

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Jarett Goldsmith [Jarett.Goldsmith@gl-garradhassan.com]
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Subject: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 - Comments on Funding to Support California Marine & Hydrokinetic Energy

Categories: Ready to Docket

August 17, 2012

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



RE: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 – Comments on Funding to Support California Marine & Hydrokinetic Energy

I am California native Jarett Goldsmith and I work as a Wave and Tidal Energy Engineer for Garrad Hassan America, Inc. We are the world's largest independent renewable energy consultancy, offering independent technical and engineering services, products, and training courses, to the onshore and offshore wind, wave, tidal, and solar sectors. I am located in our office here in San Diego, California and am commenting to encourage funding support for the development of marine and hydrokinetic energy in this state.

According to the recent national wave energy resource study, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute, California has a total of 293 TWh/year available wave energy resource along the outer shelf (200m depth contour). This is greater than California's total in-state electricity generation system (generating just over 200 TWh/year) and thus if even if a small percentage of this resource were practically extractable, there is the potential for substational generation from this clean, renewable energy resource. Marine energy converters can be placed offshore with minimal environmental and conflicting use impacts, and have additional benefits over other renewable energy technologies. For California to secure a sustainable energy future, many technologies must be utilized in combination to form the solution. Encouraging the development of this resource in a responsible manner fits perfectly with California's renewable energy and environmental goals.

It must be remembered, that wave energy and other marine renewable technologies are in an early stage of development. While many are confident that these technologies will one day be cost-competitive with conventional energy sources, they are not yet at this point and require funding to help spur technological advances and development through this nascent stage.

There are many companies, including my own, which are based in California and are actively involved in pursuing or supporting marine and hydrokinetic energy development. Studies by other states and countries, and even the earliest examples from the first pilot projects worldwide, are showing the massive economic benefits and job creation that can occur from supporting this new industry. California has long been a center for technical innovation, and I'd encourage the establishment of dedicated funds toward furthering the development of this industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EPIC Program, and I can be contacted for more information on this renewable resource, the current status of the sector, or the potential to support marine and hydrokinetic energy development in our state.

Regards,
Jarett Goldsmith

Jarett Goldsmith

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