



Monterey Bay
Aquarium®

Renewable Energy & Biodiversity Conservation: California

Environmental Law Institute | Emerging Leaders Initiative

Margaret Spring | Monterey Bay Aquarium | September 28, 2021



Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Twin environmental crises, human dimensions.
- Why California?
- Ocean role and challenges.
- Climate change elevates need for ongoing science.
- The 3rd crisis: inequity.



Ocean and Coastal
Biodiversity
Initiatives in
California



State of California Marine Protected Areas Network



30x30 Initiatives:

California's EO

America the
Beautiful Initiative

- CA Goal: Conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030
 - Holding ocean and coastal waters until after the December 2022 MPA management review.
 - Will release "Pathways to 30x30"
- ATB Goal: Locally led effort for conserving 30% of our nation's lands and waters by 2030.
 - Atlas of nature to identify existing marine protected areas and effectiveness of protections (2022?)
 - Annual updates promised

Ocean and Coastal Offshore Wind Initiatives in California

- CA set aggressive renewables targets:
 - 50% renewable electricity by 2026
 - 60% by 2030
 - 100 % by 2045
- Biden Administration's OSW Goal for CA: 4.6 Gigawatts
 - As part of 30 Gigawatts by 2030
 - No separate goal yet set by Gov. Newsom
- Industry goal for CA is 10GW

Enabling conditions in place.

- OSW can contribute to state renewable energy targets and workforce.
- Federal and state political leaders are lining up in support.
- Renewable energy development tax credits are driving industry.

California to rely on 100% clean electricity by 2045 under bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown

Biden administration announces 30 GW offshore wind plan

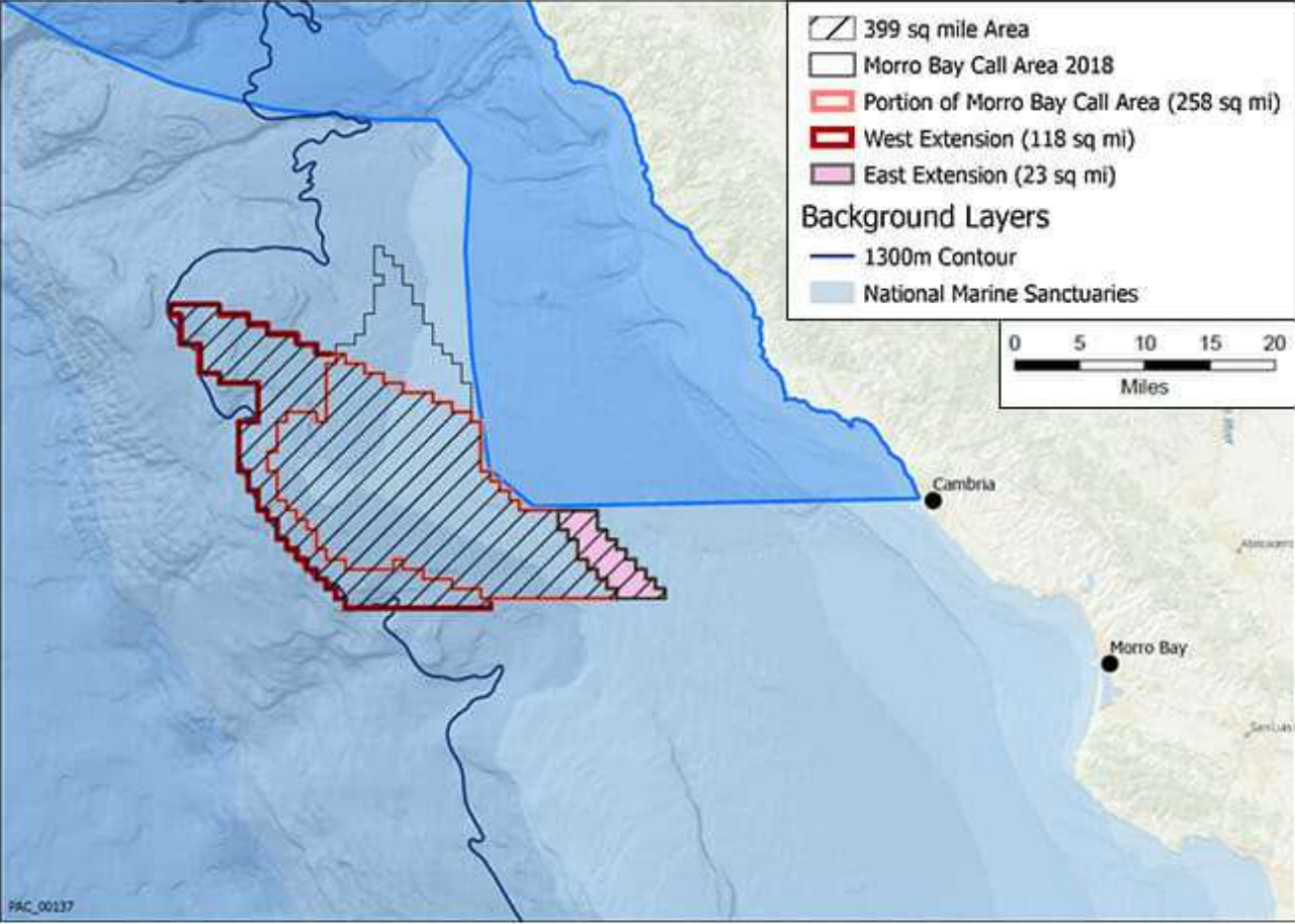
California Announces Historic Agreement with Federal Partners to Advance Offshore Wind Development



