



## Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### **Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Scoping for the Development of a Draft Environmental Assessment**

*Wednesday, January 5, 2022*

*9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PT*

#### I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted public scoping to inform the development of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA), located approximately 20 miles from the central California coast. BOEM hosted 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 in the draft EA. The first virtual scoping meeting took place on December 1, 2021 and the second was on January 5, 2022. The public scoping period ended on January 11, 2022.

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using Zoom. Participants included representatives from commercial and recreational fisheries, federal and state agencies, Tribes, local governments, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations. Approximately 190 participants attended the meeting. The meeting ended at 11:15 a.m. PT.

Recordings of the meetings and transcripts are available at: [www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA](http://www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA).

The scoping meeting objectives were to:

- Provide information about the Morro Bay WEA environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Morro Bay Draft EA.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the Morro Bay Draft 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 summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Scoping Meeting Highlights
  - A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- 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
- G. Closing and Next Steps

### III. Appendices

- A. Agenda
- B. Public Participant List
- C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
- D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
- E. Poll Results

## II. Scoping Meeting Highlights

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### *1. Morgan Lommele, Facilitator, 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 explained the purpose of the scoping meeting and where it fits in the NEPA process for the Morro Bay Environmental Assessment. Ms. Gilbane noted that participants have the opportunity to make a public comment and expanded on the process of doing so. She welcomed attendees and thanked them for their participation.

### B. Agenda Review

### C. 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 and leasing process.

Sara Gultinan, Renewable Energy Specialist 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. Guiltinan reiterated the amount of interagency coordination, regulatory processes, and stakeholder engagement and consultation that have 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 WEA, both of which have their own environmental review processes. Following the Proposed Sale Notice, BOEM will publish a Final Sale Notice and conduct a Lease Auction. Ms. Guiltinan invited further questions on the BOEM California Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Process to be directed to her at Sara.Guiltinan@boem.gov.

#### D. 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 OCS Offshore Morro Bay. Ms. Gilbane highlighted this scoping meeting as the first step in the draft environmental assessment process, detailed the type of public comment that BOEM hopes to gain in the scoping process, and pointed to 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 draft EA schedule and the environmental resources and socio-cultural considerations for the draft 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 her at Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov.

#### E. Clarifying Scoping Process Questions

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions related to scoping for the environmental assessment on the Morro Bay WEA. BOEM provided responses on topics such as:

- The leasing process;
- Public comment process;
- Possible environmental impacts;
- Participating organizations and;
- Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement processes.

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

#### F. Public Input Opportunity

Ms. Lommele 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.
- Wildlife: Participants expressed concern for animals that may suffer negative externalities 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.
- Fishing industry impacts: Participants noted that leasing wind energy areas could limit fleet access to commonly fished waters which support the local fishing industry.
- 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.
- Degradation of natural spaces: Participants expressed concern that safety measures such as nighttime indicator lights on turbines could negatively impact dark sky communities that lack light pollution.

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

## F. Closing and Next Steps

Lisa Gilbane thanked participants for their time and comments. She encouraged participants to submit comments via mail and email. She described the next steps in the draft EA development process and explained that the public will have the opportunity to provide further comment when the draft EA is released in 2022.

Lisa Gilbane concluded the meetings by inviting participants to visit [www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA](http://www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA) to provide 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

January 5, 2022: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. PST

#### 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
9:00 – 9:05 am	<b>Webinar Instructions and Guidance</b>	Morgan Lommele, Facilitator
9:05 – 9:10 am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
9:10 – 9:20 am	<b>Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in California</b>	Sarah Gultinan, BOEM
9:20 – 9:30 am	<b>Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM

Summary – Jan-19-2022 MORRO BAY WIND ENERGY AREA SCOPING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Time (PT)	Agenda Item	Presenter
	<b>Continental Shelf offshore Morro Bay County</b>	
9:30 – 10:00 am	<p><b>Clarifying Scoping Process Questions</b></p> <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&amp;A function. Relevant questions will be read aloud by the facilitator.</i></p>	
10:00 – 11:50 am  <i>(or until public comment ends)</i>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></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>	
11:50 – 12:00 am	<b>Closing Remarks/ Adjourn</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM

## B. Public Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization/Agency	Sector Category
Alla	Weinstein	Castle Wind LLC	Business/Industry
Amy	Willis	CJNRC	Non-governmental organization
Andrew	Lewin	SSE Renewables	Business/Industry
Andrew	Zalay	ewind consultants	Business/Industry
Annie	Secrest	County of San Luis Obispo	Government
Dania	Williams		Business/Industry
Deborah	Barker		Other
Eva	Nipp	Sierra Club	Community-Based Organization
Garry	George	National Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Heather	Mann	Midwater Trawlers Cooperative	Business/Industry
Joel	Merriman	American Bird Conservancy	Non-governmental organization
Justin	Bradshaw	SLO Climate Coalition	Community-Based Organization
Kate	Kelly	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Larry	Thevik	Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association	Business/Industry
Massimo	Ciarla	Tiber International Group Inc.	Business/Industry
Michael	Stocker	Ocean Conservation Research	Non-governmental organization
Mike	Okoniewski	Pacific Seafood	Business/Industry
Nancy	Rader	California Wind Energy Association	Business/Industry
Nicole	DiPaolo		Non-governmental organization
Norbert	Dall	The Coasts of California Project	Other
Paul	Hundal		Community-Based Organization
steve	scheiblaue	san diego fishermen's working group and the alliance of communities for sustainable fisheries	Community-Based Organization
Taylor	van Rossum	Cal Poly SLO	Academia
Theresa	Stevens		Government
Tom	Hafer	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen Organization	Other
Adam	Stern	Offshore Wind California	Business/Industry
Alberto	Tono		Business/Industry
Alden	Lundy	BOEM	Government
Alison	Rowe		Non-governmental organization
Amanda	Canepa	CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Amanda	Schoen	Vestas	Business/Industry
Amy	Wolfrum	Monterey Bay Aquarium	Non-governmental organization
Angel	Russell	KCBX	Press
Anne	Mudge	Cox, Castle & Nicholson, LLP	Business/Industry
Aoife	Mc Goven		Business/Industry
Arthur	Tseng	CPUC	Government

