



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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RESOLUTION 23-18

RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH COAST OFFSHORE WIND COMMUNITY BENEFITS NETWORK

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG), is a Joint Powers Agency that includes in its purpose to advise, plan for, and suggest solutions to common problems facing our region; and

WHEREAS, HCAOG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, has adopted a Regional Transportation Plan (*VROOM 2022-2042*) that includes commitments to equity, economic vitality of our region, an efficient and viable transportation system, environmental stewardship and climate protection, equitable and sustainable use of resources, and safety and health for our communities; and

WHEREAS, offshore wind energy development is a crucial strategy to address global climate change and to meet the state and federal administrations' ambitious climate and renewable energy targets as well as HCAOG's adopted Safe and Sustainable Transportation Targets; and

WHEREAS, significant development of offshore wind energy in the County of Humboldt requires both offshore and onshore development activities, which can significantly impact the region's economy, communities, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the offshore wind industry develops and operates equitably and sustainably, and in partnership with the region's communities, to address the area's unique assets, needs, and connections with natural resources; and

WHEREAS, HCAOG is deeply committed to ensuring that the development of the offshore wind industry in this region yields a strong slate of community benefits, minimizes and mitigates impacts wherever possible, compensates communities for unavoidable impacts, and generates robust and sustainable economic opportunities for the region's communities; and

WHEREAS, the terms in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) offshore wind Final Sale Notice for wind lease areas in the Humboldt Bay offer tremendous opportunities to pursue and achieve community benefits, including through a 20% workforce and/or supply chain development credit, a 5% General Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) credit, and a 5% Lease Area Use CBA credit; and

WHEREAS, concentrated and coordinated effort will be required to ensure that the offshore wind industry in the Humboldt Bay region is developed sustainably in a way that benefits Tribal Nations and underrepresented communities, advances racial equity, protects the environment and builds a thriving, equitable, and sustainable local economy, including through the development and negotiation of CBAs and other agreements; and

WHEREAS, HCAOG has been an active partner in the Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) and the broader North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network (Network); and

WHEREAS, the CORE Hub and the Network represent a diverse group of Tribal Nations, local government agencies, educational institutions, labor leaders, local community-based organizations, and community residents, and has participated in BOEM's offshore wind lease sale process to seek robust community benefits stipulations and bid credits; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations; Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color; and frontline communities bear the brunt of devastating impacts of climate catastrophe, energy vulnerability, and long-term impacts of extractive over-harvesting of natural resources, and are therefore critical partners and leaders in developing an equitable and sustainable path to offshore wind development; and

WHEREAS, HCAOG recognizes Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and other rights of Native American Tribes, as well as the specific and intentional historic trauma to Tribal nations and peoples by the federal, state, and county/local governments and previous destructive natural resource industries in the North Coast region; and

WHEREAS, HCAOG recognizes that BOEM's wind lease area auction is a key step in the path to offshore wind development and is merely the beginning of what will hopefully be a long, productive, and collaborative partnership with wind developers and the region's diverse communities and constituencies; and

WHEREAS, offshore wind development, if pursued thoughtfully and in genuine partnership with Tribal nations and the region's local governments, communities, and stakeholders, can help promote a diverse and thriving economic landscape.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Humboldt County Association of Governments believes that Offshore wind energy development is a key strategy to fight global climate change. HCAOG is prepared to do its part to ensure the equitable and sustainable economic development of this new industry in the region, while helping ensure that any unavoidable impacts are mitigated and minimized. Offshore wind energy development provides a unique opportunity for diversification of the region's economic engines, and should be developed in full collaboration with local stakeholders, including Tribal Nations, local organizations and industries, fisheries and local government entities.
2. HCAOG recognizes that Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) and the broader North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network (Network) have been leading community partners in advocating for offshore wind workforce development and community benefits, and have raised important issues before BOEM, other federal agencies and the State of California. HCAOG supports these efforts, and will continue to participate as partners with the CORE Hub and the Network in advocacy and negotiation of community benefits related to offshore wind development.
3. The HCAOG executive director is therefore directed to continue or undertake the following activities related to offshore wind development:

- a. partner with CORE Hub and the Offshore Wind Community Benefit Network in pursuing community benefits agreements with offshore wind development leaseholders and other developers;
- b. support and/or participate in negotiations of community benefits agreements or similar agreements related to community benefits, workforce development, procurement, and mitigation of impacts, with offshore wind development leaseholders and other project developers, participants and affected stakeholders;
- c. engage in outreach and stakeholder input efforts to ensure that all affected and interested members of the Humboldt County community and region are aware of offshore wind development activities and can participate in public processes regarding such activities;
 - 1. on behalf of HCAOG, submit letters of support and requests for funding and regulatory or legislative frameworks related to regional agency and growing regional capacity to facilitate sustainable development of the offshore wind industry in the region; and
 - J. take all reasonable additional steps to support offshore wind development in a manner that maximizes the benefits to the region, while minimizing and mitigating any unavoidable impacts, as described herein; and
 - k. report to the HCAOG Board as needed regarding negotiations, initiatives, and efforts as described herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt County Association of Governments, in the City of Eureka, County of Humboldt, State of California, this 18th day of May 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: MEMBERS:

NOES: MEMBERS:

ABSENT: MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: MEMBERS:

Attest:

Beth Burks, Executive Director

Mike Johnson, HCAOG Chair