



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

November 19, 2024

David Hochschild  
Chair, California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of Support – Port of Long Beach (POLB) Offshore Wind Energy Waterfront Facility Improvement Proposal Under California Energy Commission GFO-24-701**

Dear Chair Hochschild,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DTLB Alliance) to support the Port of Long Beach's (POLB) application for the Port Offshore Wind Equity and Readiness (POWER) project in response to the State of California Energy Commission "Offshore Wind Energy Waterfront Facility Improvement Program" grant funding opportunity.

As you may know, the DTLB Alliance is a nonprofit business-improvement-district organization operating on behalf of the tenants and commercial and residential property owners in Downtown Long Beach. It is dedicated to the management, marketing, security, maintenance, advocacy, economic and community development of its two assessment districts in cooperation with the City of Long Beach, as well as the public and private sectors. The POLB has been a great partner in these efforts, and are constant advocates for community improvements. Their headquarters is also located within our management district boundaries and is a major stakeholder.

The DTLB Alliance believes the POWER project is critical for the full-scale development of the Port's Pier Wind concept for an offshore wind terminal, which is essential for the development of California's offshore wind industry as well as achieving both state and national clean energy goals. The project also represents the creation of much-needed, well-paying jobs, just outside our downtown corridor. We know that these workers will be close enough to patron our businesses and consider Downtown Long Beach a place to do business and a destination to visit.

As you are aware, the Port of Long Beach developed a conceptual plan for the Pier Wind project – the nation's largest offshore wind facility specifically designed for staging and integration (S&I) co-located with foundation assembly. Pier Wind is designed to incorporate the latest green port technology and facilitate the efficient serial production of floating offshore wind turbines. The AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan and the AB 525 Port Readiness Plan identified S&I sites for the assembly of floating offshore wind turbines as the most critical port infrastructure needed to enable the development of offshore wind in California. No single port site in California can serve all the needs of the floating offshore wind industry, and development of S&I sites must be prioritized as they are an essential foundation to



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implementation of a coordinated multiport strategy to floating offshore wind development.

Specifically, the POWER project will finalize planning and design for Pier Wind terminal infrastructure, while investing heavily in comprehensive stakeholder engagement, including a robust and informative presentation to our Board of Directors, to ensure local and underserved communities are involved in the planning process – optimizing community benefits including improved air quality, job creation, local economic development, and lower renewable energy costs.

POLB has the experience, expertise, and technical capacity to successfully develop Pier Wind in a responsible, equitable and sustainable way. Over the past decade, the POLB delivered multiple billion-dollar infrastructure development programs, including development of nation's most technologically advanced and greenest terminal, the Long Beach Container Terminal. In addition, POLB is a global leader in green port initiatives, and its innovative, award-winning sustainability programs are achieving documented environmental progress. The POLB has extensive community programs including: support of local grade schools, community colleges, and universities; scholarships; high school and college internships; community tours and sponsorships; and the largest voluntary Community Grants Program of any port in the nation.

The DTLB Alliance supports the POWER project as it is an important first step and will signal to the offshore wind industry that the state is committed to its goal of 25 GW of offshore wind energy by 2045 and attract federal and private investment in a new industry in California. Our organization will support the Pier Wind project by its participation in the Port's Zero Emission Energy Resilient Operations (ZEERO) Roundtable. The roundtable meets to discuss the Port's proposed projects related to a carbon neutral future and provide constructive feedback. Amongst these proposed projects is the Pier Wind project. We believe strong support of Pier Wind from the State will be key to establishing a robust offshore wind industry in California, as well as strengthen our local economy with good paying, high impact jobs.

Sincerely,

Austin Metoyer,  
President & CEO  
Downtown Long Beach Alliance