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First Name	Last Name	Organization/Agency	Sector Category
Ashley	Grainger	Offspring International Ltd	Business/Industry
Aubryn	Cooperman	NREL	Government
Autumn	Engebretson		Business/Industry
Ava	Schulenberg	Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara	Community-Based Organization
Ava	Schulenberg	CFSB	Community-Based Organization
Bo	Buchynsky	Daimond Generating Corporation	Business/Industry
Bob	Erickson	CSA Ocean Sciences Inc	Business/Industry
BOLDMAA	JARGALSAIKHAN	JERA Co., Inc.	Business/Industry
Bradley	Trammell	American Waterways Operators	Business/Industry
Brendan	Harris	US Coast Guard	Government
Brian	LeFebvre		Business/Industry
Brita	Woek	Orsted	Business/Industry
Bryn	Forhan	The Forhan Company	Other
Butterfli	Oh		Community-Based Organization
Caitlin	Pfeil		Business/Industry
Cal	Myers	Harbor Advisory Board	Community-Based Organization
Cam	Black	Hawaii State Energy Office	Government
Carl	Evers Jr		Other
Carliane	Johnson	SeaJay Environmental	Other
Carole	Mintzer	Sierra Club	Non-governmental organization
Caroline	Mueller	Avangrid Renewables	Business/Industry
Catherine	Woody	SWRCB	Government
Chris	Barkley	AECOM	Business/Industry
Christopher	Kubiak	Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee	Non-governmental organization
Claudio	Bazzichelli	Tiber International Group	Business/Industry
Coke	Coakley	trccompanies.com	Business/Industry
Colleen	Weiler	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	Non-governmental organization
Cory	Barringhaus		Business/Industry
Cotton	Rockwood	Point Blue Conservation Science	Non-governmental organization
Dale	Beasley	CCF/CRCFA	Non-governmental organization
Dana	Goodson	Udall Foundation	Government
David	Rojas	Power-Tech Engineers, Inc.	Business/Industry
David	Rowley	Offspring International Ltd.	Business/Industry
David	Panzer		Other
Delia	Bense-Kang	Surfrider Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Diane	Hoskins	Oceana	Non-governmental organization
Doug	Will		Business/Industry
Douglas	Tait	Morro Coast Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Dustin	Varnell	Osbit	Business/Industry
Edward	Galvin	Cadmus Group	Business/Industry
Eleanore	Humphries	Monterey Bay Aquarium	Non-governmental organization



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First Name	Last Name	Organization/Agency	Sector Category
Eli	Harland		Government
Elizabeth	Greene	Anchor QEA, LLC	Other
Elizabeth	Komiskey	bp	Business/Industry
Emily	Fan Michaelson		Other
Emily	Capello	Panorama Environmental	Academia
Emma	Chaiken	BOEM	Government
Erica	Crawford	Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce	Business/Industry
Evan	Zimmerman	Offshore Operators Committee	Business/Industry
Fernando	Sada	BlueFloat Energy	Business/Industry
Francisco	Torres	PTE	Business/Industry
Frank	Pendleton	BOEM	Government
Garth	Neuffer	Offshore Wind California	Business/Industry
Grace	Saunders	BHFS	Other
Greg	Haas	Congressman Carbajal	Government
Greg	Matzat	COWI	Business/Industry
Holly	Wyer	California Coastal Commission	Government
Ian	Hoag	PacifiCorp	Business/Industry
J. Lilah	Ise	NOAA NMFS West Coast Region	Government
Jack	Yanos	Sloat Higgins Jensen & Associates	Other
Jacqueline	Moore	PMSA	Business/Industry
James	Auslander	Beveridge & Diamond	Business/Industry
Jennifer	Merrick	Tetra Tech	Business/Industry
Jenny	Briot		Business/Industry
Jenny	Vick		Other
Jerry	Melcher	Public Advocates Office	Government
Jim	Lanard	Magellan Wind	Business/Industry
Jimmy	Bentley	Deep sea charters	Business/Industry
Johanna	Jochum		Non-governmental organization
Jonah	Ury	RCG	Business/Industry
Josh	Raper	Southwest Carpenters	Other
Julia	Lewis		Business/Industry
Justin	Evans		Business/Industry
Justine	Kimball	OPC	Government
Katy	Wilson		Business/Industry
Kaycee	Chang	California Energy Commission	Government
keith	kirkendall	NOAA Fisheries	Government
Keith	Wingate	Interested Citizen	Other
ken	Clark	PacifiCorp	Business/Industry
KEVIN	WEDMAN	NV5	Business/Industry
Kimberly	Peterson		Business/Industry
Kris	Ohleth		Other
Laura	Casali	NMFS	Government

