete the environmental reviews, upgrade transmission and infrastructure, and streamline federal state permitting while protecting wildlife, fishing, and cultural resources. Offshore wind is crucial to states clean energy future – participants organization is committed to working with BOEM and state agencies to provide the best available industry data and science to inform the environmental assessment and leasing process as it advances in Morro Bay.
4. *Comment:* Someone earlier mentioned the transmission from the proposed offshore wind to shore and how that could be sited. Inter-agency collaboration between California State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, and BOEM could be a consideration. My main concern is whales and marine mammals. Whales getting hit by ships going through the Santa Barbara channels and LA and ports. I'm curious how migrating and feeding patterns be assessed and how serious impacts can be avoided in terms of construction of site and the actual siting of the wind turbines. BOEM should work with marine biologists. Pollution is also

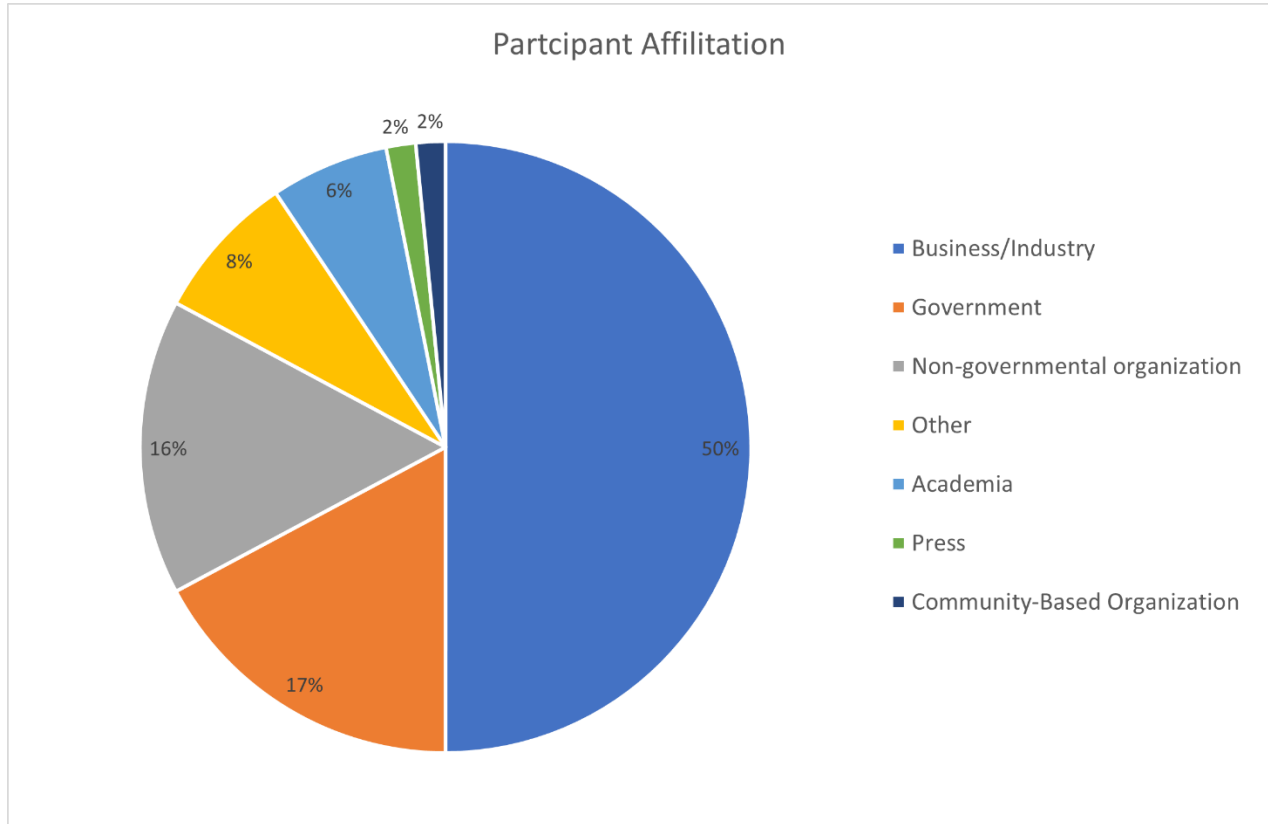
an issue in terms of construction and operating is a concern in terms of dredging. Need to be careful of quality of water.

