



**HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Regional Transportation Planning Agency**  
**Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority**  
**Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**  
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**AGENDA ITEM 7a**  
**HCAOG Board Meeting**  
**July 20, 2023**

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**DATE:** July 18, 2023  
**TO:** HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)  
**FROM:** Beth Burks, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal Project Notice of Preparation (NOP) Comment Letter**

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Contents:**

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Draft NOP Comment Letter
- Notice of Preparation for the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal project

#### **Staff's Recommended Action:**

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:  
"I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board approve the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal Project Notice of Preparation (NOP) Comment Letter and direct staff to send it to the Harbor District."

#### **Staff Summary:**

On June 23, 2023, the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District published a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Draft Environmental Impact report for the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal project. Responses to the NOP are due by August 3, 2023. The NOP which is included as an attachment to this staff report, describes the project and the project objectives.

HCAOG has a particular interest in the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal Project because there are many aspects of the project that could impact the region's transportation system and cause increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, with disproportionate effects on lower-income and Native communities. Additionally, in May 2023, HCAOG adopted resolution 23-18 concerning offshore wind development and participation in the North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network. This resolution authorized the HCAOG Executive Director to participate in and support the efforts of the Community Benefits Network.

This NOP is the first formal opportunity to comment on the port development aspects of offshore wind development. The draft response letter includes information regarding HCAOG policies as well as information promoting the work of the Community Benefits Network.

Staff recommends approving the letter and directing staff to forward it to the Harbor District as a formal comment.