US Rep Jared Huffman, CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory, and Sec of Interior Deb Haaland at OSW event in Humboldt Bay on Aug 10.

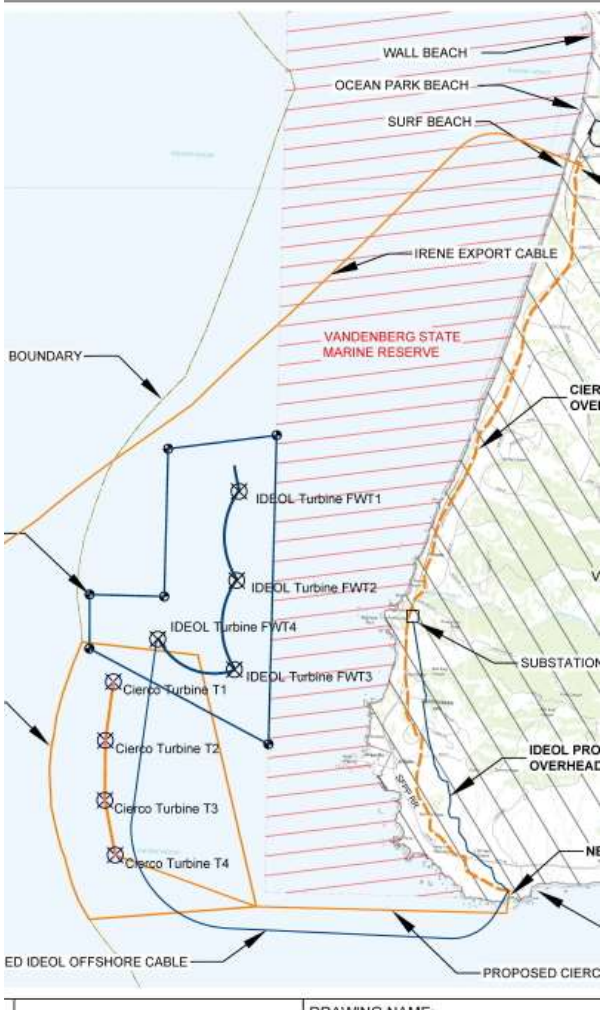
California moving ahead on offshore renewable energy.