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First Name	Last Name	Organization/Agency	Sector Category
Laura	Fiedler	San Luis Obispo County	Government
Laura	Morton		Other
Lauren	Cullum	Sierra Club California	Non-governmental organization
Laurie	Beale	NOAA	Government
Lesley	Kilp	NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region	Government
Lindsay	Adrean	American Bird Conservancy	Non-governmental organization
Lindsay	Bonito		Government
Lisa	Gover		Government
Lisa	Gentry	BOEM	Government
Liz	Burdock	The Business Network for Offshore Wind	Academia
Lori	Steele	West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Business/Industry
Louie	Zimm	PFMC-GAP	Community-Based Organization
Malea	Martin	New Times SLO	Press
Margarita	McInnis	CA State Lands Commission	Government
Marissa	Caringella		Government
Mark	Brooks	Offspring International Limited	Business/Industry
Mark	Hanin	Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)	Non-governmental organization
Marty	Heinze	DOI/BOEM	Government
Mary	Nishimoto	Joint Oil/Fisheries Liaison Office of South/Central California	Other
Maxwell	Cohen	Orsted	Business/Industry
Megan	Abeyta	Cal Poly	Academia
Meghan	Cornelison		Government
michael	Wilks		Business/Industry
Michelle	Pasini	Beacon West Consulting	Business/Industry
Miguel	Reyes	Port of San Diego	Government
MK	Koester	Tetra Tech, Inc.	Business/Industry
Nathalie	Schils		Business/Industry
Nathan	Bomysoad	TRMC	Government
Necy	Sumait	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	Government
Nick	Bauer		Business/Industry
Nico	Turpin-Invernon		Business/Industry
Nicola	Bain		Non-governmental organization
Nicolas	Mac Ferran	SBM Offshore	Business/Industry
Nina	Evert		Other
Noelle	Mathies	WSP	Other
Oriana	Holmes-Price	EnBW North America	Business/Industry
paul	michel	NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast	Government
Paul	Fitzpatrick		Business/Industry

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Sector Category</b>
Rachael	Manhard	AKRF, Inc.	Other
Renee	Richards	BOEM	Government
Richard	Charter	Coastal Coordination Program, The Ocean Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Robert	Collier	Cierco US Corp.	Business/Industry
roberta	swift	usfws	Government
Roger	Hewitt	NOAA - Southwest Fisheries Science Center	Government
Ron	Larsen		Business/Industry
Ruth	Marsh	DNV	Business/Industry
Ruth	Perry	Shell Renewables and Energy Solutions	Business/Industry
Ryan	McLaughlin		Government
Ryuta	Yokoe		Business/Industry
Sara	Dearman	Chevron	Business/Industry
Sarah	Stein		Government
Sarah	Xu		Community-Based Organization
Sarah	Giltz	Oceana	Non-governmental organization
Shelby	Mendez		Government
Shilo	Felton	National Audubon Society	Non-governmental organization
Sierra	Weaver		Non-governmental organization
Sophie	Godfrey-McKee		Government
Srinivas	Vishnubhotla	BOEM	Government
Stephen	Henry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Government
Steve	Greenleaf	Brookfield Renewable	Business/Industry
Steve	Chung	DoD	Government
Steve	Allen	Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo Chapter	Non-governmental organization
Thalia	Kruger	Principle Power	Business/Industry
Tina	Fahy		Government
TJ	Moore	CSS Inc./NOAA	Government
Tracey	Mangin		Academia
Ulric	Lund	Cal Poly SLO	Academia
Varner	Seaman	ACP-California	Business/Industry
William	Standley	Bureau of Land Management California Coastal National Monument	Government
Yarrow	Nelson	California Polytechnic State University	Academia

## 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 have been edited for clarity and length. These are not verbatim comments.

### Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

- *Question:* What socio-economic data are being collected and included in the NEPA analyses around a domestic supply chain for offshore wind deployment versus importing the material?
  - *Response:* Socio-economic data is collected in the process, but the reason it is not discussed now in detail is because of where we are in the leasing process. Critical information such as if, where, or how large a project will be has yet to be determined.
- *Question:* Will the presentation be posted?
  - *Response:* Yes, the presentation will be available at [www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA](http://www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA)
- *Question:* Will the scoping process include an assessment of seasonality and environmental impacts?
  - *Response:* Seasonality is a significant variable in environmental impacts, and it will be included in the assessment to better predict the probability of certain events occurring such as wind turbine outcomes on migratory behaviors.
- *Question:* Can you please provide some explanation of how impacts related to lease issuance might differ from impacts related to construction and operation of the leases that are issued?
  - *Response:* The lease issuance is concerned with where the site will be, so there are no tangible immediate impacts from that. The site characterization and assessment activities involve physical activities happening in the water such as buoy development and surveys. The construction and operation phase contains the most substantial impacts such as wind turbine construction, placement, and mooring placement, to name a few activities which that be evaluated for environmental impacts.
- *Question:* Will the range of alternatives describe the range of development?
  - *Response:* The range of alternatives would not talk about the number of turbines. The range that the environmental assessment document will talk about is the number of potential leases including the number of areas that will be leased to different industry groups.
- *Question:* Is the Pacific Fisheries Management Council a cooperating agency?
  - *Response:* Yes, we believe so.
- *Question:* Will the lease terms require the energy producer to carry a bond to cover the complete cost of removal to restore the site once the technology is obsolete, or should the energy company have a financial determination of it?
  - *Response:* The BOEM process requires financial assurance form all leases and developers for all steps in the process to cover risks, including rehabilitation of the seabed.
- *Question:* The BOEM leasing timeframe appears to be out of sync with the PACPARS study related to maritime navigation and cargo vessel traffic. How will you continue without having the final federal analysis on navigation from such a wind project?
  - *Response:* BOEM works closely with the Coast Guard to ensure that each agency is coordinated and aligned on topics regarding navigation. No decisions will be made

without proper consultation to ensure that on-the-water operations are not dramatically altered.

- *Question (Out of Scope):* Why are environmental impacts such as effects on ocean upwelling only evaluated after the leasing stage of the process?
  - *Response:* We do consider environmental impacts, but the current meeting is intended to address environmental impacts in the leasing issuance process because that is where BOEM is at in the wind energy process. Topics such as ocean upwelling will be addressed when BOEM has a clear understanding of what is planned at the project level.
- *Question:* Has BOEM determined that Environmental Assessment scoping will require a combined Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement?
  - *Response:* That has not been determined at this point.
- *Question:* Does the Environmental Assessment scoping address the project as a whole or is it merely the paper leasing of offshore environmental context?
  - *Response:* BOEM is not at a point right now where we can confidently speak about the project as a whole because many details have yet to be defined.

