



GOLDEN  
STATE  
WIND



Code USGSW-BOEM-CON-PRT-PLN-00001

# Agency Communications Plan

**Golden State Wind**  
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000	8/18/2023	Initial Draft Plan	--
001	9/29/2023	Update with comments from agencies	Incorporates comments received by agencies through September 26, 2023
002	12/01/2023	Update in response to EPA and BOEM comments	Minor edits throughout based on comments received through November 2, 2023
003	06/21/2024	Update with Project updates	Minor edits throughout based on Project updates and stakeholder feedback; updated Agency Liaison
004	1/17/2025	Update to agency contacts	Updates to agency contacts list based on agency input.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	About Golden State Wind and Our Sponsors .....	2
1.2	Project Overview .....	3
1.3	Project Goals and Objectives .....	6
1.4	ACP Goals and Objectives.....	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Agency Liaison information .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Engagement Approach and Protocols .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	Key Regulatory Stakeholder Groups.....	8
3.1.1	BOEM .....	8
3.1.2	Additional Jurisdictional Agencies .....	9
3.2	Additional Relevant Stakeholder Groups .....	11
3.2.1	Other Lessees .....	11
3.2.2	Internal .....	11
3.3	Meetings .....	11
3.3.1	Initial Meetings .....	12
3.3.2	ACP Meeting .....	12
3.3.3	Interagency Meetings .....	12
3.3.4	Coordination with Command Headquarters .....	13
3.3.5	Recurring and Topic-Specific Meetings .....	13
3.3.6	Ad Hoc Meetings .....	13
3.3.7	Meeting Tracking Log.....	13
3.4	Key Information .....	14
3.5	Project Website and Email .....	14
3.6	Key Phases for Agency Engagement .....	14
3.6.1	General Project Coordination .....	14
3.6.2	Surveys and Assessments .....	15
3.6.3	Design and Siting .....	16
3.6.4	Permitting .....	16
3.6.5	Construction .....	18
3.6.6	Operations .....	18
3.6.7	Decommissioning .....	19
3.7	Timing and Frequency for Stakeholder Communication .....	19
3.8	Progress Reports.....	21
3.9	Supplemental Information .....	21
3.10	Disinterested or Unresponsive Agencies .....	21

## **TABLES**

Table 1.	Expected Timing and Frequencies for Engagement .....	19
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## **FIGURES**

Figure 1.	Morro Bay Wind Energy Area and Lease Area OCS-P 0564 .....	4
Figure 2.	Conceptual Project Schematic .....	5

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A	Agency Information
Appendix B	Template Meeting Log
Appendix C	List of Potential Permits

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ACP	Agency Communications Plan
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
COP	Construction and Operation Plan
CPPIB	Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board
G&G	Geophysical and geotechnical
GSW	Golden State Wind LLC
GW	Gigawatts
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
Lease	GSW Lease Agreement
Lease Area	Lease Area OCS-P 0564
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
OW	Ocean Winds
Project	Golden State Wind Project

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Golden State Wind LLC (GSW), BOEM Co. No. 15100, was awarded Lease Area OCS-P 0564 (Lease Area) in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Pacific Wind Lease Sale held in December 2022. GSW is currently undertaking development of the Golden State Wind Project (Project), and all associated offshore and onshore components. This Agency Communications Plan (ACP) is submitted to BOEM in fulfillment of Condition 3.1.3 of the GSW Lease Agreement (Lease).

The ACP outlines a communications program that keeps regulatory agencies educated and informed with up-to-date information about the Project. As further detailed below, the purpose of the ACP is to ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion of potential issues, collaborative identification of solutions to improve the quality and efficiency of various agency decision-making processes, and to promote the sustainable development of offshore wind energy projects.

