



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

National Advocacy Center

December 8, 2025

National Wildlife Federation
1200 G St NW Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

To: California Ocean Protection Council

Submitted via email: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

Subject: Action Item 8: Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds for Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring; Item 8 Exhibit: Draft Blueprint for Building a West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind - written testimony

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), with more than 6 million members and supporters, has long advocated for offshore wind energy development that responsibly considers and mitigates wildlife and environmental impacts. We commend the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for its continued leadership in advancing the West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind Energy (WCSC).

We express strong support for Action Item 8 recommendation to disburse up to \$3,000,000 to California Sea Grant to support responsible offshore wind development by establishing the WCSC and providing competitive and discretionary funding to address knowledge gaps and priority science needs. California and the broader West Coast now have a unique opportunity to focus on filling existing data gaps and identifying science needs to promote avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring of potential impacts from floating offshore wind energy on ocean ecosystems. The WCSC can play a critical role in strengthening coordination with partners nationwide to help ensure that future offshore wind development is guided by robust scientific information, informed by lessons learned, and implemented responsibly.

As a steering committee member on the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC), the east coast counterpart to the proposed WCSC, NWF is committed to supporting efforts to ensure that comprehensive scientific data are collected, managed, analyzed, and interpreted to inform responsible offshore wind development. This includes advancing the use of the mitigation hierarchy - avoid, minimize, mitigate, and monitor - to ensure offshore wind deployment is grounded in the best available science. A centralized regional science entity focused on offshore wind energy could help promote a more standardized national approach, including consistent protocols for data collection, analysis, and reporting, while providing a West Coast hub to facilitate coordination across regions and coasts. Such an approach will enhance knowledge sharing, reduce duplication of effort, and promote ongoing mitigation and monitoring while providing increased opportunities for implementing necessary strategies such as adaptive management. Similarly, NWF is supporting parallel efforts underway in the Gulf of Mexico to develop a comparable regional entity.

Importantly, NWF is committed to working with OPC as more detailed plans for the WCSC are developed. While the blueprint outlined in the Item 8 Exhibit provides a strong and informative foundation, we welcome continued refinement and opportunities for engagement. We are encouraged by the proposed steering committee and subcommittee structure (similar to and successfully demonstrated by RWSC) and the subject-matter areas of focus. We look forward to learning more about how federal agency leadership and oversight will be integrated into the Collaborative's governance in light of the current federal climate.

As these details take shape, we hope to see expanded opportunities for membership from Oregon and Washington, beyond a single representative from each state, to further underpin the crucial need for regionally informed coordination and enhance the sharing of resources, data, and scientific expertise along the West Coast, particularly in a time of limited capacity and resources for renewable energy activities.

Finally, we support the initial proposed activity in the Blueprint for the WCSC: Development of Monitoring Protocols and Best-Practice Documents. We look forward to reviewing a more comprehensive draft of the blueprint for public comment in the near future. We strongly encourage continued coordination with RWSC to help promote standardization and cross-pollination among science entities focused on offshore wind energy to assist with this initial activity. Such coordination would minimize duplication of effort, promote transparency, and enhance knowledge sharing wherever feasible, ultimately contributing to a more cohesive and effective national approach to responsible offshore wind energy development.

Sincerely,

Lucy Lefkowitz
Policy Specialist and Staff Attorney
National Wildlife Federation, Offshore Wind Energy



Submitted via email to COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

December 8, 2025

To: California Ocean Protection Council

Re: Action Item 8 – Support for Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring; Written Testimony on the Draft Blueprint for Building a West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) is a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental organization that advocates for the science-based protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests, rivers, and wildlife with an integrated approach combining public education, citizen advocacy, and strategic litigation. EPIC sees climate change as an existential threat to the ecosystems we exist to protect. Because of this, EPIC supports the responsible development of floating offshore wind off the California Coast that avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts on wildlife and communities. We thank the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for its continued leadership in advancing the West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind (Science Collaborative) which will further that goal.

EPIC strongly supports Action Item 8 and the recommendation to disburse up to \$3,000,000 to California Sea Grant to establish the Science Collaborative and to provide competitive and discretionary funding to address key science needs and data gaps related to offshore wind. Establishing the Science Collaborative will help ensure that future permitting decisions are grounded in robust, transparent, and regionally relevant science, while also strengthening coordination with national partners and leveraging lessons learned from other regions.

As a non-profit based in Humboldt County near the Humboldt OSW lease areas and potential future north coast lease areas, EPIC is deeply committed to supporting efforts that ensure scientific data are collected, managed, analyzed, and interpreted consistently to inform responsible offshore wind deployment. We strongly support using the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, mitigate, and monitor) as a foundation for science-driven decision-making. A centralized regional science entity for the West Coast can also advance a more standardized national approach to data collection and reporting, promote cross-coast knowledge sharing, reduce duplication, and improve coordination across agencies and stakeholders.

Environmental Protection Information Center

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Additionally, we support the draft blueprint's proposed first activity: developing monitoring protocols and best-practice guidance. We look forward to reviewing a more comprehensive draft for public comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Matt Simmons', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Matt Simmons
Environmental Protection Information Center - EPIC
145 G Street, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521