#### D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments are taken from the meeting transcript.

**Comment:** I live in the local area, work and recreate in the vicinity of these projects. I also believe that I will be impacted by environmental impacts of the projects. BOEM should require or highly encourage offshore wind projects in the Morro Bay to build utilizing a skilled and trained workforce. Local hire and skilled and trained workforce requirements reduce construction related environmental impacts while benefiting the local economy, and on top of that provide new opportunities for our younger generations to start a career in the carpenter's union and other trades. In a recent poll only 40% of high school students who graduate go on to college and study for a degree in a career. So, my question is, what happens to the other 60%. We should not only worry about our environment, but our local economy, and our younger generations. With our Career Connections program, we work on bringing upcoming high school students and graduates into a local skilled and trained workforce with great wages benefits and a pension. So, let's think about this. Moreover, this year, South Coast Air Quality Management District found out the use a local, state certified apprenticeship program, or skilled and trained workforce, in other words, with the local hire can result in air pollutant reductions. And local, skilled, and trained workforce requirements can also boost economic development and mitigate transportation and greenhouse gas emissions by minimizing vehicle miles traveled. Recently, the city of Hayward in Northern California adopted skilled and trained workforce requirements into its general plan and municipal code.

**Comment:** Cambria's in the process of becoming an international dark sky community, and this sets lights out on the horizon that will negatively affect our pristine dark ocean. And it may not stop us from being able to be certified depending on how the lights are attached. I read that you're proposing five lights on each unit and, which would totally lighten up the horizon. At only 15 miles offshore. I think that it's really imperative that you push those back well I wouldn't like to have any one of them at all,

because it's going to devalue my house. I have an ocean view, and everyone else along the coast who has ocean views but if you push those out 30 miles off of Cambria like you're proposing to do off of Monterey, I think it might mitigate the problem. The other thing you might consider doing is one, making all those lights face away from the shore and make them all red. At least it won't affect the birds and the mammals, and the fish, things that might see these lights. Two, you don't really need five lights, I'm just not quite sure why you'd have that, they have that many of you have to go out at night to do some emergency repairs lights could be turned on at that time, but to be put on constantly doesn't seem to make any sense. Maybe someone will address this during this webinar, or at a later time.. The other thing that is really imperative for Cambria is that we have an endangered, I don't think they're on the endangered list, they're probably on the watch list, and that is our Monterey Pine. They're only in three different places in the West Coast, and they're very much endangered by the weather, and they're highly dependent upon fog and the wind machines, you know, highly affect the fog, and I've seen photos of it. They can decrease the fog, they can increase the fog but they change the fog pattern and the fog is what keeps our trees alive during the summer so this is very important. It really truly needs to be addressed very carefully and I'm looking forward to that being done because we don't want the wind machines to kill off our Monterey Pine. It's part of the culture and it's part of the air quality that we have here in Cambria, and the other one is I mentioned earlier, is the upwelling issue and I want to see that included in the impact studies. It's something explained to highly impact the quality. We've already had die offs up in the northern California of seaweed and we don't want to have those kinds of things happening here in Cambria and Simeon and there's so many questions I have, so many things I'd like to say. Thank you very much for the time to speak today and I will hold comments for another day.

**Comment:** It would be an economic benefit to California if local companies were preferred for the installation of equipment.

**Comment:** Today I'll be speaking on BOEM's NEPA process. NEPA requires that federal agencies must consider environmental consequences of their actions before taking action. In this case BOEM will take action to offer commercial leases for offshore wind development within the Morro Bay Area. As noted in the WEA memorandum such development will likely cause significant adverse environmental impacts including to endangered or threatened species. BOEM's scoping notice states the agency intends to prepare an EA rather than EIS for the commercial wind leases in the Morro Bay wind energy area. However, an EA can only be prepared for proposed action that is not likely to have significant effects or where the significance of the effects is unknown. The WEA memorandum states for the environment review be conducted at subsequent stages of the regulatory process including if and when leases are issued. And when wind energy facilities are closed on any leases. However, the purpose of the WEA in the leasing process is to allow development of commercial wind projects. Identifications of WEA issuance and leases does not happen in a vacuum. These actions are directly tied to future activities including subsequent sites characterization assessment and consideration plans for construction operations specific projects. All of these phases are part of the same process and they cannot be segmented. An agency must consider both direct and indirect effects of the proposed action. In this case proposed the proposed leases will lead to effects that are reasonably foreseeable and reasonably foreseeable means sufficiently likely to occur such that person of ordinary prudence would take into account in reaching a decision. Now normally as commercial wind development, a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the lease issuance is also the sole focus an end goal of the leasing process.

NEPA is not designed to postpone analysis of an environmental consequence at the last possible moment. Rather it is designed to require that analysis as soon as can be reasonably done. Similarly, in this case BOEM must include analysis of reasonably foreseeable activities including construction operation on the proposed leases, and BOEM has ample precedents for preparing an EIS early in commercial wind leasing and permitting process the agency routinely prepares programmatic EISs for five-year oil and gas leasing programs and sales. So in conclusion, BOEM should prepare an EIS to analyze reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences of issuing commercial wind leases in the Morro Bay WEA, not only is such analysis required to reach the requirements of NEPA, but such analysis will provide important information regarding impacts and alternatives at a point in the process where meaningful decisions can be made to avoid or reduce significant impacts, and facilitate timely development.