*3.1.3 Agency Communications Plan (ACP): The Lessee must develop a publicly available ACP that describes the strategies that the Lessee intends to use for communicating with Federal, state and local agencies (including harbor districts) with authority related to the Lease Area and should outline specific methods for engaging with and disseminating information related to these agencies. The purpose of the ACP is to ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion of potential issues, and collaborative identification of solutions in order to improve the quality and efficiency of various agency decision-making processes, and to promote the sustainable development of offshore wind energy Projects. The ACP must include the contact information for an individual retained by the Lessee as its primary point of contact with agencies, (i.e., an Agency Liaison). The ACP should include detailed information and protocols for regular engagement with permitting and resource agencies including, but not limited to, the types of engagement activities ( e.g., one-on-one meetings, interagency meetings, open information sharing meetings, etc.); the frequency of proposed engagements/meetings (e.g., monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, annually, etc.); meeting locations and/or virtual platforms; and contact information (e.g., telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.).*

*The Lessee must provide the ACP to the Lessor and other permitting, planning, and resource agencies with authority related to the Lease Area for review and comment and host a meeting with the Lessor and all interested agencies to discuss the ACP. The Lessee must provide the ACP and host the meeting within 120 days of the Lease Effective Date. The Lessee may request the Lessor extend the 120-day deadline and meetings may include multiple agencies. The Lessee must invite agencies with planning and/or permitting roles and/or resource expertise to participate in the ACP. The Lessee should request that the Agency designate a primary point of contact for communicating with the Lessee. If an Agency states in writing to the Lessee or Lessor that it does not wish to participate in the ACP, the Lessee need no longer include that Agency in ACP communications and must document this change in the ACP. If an*

*Agency does not respond to outreach from the Lessee, the Lessee will continue to invite the Agency to participate in ACP engagement opportunities until the Agency provides a response. Note that a decision to not participate in the ACP in no way changes the Agency regulatory authority or the need to communicate with that agency. Any subsequent revisions to the ACP resulting from engagement with participating agencies must be submitted to the Lessor with supporting documentation.*

The ACP details how regulatory agencies will be kept informed of the Project and educated on offshore wind development and activities. This ACP is a living document covering the full lifecycle of the Project from design and planning, to construction, to operations and maintenance, and ultimately decommissioning.

As such, the ACP will evolve and become refined as the GSW team continues to meet with agencies and as the siting and engineering design of the Project's components progresses. This ACP will be shared with additional permitting, planning, and resource agencies to provide review and comment if and when additional jurisdictional agencies are identified throughout the process.

The ACP does not cover engagement with Tribal governments. As required under the Lease, a separate Native American Tribes Communications Plan that details outreach and engagement with Tribes has been developed with Tribal government input and provided to BOEM. As requested by Tribes, the Native American Tribes Communications Plan was developed jointly by the three Central Coast lessees. Additionally, as required under the Lease, a Fisheries Communications Plan has been developed and provided to BOEM that details outreach and engagement with the commercial and recreational fishing industries. Both plans are available on the GSW website at [goldenstatewind.com/#doc](https://goldenstatewind.com/#doc).

## **1.1 About Golden State Wind and Our Sponsors**

GSW is a 50/50 joint venture of Ocean Winds (OW) and the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), managed by OW. When fully built out and operational, Lease Area OCS-P 0564 could accommodate approximately 2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy.

OW is a global offshore wind company with more than 10 years of experience in the floating offshore wind sector, inherited from its sponsors. Created as a 50/50 joint venture of EDP Renewables and ENGIE, OW develops, builds, and operates offshore wind farms in communities around the world, based on the belief that offshore wind energy is an essential part of the global energy transition. OW, headquartered in Madrid, currently has 15 offshore wind projects in seven countries with a total portfolio of offshore wind gross capacity in operation, under construction, or in advanced development now reaching 16.6 GW.

CPPIB is a professional investment management organization that manages the fund in the best interest of the 21 million contributors and beneficiaries of the Canada Pension Plan. To build diversified portfolios of assets, investments are made around the world in public equities, private equities, real estate, infrastructure and fixed income. Headquartered in Toronto, with offices in Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, Mumbai, New York City, San Francisco, São Paulo and Sydney, CPPIB is governed and managed independently of the Canada Pension Plan and at arm's length from governments.