5. *Comment:* I believe I will be impacted by the environmental impacts of this project. Hiring local skilled workforce could boost economic development and mitigate transportation and greenhouse gas impacts by reducing travel. Other cities have not hesitated to use a skilled local workforce which in turn returns benefits to the local community. I strongly believe BOEM should implement local and skilled trained workforce requirements.
6. *Comment:* My concern is for whales. The proposed area in Morro Bay is home to migrating humpback California grey and blue whales. At Block Island windfarm that had 5 turbines, within 15 months after opening, NOAA found 46 dead whales washed on shore and classified as a usual mortality event. A NOAA Spokesman explained such an event demanded immediate response, but no response was taken. The only study BOEM has conducted so far is an animation of a whale and calf swimming around and avoiding cables and platforms, which evolution has not prepared whales for. Such a study is insufficient, and whales could swim into these. BOEM or developer should construct 2-5 turbines to record whale activity before committing to a facility with hundreds of turbines which could seriously impact an already stressed population of whales.
7. *Comment:* I have shared concern over environmental impacts but there is a need to focus on local communities. My career is important to me, and I am willing to travel for my career. The inability to work locally is a barrier to employment. BOEM should recognize the positive impacts on the local community from incorporating a local hire and skilled and trained workforce component to construction contracts. These components need to be addressed early on.
8. *Comment:* Considering that a lot of the wind energy area is within the federally designated groundfish essential fish habitat area, how will you assess the effects of the anchoring system for these devices if you do not know what they are going to be? The purpose of EA is to figure out what area should be leased. That could be the whole WEA, could be more than one lease that encompasses the whole WEA, or could be considerably less than the WEA. It may not be the whole area and could be areas that are set aside. Presumably, the information received on environmental effects and concerns or problems, or conflicts with other stakeholders that need to be avoided, or safety issues. Those will all be the types of effects the EA will assess coming up with the final lease areas.
9. *Comment:* I agree with previous comments made on scoping and the connection between offshore to shore. By the time focus is on the connection between shore to offshore, so much momentum and money would have been poured into the process and could be an afterthought. That connection point could be problematic to current ocean users or the environment. Spending money on local communities and jobs is great, but the commercial fishing industry spends millions of dollars now in coastal economies. We cannot trade commercial fishing jobs for offshore energy development jobs, especially for companies that are not American companies. The focus should be on growing jobs, not replacing jobs. Replacing fishing jobs with offshore construction jobs that are limited in duration is not feasible long-term. Consideration of these impacts is important, but consideration is just that. How will comments be used to inform the process, rather than comments being documented, and considered?

10. *Comment:* My question is, in the EA process – a screening process to assess the best possible, and as early possible, what possible changes might occur by implementing a project. What degree of economic and general social community evaluation will take place at the EA level? Could you expand on that more?

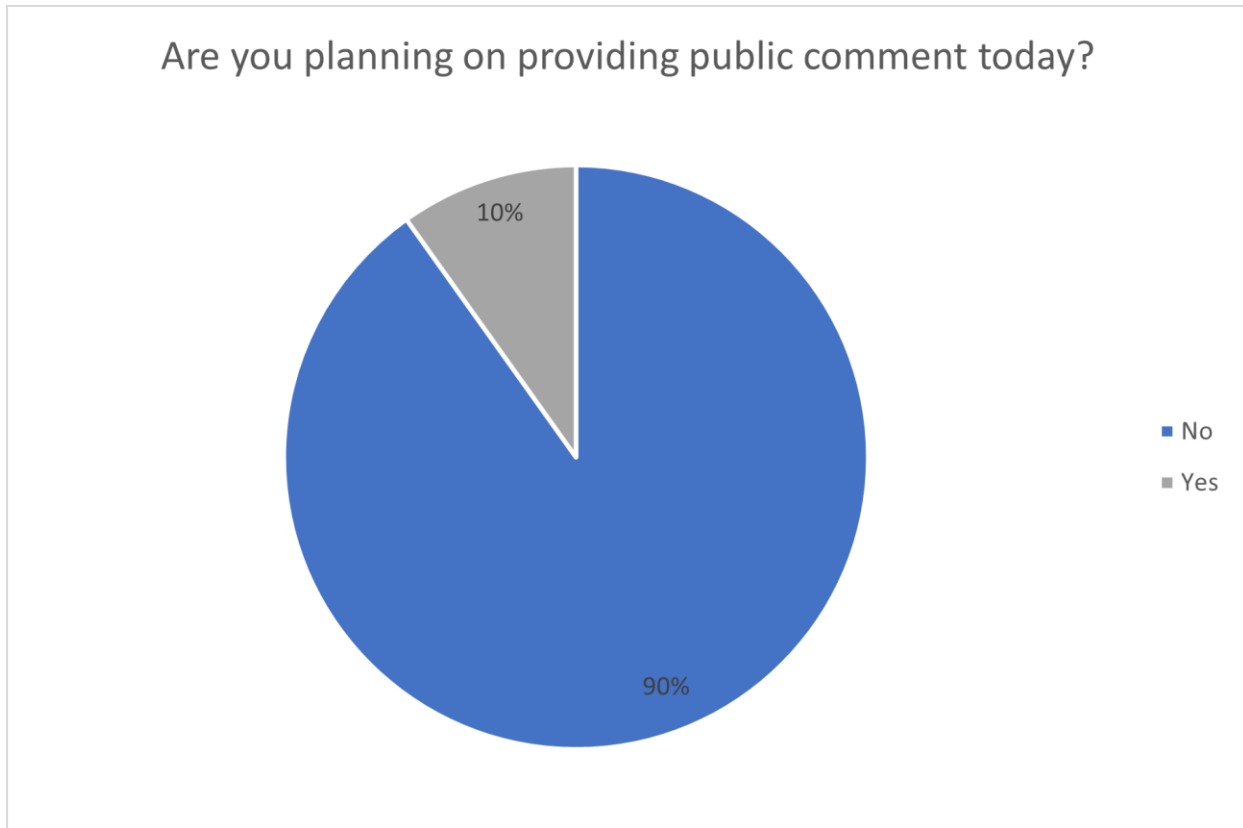
E. Poll Results

Participant Affiliation



Please select your affiliated group	Count	Percentage
Business/Industry	32	50%
Government	11	17%
Non-governmental organization	10	16%
Other	5	8%
Academia	4	6%
Press	1	2%
Community-Based Organization	1	2%
Grand Total	64	100%

Participants Planning to Provide Oral Comment



Are you planning on providing public comment today?	Count	Percentage
No	64	90%
Yes	7	10%
Grand Total	71	100%