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State Applications Preliminary Environmental Assessment progress update

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UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TWO PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PROJECTS IN STATE WATERS OFF THE COAST OF VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE

The California State Lands Commission (Commission), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing a Preliminary Environmental Assessment for two proposed offshore wind energy projects in state waters off the coast of Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Over the past few months, Commission staff held a series of focused stakeholder meetings to hear comments and concerns about the proposed offshore wind projects, and to solicit input on information resources (data), ideas for mitigation, monitoring, and alternatives. Staff has also begun developing the draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) document using available in-house information resources as well as information provided during the focused stakeholder meetings and through written comments submitted by participants. The participation in our stakeholder, agency, and Tribal engagement efforts was very robust, and staff is working hard to ensure that we capture all your feedback and present it in a balanced and accurate manner, capturing both the potential benefits and impacts of the proposed projects. Staff anticipates releasing the draft PEA for public comment in mid-summer. Following a minimum 60-day review of the draft document, staff will compile and review all comments and prepare the final PEA. The final PEA, along with a recommendation on whether to move forward with full environmental review

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On December 8th, 2020, Commission staff hosted an introductory webinar to introduce the two proposed projects and provide application status, project descriptions, and a preliminary list of likely affected resources.

Please refer to the Commission's website at <https://www.slc.ca.gov/renewable-energy/offshore-wind-applications/> for additional information on the proposals as well as the presentation slides and recording from the December 8th webinar.

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