**Comment:** I want to say firsthand I truly appreciate everything that Kate Kelly just summarized. There's been a recurring theme throughout the short relationship I've had with BOEM and trying to understand the permitting process and that recurring theme is that it seems that BOEM is prepared to lease first and ask questions later. And frankly, that is not going to take us to a good outcome. When we, in the end, are trying to locate developments that would either avoid or minimize impacts, whether they're on the ecosystem, or whether they're social or social and economic impacts. Those questions, relative to those impacts need to be asked early, and certainly before you grant some sort of property right interest, even though it may be weak to someone to actually hold the lease before those impacts are described. The idea that you can't do an EIS before the COP of a specific project, I think is a bit specious. We expect, or most expect that the offshore wind projects proposed off the west coast will end up being Exclusion Zones. And certainly, in an impact analysis if an area is going to be totally exclusive or exclude alternative ocean uses that measure, or that act that result would allow for a pretty thorough examination of impacts. An EIS that wouldn't have to be held to only applying after a COP is written. In terms of ecosystem effects, some of those may not be measurable until you actually see the layout of a project, but in terms of what it might mean to exclude a specific area that can be examined more thoroughly and ought to be before any leasing occurs. As was stated NEPA says that analysis of impacts should be done before activity, and the activity in consideration here is the lease. And it requires a more thorough review before that lease is granted.

**Comment:** Environment California is very committed to working to get to a 100% clean energy future. And we are really excited about the promise offered by the potential of offshore wind off of our coast. And we're also part of a coalition, Offshore Wind Coalition, that's been working to build support for tapping into clean offshore wind energy off of our coast. And I wanted to express support and appreciation for the proposed Morro Bay wind energy area, and we think that, you know the air pollution that Californians are suffering, the impacts of devastating oil spills which we just saw once again hit our coastline this past year are all examples of the reality that we have to move as swiftly as we can away from a dependence on dirty fossil fuel energy to power our lives. And we released a report last year offshore wind for America that showed that off of the California coast with some of the most tremendous offshore wind potential and we can be catching that wind energy and using it to, you know, power our lives in a much less negatively impactful manner than our current energy sources. And at the same time we need to make sure we're doing it in a manner that minimizes the disruption to our marine life, to marine ecosystems, and we really appreciate that the proposed wind area for this wind

development is more than 20 miles offshore. So it really avoids some of the most vibrant parts of the ecosystems off of our coast. And also we really appreciate the recognition of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary which we also support being established and eager to work with you to continue to move this along as quickly as we can.

**Comment:** The California coast has been called a Serengeti with characteristics of nutrient upwelling providing food stock up the entire trophic pyramid, and provides all sorts of habitat and life off the coast which feeds both our economy as well as just our beautiful coast itself. So, among the feeding animals, we have off here the lunge feeding gray whales, humpbacks and orcas. If it is found that lunge feeding whales are snagging cables and tethers while feeding on forage fish, which would aggregate around the cables and tenders, but provisions exist that would halt the development or enable transitions of the mechanics to address a potential problem while construction is in progress. So I think that, you know, they're getting back to what Kate and Larry was saying, I think we really need to do more thorough evaluation of what is going to be actually with the transformation of this area is going to be as a consequences putting this wind farm off there.

**Comment:** I don't see what value the EA as its structured now has. In fact, it could lead to some false conclusions if it's not thorough enough to dig a little deeper. It's not saying it would but it seems like the chances would be higher if you don't do a deep dive, so that's one point. The other is on the lease issuance. It is a conditional commitment. So, it does set the stage for, you know, the positive going forward, and without a lot of knowledge about what the impacts are. I think the one point that really I guess just frightens me a little bit as far as the fishing industry goes, is there's no social economic triggers that we've heard of yet, that would prevent the lease from being honored and full development happening. We don't know where those trigger points are. I've asked a number of times, what would prevent a lease from going forward. I've never got an answer. I guess it's solely up to the director to make that decision, which seems fairly subjective to me because there's no public knowledge as to what would prevent a lease from going forward. It's a fairly easy question to ask. But seems a answer is a lot more difficult.

**Comment:** I'm tuning in here and name my strong support for offshore wind development and it's a critical climate solution that we know we need but I think one of the things that makes offshore wind so great is the potential for it to also be an economic solution for the crisis that we're in. We saw so many commitments from the Biden administration around supply chain and revitalizing our economy and our manufacturing in America, but also protecting environmental justice communities and, you know, looking at the impacts of our current fossil fuel systems and ensuring that those who have been historically disadvantaged are benefiting. First, and most from our new energy systems. And I think with that approach there needs to be due diligence in gathering all of the data that's available for us at the earliest stages, building out this sector in America, in a way that maximizes jobs and also minimizes environmental impacts with our stronger environmental protections that we have in the US compared to other countries, and the opportunity to have a just transition and moving people who are currently serving the fossil fuel industry into the renewable energy industry, as well as, you know, creating these great paying union jobs with great benefits for folks who have been disadvantaged, I think that all needs



to be a priority so I would just say that I think at this stage we could do more to include economic impact assessment. I do think you know the environmental impacts as well but just with my focus really is the economic impacts and having a clear plan of how the US federal agencies and state agencies and unions and all the other people who will be responsible for creating this industry can help meet those numbers, those standards, that the vision that can be laid out at this stage this earliest stage in the environmental assessment which includes the economic outlook looking at you know what we've seen in Europe what these projects entail, the steel in the water all of these parts and components on we do, we could gather some of that data. So, yeah just strong support for the industry and also urging to be building out the vision so that we can all get to work on making it happen because we know there's a lot that each of us will have to do so.