## 1.2 Project Overview

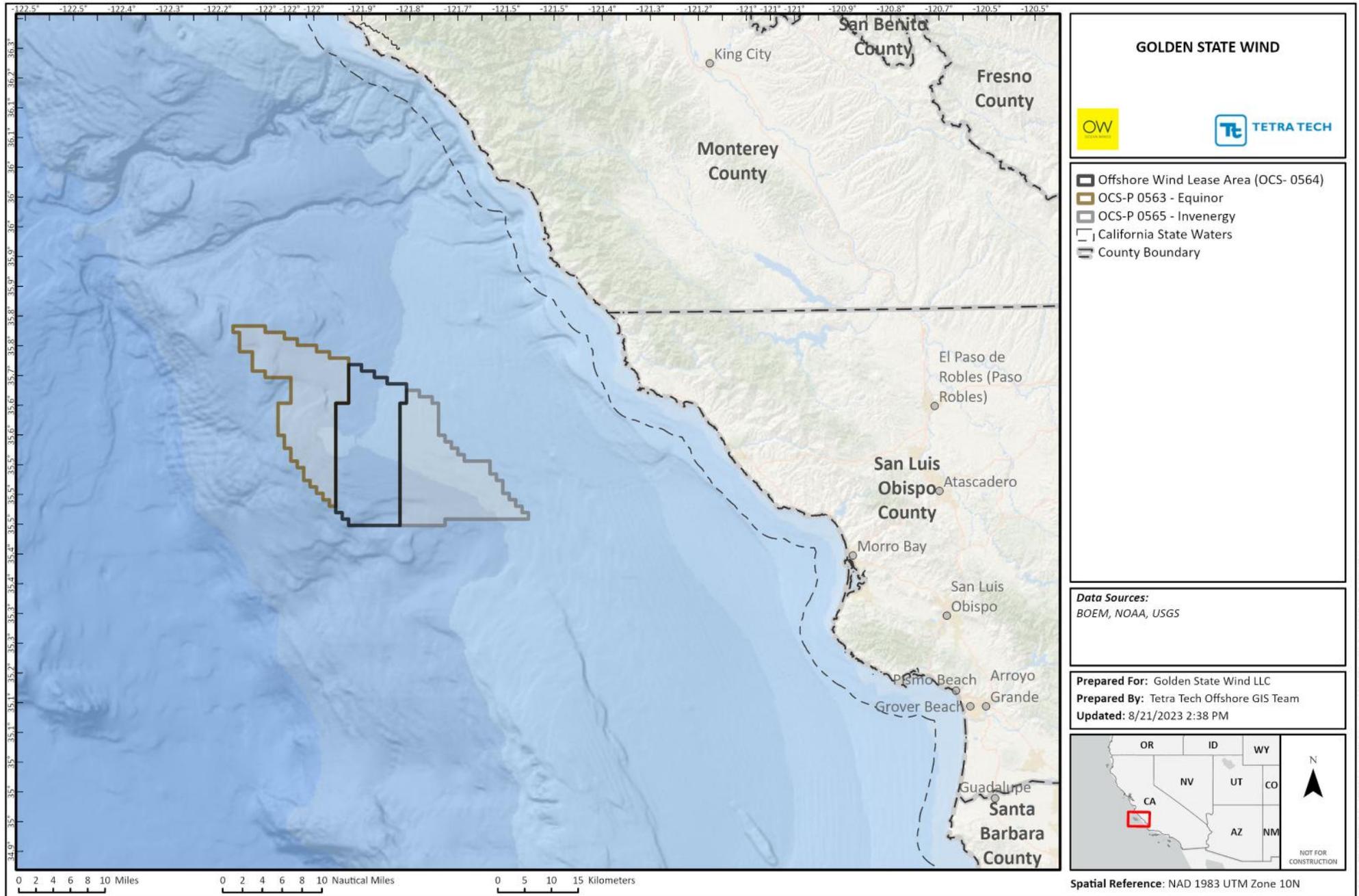
GSW obtained rights to the Lease Area in BOEM’s December 2022 Pacific Wind Lease Sale. The Lease Area is located on the Pacific Coast Outer Continental Shelf and is the central of three lease areas in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (Figure 1). The Lease Area is approximately 80,418 acres (325 square kilometers), 22 miles (19 nautical miles; 35 kilometers) offshore of California at the closest point, and 53 miles (46 nautical miles; 85 kilometers) offshore of Morro Bay, California. Water depths within the Lease Area range from approximately 3,120 feet (951 meters) to 4,540 feet (1,384 meters). The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area was designated by BOEM following a review of existing and targeted environmental studies as well as significant stakeholder engagement and input. A public copy of Lease OCS-P 0564 is available on BOEM’s website.<sup>1</sup>

Once constructed, the Project will consist of wind turbine generators installed on floating platforms, mooring and anchoring systems connecting them to the seabed, inter-array cables, floating offshore substation(s), offshore export cables, cable landfall(s), onshore export cables, onshore substation(s), and onshore interconnection cable(s) to the point(s) of interconnection to the onshore electric grid (Figure 2). If approved by federal, state, and local agencies, activities would include construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the Project.