Morro Bay Call Area Extension



Source: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

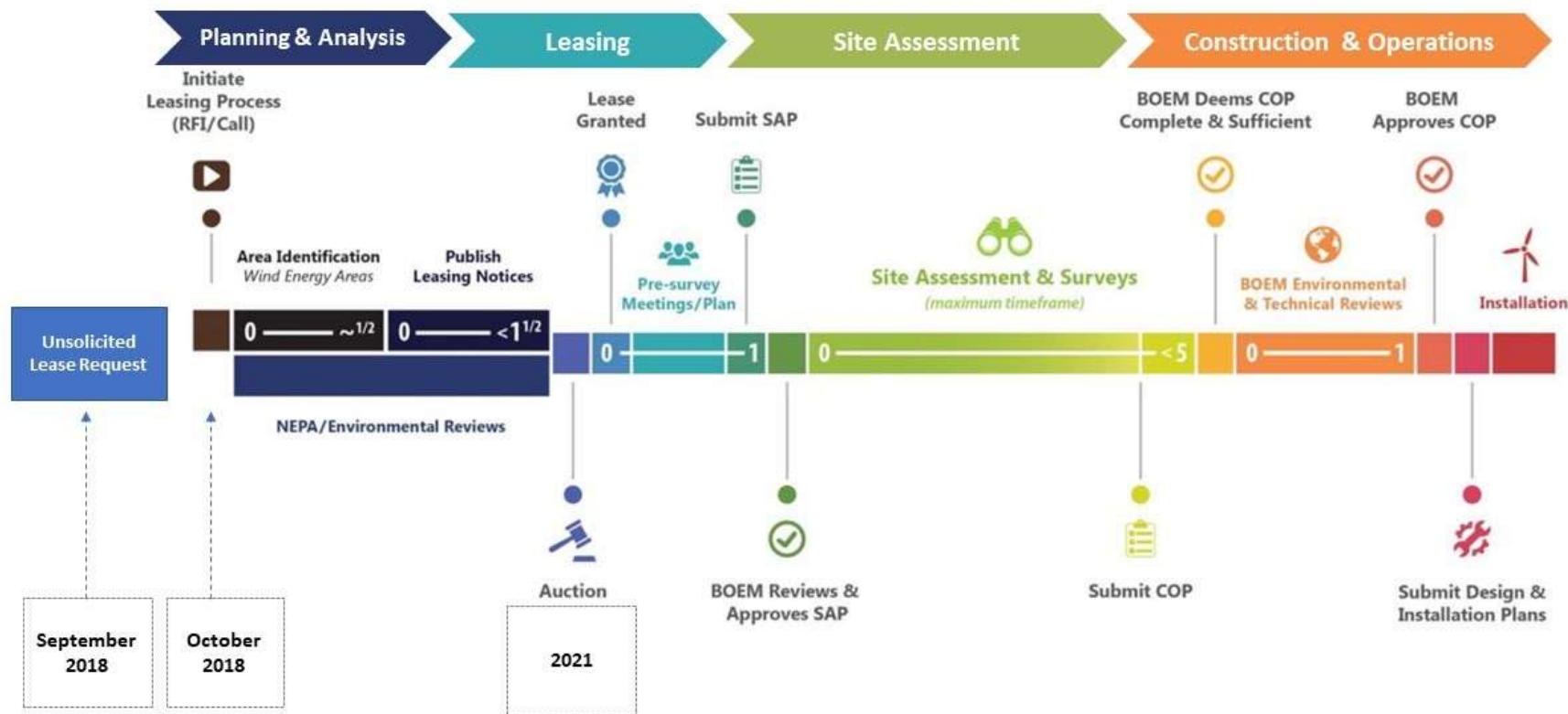
Federal proposals in play off Morro Bay and Humboldt County (not pictured).
State proposals off Vandenberg AFB.



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BOEM Offshore Wind Leasing Process

General indicative timeline



Time is of the essence.

- Federal process advancing to next stage
- State and federal studies are still underway and on tap

- *Spring 2022:* CA reviews and determinations on Humboldt, Morro Bay
- *Late 2022:* Sale of CA OSW leases (slipped from 2021)
- *Mid-2023:* New law requires a state strategic plan for OSW

Responsible Offshore Renewable Energy Will Require:

- Getting least-conflict siting right upfront – models exist.
- Effectively engaging all affected stakeholders and Tribal governments.
- Starting necessary monitoring for adaptive management.
- Growing our understanding of how OSW impacts the environment.
- Working across agencies, stakeholders, scientists, developers to mitigate.

To Avoid Conflict on Biodiversity and Renewables...

Build on science, lessons learned, and needs of future generations

Government leadership, coordination & oversight are essential.

Planning process must be comprehensive.

Science and monitoring are crucial.

A broad-based ecosystem approach is needed.

Trust and relationships must be built and maintained.

Equity, engagement and transparency are critical.



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