**Comment:** I've worked on coastal conservation and management, on and off the California coast, including here and off Morro Bay, as well as off Humboldt Bay, and around the world, since the early 1970s. It is indisputable that electrification is one of the essential components of our modern civilization, but it needs to be consistent with the sustainability of our aquatic, atmospheric, and terrestrial environments. So I'd like to summarize just a few of my points. I'll put the rest of writing. One, the EA as it has been described in terms of process and potential substance today and in the graphics that you've posted is plainly insufficient to ensure that the public and decision makers are informed with regard to this matter, or that the activity, the proposed lease sale complies with the purposes and requirements of not just NEPA and CEQA, but also all the other environmental laws that apply. Given that the proposed activity will likely have multiple significant direct and cumulative impacts on the environment. Therefore, this lease sale requires that your Bureau prepare a full EIS and EIR on this matter. Second, among other things, the lease sale requires data and analysis that could include or should include the list of our compliance requirements in the California Coastal management program. And in summary, I'm sure you have read the CCMP, those involved not just things such as the benthos, bathymetry, ocean surface, atmosphere shoreline, terrestrial areas, all of that with regard to production, transmission, storage as part of the electrical infrastructure, but here in California, in a high fire danger area. So my recommendation is that BOEM fully disclose, analyze, and either avoid or mitigate as applicable these factors, through a comprehensive lease sale environmental review document and not defer that to after the lease sale is actually made.

**Comment:** The climate change solution has been wind energy, and there's no doubt that any project, any wind project is going to have some environmental impacts, but I would ask you to always compare it to the alternative, which is what is the impact compared to having oil spills and continuing with the Petrol state. And to me there's no question that for the marine environment, oil has been a lot more damaging than the potential for wind so I certainly urge you to look at comparisons, because I have heard people sometimes go too far in picking apart any little bit of environmental impact as a reason not to go with wind when the alternative is far worse. With regard to the issue of impacts on fishing, this is also where I would differ from some of the fishermen out there. I have friends who are fishermen, retired fishermen, and they talk about after they retired, they talk about how much the stocks damaged over the decades by overfishing, and how there's a lack of real protection, how there's few refuges, essentially the oceans are common property, and they've been over exploited by people not following the rules for decades. When I saw this project and looked I saw there's a potential here of having refuge because it would impact, could impact on fishing and I would ask that instead of trying to accommodate

fishing, the industry of fishing within the wind farms being exclusionary we should be doing the opposite, that we should be looking at this a marine protected area and take advantage of the fact that the wind farms may actually provide an opportunity to keep fishing out so that the fishery has, the fish, are marine habitat have a refuge, where I'm always looking to find more refuges because right now the default is areas are exploited to the maximum. And until there's action taken to safeguard larger areas, and I see the wind lease area has been a large area that could accommodate a protected zone. And that I hope you don't, I hope you move in that direction, rather than in the direction of accommodating further exploitation of the marine habitat.

**Comment:** What I would like to say is that the Army Corps of Engineers is interested in participating as a cooperating agency on the EA and we are specifically interested in, navigation, navigation, navigable capacity with our offshore authority. We anticipate that after this EA is finished and lease sales occur that we will see a uptick in permit applications. So we're very interested in at least kicking off the NEPA process at this stage with BOEM. And there will probably be, I'm sure we will be submitting not probably we will be submitting a written comment letter to this effect that gives a little bit more detail about our authorities. And some of the issues and interests that we have, in addition to navigation and navigable capacity.

**Comment:** I just want to make one quick comment that the man earlier said that we're over exploiting the ocean, like, I beg to disagree with him. California is some of the most highly regulated waters in the world. And we have now 27 marine protected areas. And we're very protected. So, I think he was very wrong. One of our biggest enemies right now is industrialization of the ocean, not just to fisherman but to the marine habitat. So that should be more of his concern. I just want to say you guys were looking for recognition of a historic significance in the area. Well would say that since commercial fish that you're putting these sites outside of very historical fishing ports that have been very active since the early 1900s. That should be considered historic. There should be some trigger, like the man said earlier, if our landings are significantly decreased, because in Europe in the North Sea the fishermen there, decreased their landings by 80 to 90%. So that should trigger something whether it stops the construction or does something unless you don't care if we lose the commercial fishing industry, which between 2010 2017 Morro Bay and Port St Louis Fred an average of 5,068,806 pounds of seafood, which is \$8,000,750 per year. So we are significant there. There's problems with the VMS slides that you keep posting. They're inconclusive. They don't show the whole story and we don't think that you should keep posting them showing the fishery impacts. You also aren't including issues with cable burying, they're spending over \$10 million in Europe's because of the cables keep coming unburied. This is impacting all the fisheries in the region, not just the wind energy area. And there should be concern about giving some mitigation to fishermen during the site assessment. Back east they're having trouble with the site surveying vessels just knocking over gear and no one doing anything about it. You also should consider navigation routes through the wind energy area before the auction. There should be at least a four-mile wide lane straight lane through the auction area. If you don't do it before the people are going to be fighting over that that area. It's very dangerous and high seas to go through the wind energy area especially since our radars won't be effective.

**Comment:** Thank you for all of the points of view, that are being put up today by everyone. And keep in mind, it's critical that we keep bringing new sources of energy to our country and to this state because we're shutting down other means of it. In doing so, we're eliminating thousands, tens of thousands of really high good paying jobs for skilled and trained workers in the state of California and most importantly around the area where I live and work in San Louis County. That's where in the Morro Bay Area work up there a lot. We're losing all these jobs if we don't replace them and put a lot of forethought into it by using skilled and putting skilled and trained worker requirements into all the language of anyone doing any work on this wind energy, we're really doing a huge disservice to our community. The recreation industry up there is going to get damaged, because of all the jobs and money that's leaving the area. So, you know, I just want to stress how critical it is to put skilled and trained workers into this process. And by doing that we're going to open up the doors for a lot of apprenticeship programs that have to be implemented in the language for the project. That's the only way to ensure that the local people in the area are going to be able to have an opportunity to work on these projects, that the work doesn't go to companies from outside of the area. Let alone possibly outside of the country. That goes on other big wind energy projects that are going on in Santa Barbara County, the entire workforce has come in from Texas, Montana, states other than California, so not one penny is going to the local workers and that's because there was no kind of language in the project stating that it had to be a local hire clause into the project. So it's critical with the local hire language in this project through a CWA or project labor agreement of some sort, protecting the area, protecting the workers in California. A lot of areas are implementing these forms of protection for the workers and stuff. City of San Luis has put a skilled and trained CWA in place and it's been very successful. And I'd really like to see that this goes into place and I just realized that my name is Manley McNinch, and I am a representative of Southwest Regional Council of carpenters, I forgot that initially. Just wanted to reiterate that we think about the people in the area, and make sure our local people get the jobs out there and get good paying jobs. Only way that we don't omit good you know good positive, local workforce, we can guarantee women, minorities of all walks of life, we're going to have fair opportunities out there and the Californians will be first and foremost, please put the language in the project for local hire and skilled and trained workers.

