

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

Subject: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01 – Marine Renewable Resources

October 1, 2012

On behalf of the Ocean Studies Institute (OSI), I am pleased to submit comments to the California Energy Commission on the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Proposed 2012-14 Triennial Investment Plan.

OSI is a consortium of 8 California State University (CSU) campuses in Southern California who pool their resources to explore the ocean and coastal regions of California. The member institutions include some of the largest universities in the nation: CSU Long Beach, Northridge, Los Angeles, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Pomona, San Bernardino and San Marcos. We are members of one of the largest and most diverse public university systems in the world; and we are uniquely positioned to support applied research and development, technology demonstration, and deployment of clean energy technologies in the marine environment.

OSI applauds California's leadership in the development of clean energy technologies and the goal of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. The Investment Plan reflects ambitious goals of reducing greenhouse gases, making 33% of the State's energy portfolio renewables, encouraging CA-based technology development and in-state investment, and streamlining projects to avoiding duplication. We are confident that California will lead the rest of the nation forward along the pathway to clean, sustainable energy sources.

We are pleased to see the inclusion of marine renewable energy and offshore wind energy technologies in the Triennial Investment Plan. The CSU, and OSI in particular, can play a critical role in areas related to offshore energy generation and its potential environmental impacts on marine species and habitats. OSI, its member institutions, and affiliated scientists can facilitate the goals of EPIC in the following ways:

- We can provide “plug-and-play” facilities in a variety of wave, tidal, and physical environments with all the necessary components for developers to test their prototypes *in-situ*. We currently have marine facilities at the Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI). These facilities will grow dramatically in size and capabilities as the \$500 million City Dock #1 project in the Port of Los Angeles comes to fruition. This new facility will provide unparalleled opportunities for studies of marine and coastal environments, as well as opportunities for collaboration between academic scientists and industry, in a single location. We can also provide shore-based support for a variety of



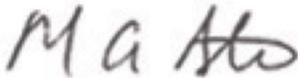
California State University Northridge

marine projects throughout the Southern California Bight. We can provide support for lab and field testing, pilot-scale testing, full-scale demonstration and deployment, and workforce development.

- Our scientists have unparalleled knowledge of the biology, geology, and physics of California's coastal ocean that can inform technology development and determine the effects of energy generation on marine species and habitats.
- Partnerships with academic researchers will facilitate access to the environmental data needed for the environmental permitting process.
- Locating the Centers at the CSU marine facilities like OSI/SCMI will reduce costs by capitalizing on existing infrastructure and human resources. Upgrades to existing infrastructure and additional infrastructure will be necessary and will ultimately benefit California. Investment in the CSU is a demonstrated mechanism to successfully reinvest in and grow the State of California: for every \$1 invested, the CSU generates \$5.43 for California's economy.
- OSI institutions, and the CSU more broadly, are uniquely positioned to support workforce development in clean energy technology. The CSU is the largest, most diverse, and most affordable university system in the country. The CSU graduates almost 100,000 students annually who go on to live and work in California and throughout the nation. Ten percent of California's workforce is made up of CSU graduates, and the CSU has a responsibility to serve the people and the State of California. Involvement of OSI and the CSU in the development of marine renewable energy technologies will ensure the creation of a highly skilled workforce capable of addressing challenges of developing sustainable energy production.

We believe that OSI and the CSU is uniquely positioned to provide the intellectual expertise, infrastructure, and a workforce base necessary to support and advance the development of sustainable, clean energy production for California.

Thank you considering these comments,



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