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**National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium Welcomes
California Energy Commission to its Membership**

*Consortium's Board expansion demonstrates regional industry growth and impactful
collaboration to move floating offshore wind and other technologies forward.*

March 7, 2023 - The National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (“the Consortium”) today announced the latest addition to its Board of Directors, the California Energy Commission (CEC)—California’s primary energy policy and planning agency. As a global economic leader, California has established ambitious offshore wind development targets of up to 5GW by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045—enough electricity to power up to 25 million homes. As an important initial step in this development, in December 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted its first lease auction for designated wind energy areas offshore of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay, California.

The CEC will make an initial funding contribution of up to \$5 million for offshore wind research and development (R&D) administered through the NOWRDC. The funding will enable new partnerships and research activities important to offshore wind planning, permitting, and deployment, including floating wind technologies that are needed in deep waters such as those off California. This partnership advances the Consortium’s mission to fund innovation that directly solves the nation’s pressing offshore wind development barriers. California is the seventh U.S. state member of the Consortium, joining New York, New Jersey, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

“On behalf of the Consortium, we welcome the State of California to our Board with overwhelming enthusiasm,” said Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director of the Consortium. “California’s perspective on shaping floating offshore wind, transmission, and other key areas of offshore wind research and development will be invaluable. In turn, we hope that our current project portfolio and the future work we fund together helps California achieve its offshore wind targets.”

The Consortium is a national resource for prioritizing and funding offshore wind R&D projects that address technical and systems management challenges faced by the U.S. offshore wind industry as it strives to accelerate project deployment, reduce costs and marine impacts, and achieve the national goal of 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2030. A key part of the Consortium’s work is collaborating with state governments and offshore wind industry to fund projects that are directly applicable to current challenges.

“As California advances its ambitious offshore wind development targets, we know that it will require innovative approaches and close collaboration with industry and policy leaders,” said Jonah Steinbuck, Director of the CEC’s Energy Research and Development Division. “We’re



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excited to join the National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium and to leverage the experience of consortium partners as we scale up actions to realize the potential of offshore wind for California.”

The California Energy Commission developed the state’s planning target of 25 GW of offshore wind energy by 2045, and is developing a strategic plan for offshore wind energy deployments. The California Energy Commission also administers the Electric Program Investment Charge, the state’s premier electricity R&D program, which has invested over \$8M in offshore wind R&D to date; is currently investing another \$15.7M; and plans to invest an additional \$29M for offshore wind and solar R&D through 2025. California’s recently-approved 2022-23 state budget also includes \$45M to provide incentives to support offshore wind infrastructure improvements. Plans for renovations to prepare for offshore wind activities are already underway at the Port of Humboldt Bay with \$10.5 million in funding approved by the California Energy Commission.

The National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, established in 2018, is a not-for-profit public-private partnership focused on advancing offshore wind technology in the United States through high-impact research projects and cost-effective and responsible development to maximize economic benefits. Funding for the Consortium comes from the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), with each providing \$20.5 million, as well as contributions from the Commonwealths of Virginia and Massachusetts and the States of California, Maryland, Maine, and New Jersey, bringing total investment to approximately \$52 million. For more information, please visit nationaloffshorewind.org.

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