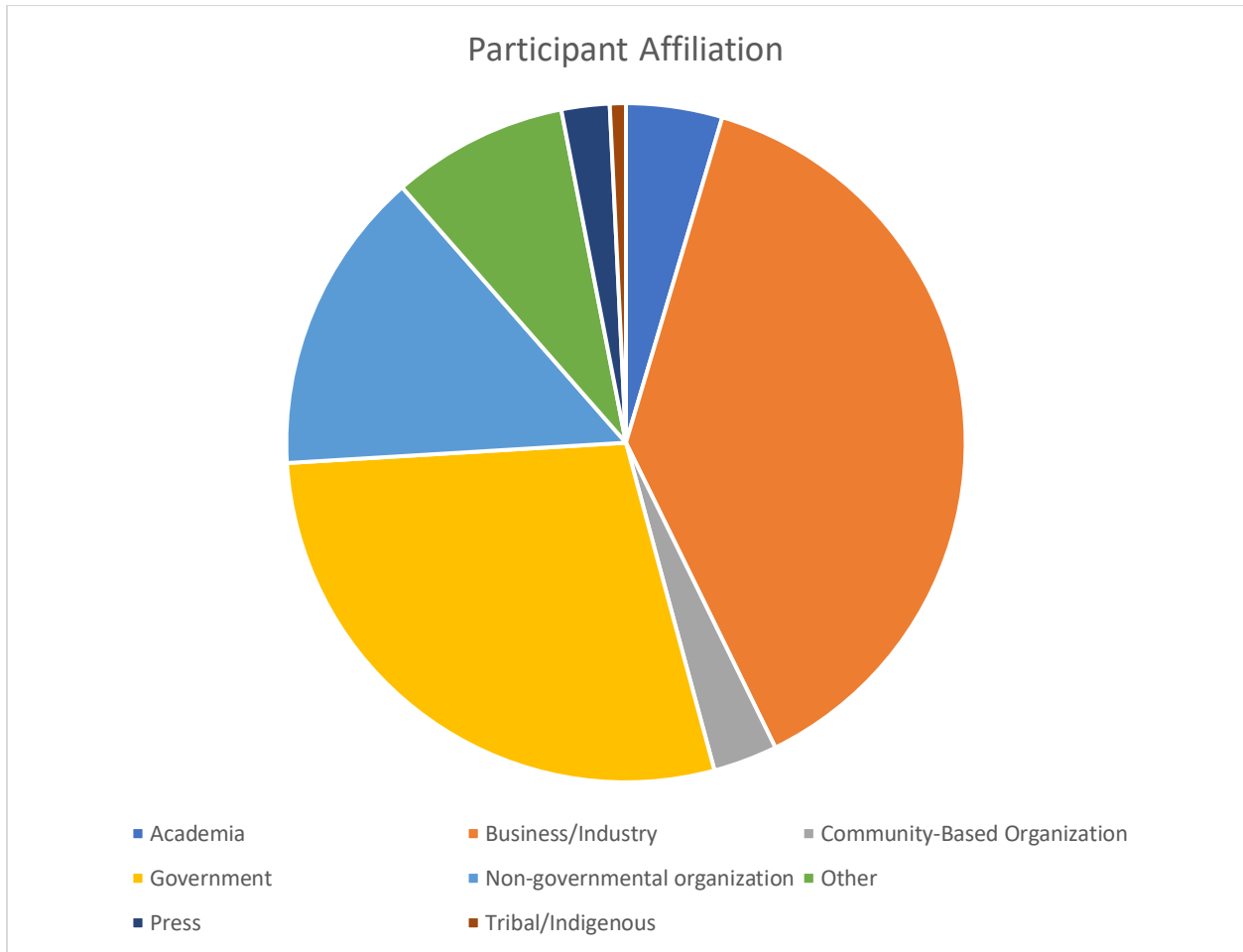
**Comment:** I am a student at Cal Poly. And it's been really lovely listening to this. This is my second scoping meeting that I've sat through and it's just I love that everybody is keeping in mind both the environmental impacts the job impacts, the commercial fishing industry. The economic impacts. And I just wanted to really push on the point that we are in such a promising time in our history where we are making the switch to sustainable energy. And we have the ability to do it right. In the past, America has been a go getting society where we do, and then deal with the consequences later. And in this time I think it is important for us to do the EIS to do the EIR, have extensive environmental analysis, and when we do come across roadblocks not to necessarily stop there, but to go further to find solutions to make these kinds of situations work. I thought that I forget the name of the woman who spoke about this but the idea of painting, you know the windmills red and facing them out to the sea so that birds would be able to identify them easier. If there's some way that we can perhaps have whales not come so close I think a big part of the environmental impact report is figuring out how much noise pollution is going to be going into the ocean. There's just so many aspects to look at here, and I would love to see us delve into that and come up with new and innovative solutions, so that we can make a smooth and proper transition into a sustainable energy future for America. So thank you all for listening to me, and I commemorate every single person who's sitting through this meeting right now.

