



**Environmental Justice
High Impact Solutions
Economic Vitality**

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL COAST OFFSHORE WIND RESOURCES

SLO Climate Coalition is committed to creating a vibrant, just, and climate-resilient Central Coast. SLO Climate Coalition stands in strong support of responsible development of offshore wind resources in the Central Coast Wind Area. As a county-wide community organization, we advocate for responsible development of clean energy that supports and protects workers, cultural resources, wildlife, the environment, and the communities hosting the project.

Responsible development means:

1. Studying both positive and negative impacts of the wind projects and identifying potential mitigations that protect or benefit workers, wildlife, the ocean and coast, and the local and regional economy.
2. Ensuring that clean energy development includes community and regional economic development.
3. Requiring mitigations and adaptive management strategies that will continuously identify and reduce impacts and increase benefits as we gain experience and knowledge.
4. Analyzing the impacts of taking no action in order to quantify the impacts on the local economy, community, wildlife, and ocean and coastal environments from failing to adequately address the accelerating climate crisis, such as ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and species migration and extinction.

For this project, SLO Climate Coalition is encouraging the Central Coast offshore wind energy leaseholders to engage in good faith with Central Coast stakeholders to identify and agree upon specific community benefits the stakeholders and developers are committed to implement through a negotiated Community Benefits Agreement. SLO Climate Coalition is committed to ensuring that the development of offshore wind in our county and Central Coast provides meaningful, enduring benefits to Central Coast residents, the environment, and its economy.

Lastly, regarding the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, we believe that renewable energy development and conservation efforts can work together rather than in opposition. Consistent with the joint agreement between wind energy developers and the Northern Chumash people, once required wind infrastructure has been installed, the temporary gap in the Marine Sanctuary must be closed.

In conclusion, SLO Climate Coalition is excited to continue learning more and is supportive of the responsible development of offshore wind in the Central Coast Wind Area. We welcome a collaborative process that addresses stakeholder concerns while optimizing benefits to the climate, environment, economy, and community.

Eric Veium, MPP

Board Chair

SLO Climate Coalition

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