**Comment:** I was born and raised in the area. I went to school at Emerson Elementary School at Hawthorne, come from a family of 11. So, I have a lot of deep heritage and roots here in the area. I believe that this project does and will impact the environment and the impacts of this project will be a lot. The BOEM should require and encourage offshore wind projects in Morro Bay area to be built utilizing a local and skilled and trained workforce. A local hire and skilled trained workforce requirements reduce construction related environmental impacts while benefiting the local economy. This is done by local hire shopping, local hiring, shopping at local Excuse me retail stores, restaurants grocery stores, and keeping the money earned from the project being built right here in our community. Let's start to invest in our community, giving our residents an opportunity to be able to work locally.

**Comment:** I'm very supportive of wind energy and I believe that it is an important piece of the energy picture for sure, but I also believe that this process is being too rushed. There's been not enough public outreach. I was surprised to see that there have been 80 meetings already so you might be surprised that I'm saying there hasn't been enough public outreach, but I only heard about this meeting from a student in my class yesterday, and a project this big, I mean this could be several Diablo canyons in size, needs more public outreach. There needs to be more information to the public about it rather than trying to push it through quickly, so I agree with many of the previous speakers who said that we need a full EIS on the leasing process. I think it's pretty onerous on the whatever companies make a bid for these leases that they would then be responsible for designing the whole process and getting that through and EIS process. When the public and all the agencies haven't had a chance to be part of an EIS before that. So I think it's important to consider the impacts of a general wind energy project before it's putting it out to lease. I also want to make sure you know there's two things in the works. There's the marine traffic study, and also the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. And you know, both of those would have impact on this project and by pushing through leases before those are even settled seems like it's jumping the gun.

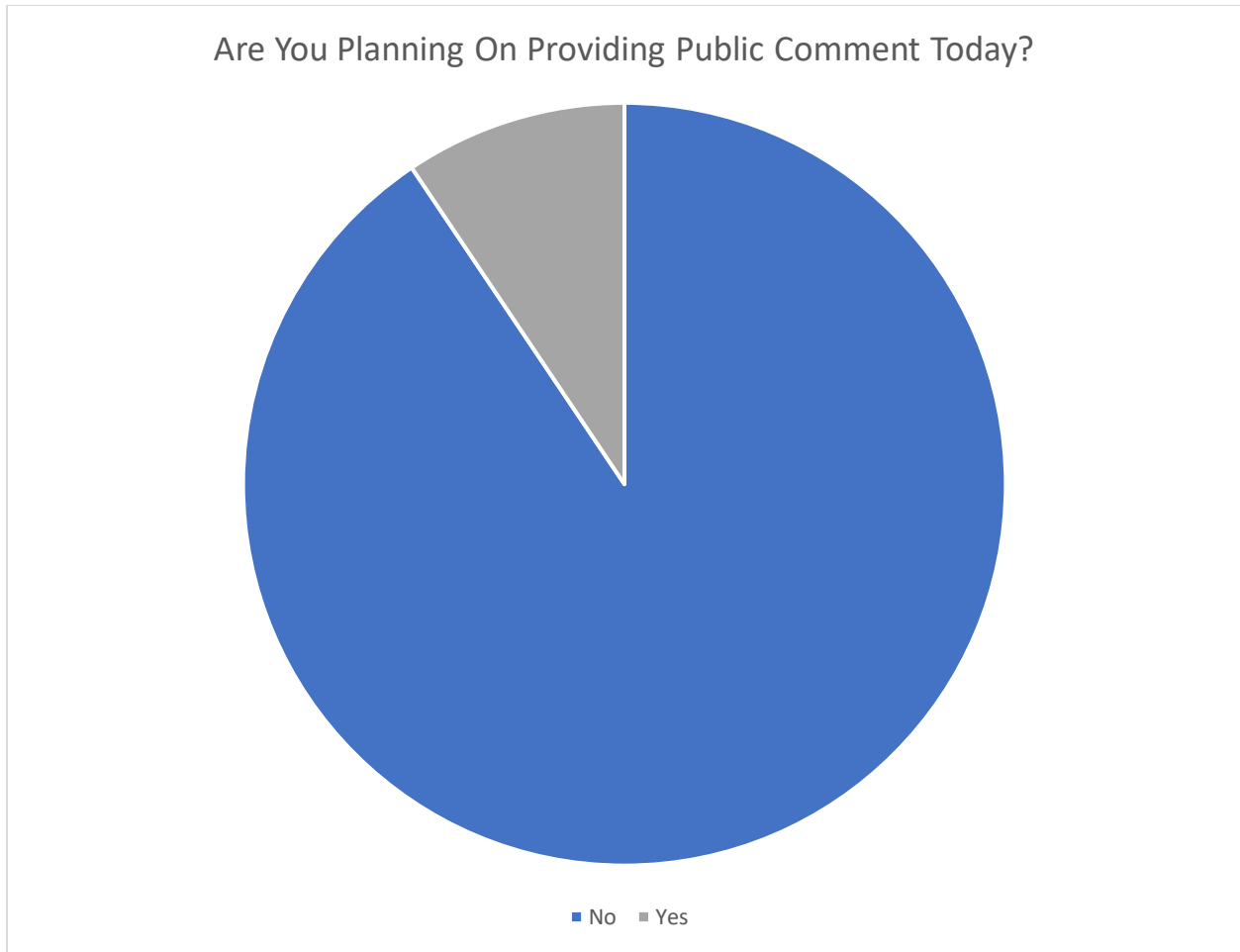
## E. Poll Results

Participant Affiliation



Please Select Your Affiliated Group	Count	Percentage
Academia	6	5%
Business/Industry	50	38%
Community-Based Organization	4	3%
Government	37	28%
Non-governmental organization	19	15%
Other	11	8%
Press	3	2%
Tribal/Indigenous	1	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100%</b>

Participants Planning to Provide Oral Comment



Are You Planning On Providing Public Comment Today?	Count	Percentage
No	125	91%
Yes	13	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100%</b>