To support engineering design and permitting, site assessment activities to be conducted within the Lease Area include site characterization and survey activities involving vessel-based surveys and deployment of metocean buoys. Site assessment activities outside of the Lease Area include survey activities along proposed offshore export cable routes and onshore facilities locations.

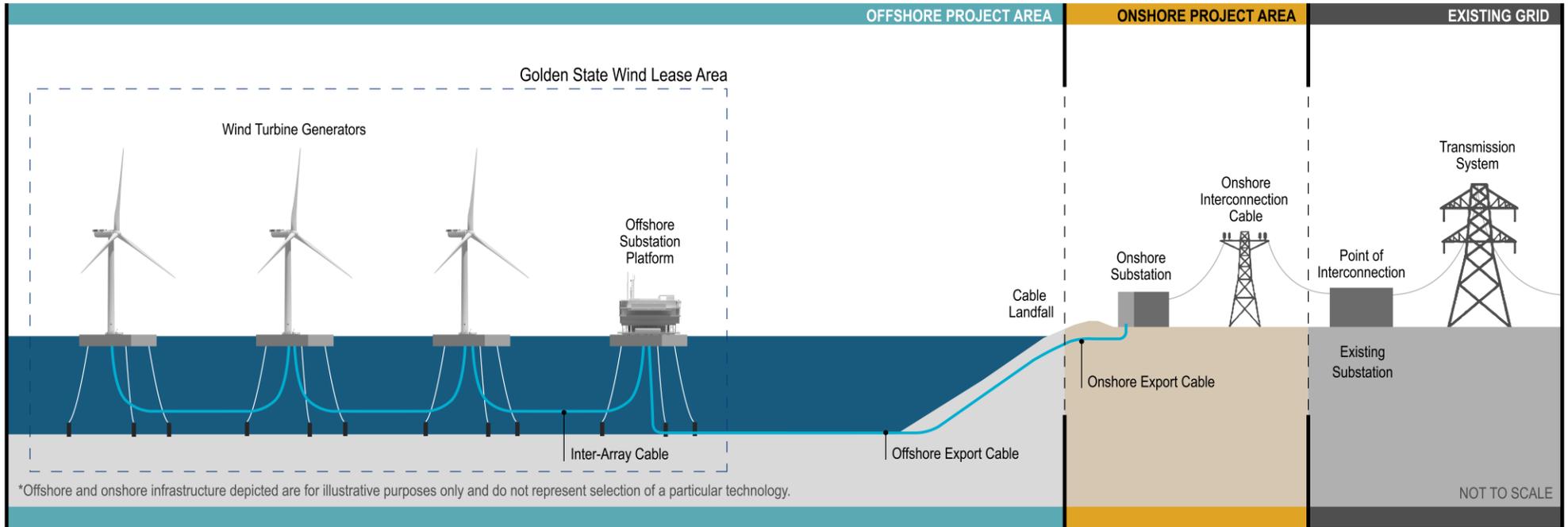
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<sup>1</sup> BOEM. 2023. Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf – OCS-P 0564. Accessed at <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/PACW-1%20California%20Lease%20OCS-P%200564.pdf>



**Figure 1. Morro Bay Wind Energy Area and Lease Area OCS-P 0564**

# GOLDEN STATE WIND PROJECT



**Figure 2. Conceptual Project Schematic**

### 1.3 Project Goals and Objectives

GSW's goal is to develop, construct, and operate a financially viable floating offshore wind project that delivers locally generated renewable energy to the grid in support of California's goal to achieve a 100 percent carbon-free electric system by 2045 as mandated by Senate Bill 100.<sup>2</sup> The Project will also contribute to the Biden Administration's goal of deploying 15 gigawatts of floating offshore wind capacity by 2035 while advancing environmental justice, protecting biodiversity, and promoting ocean co-use.<sup>3</sup> GSW, through OW, will employ a robust and proven process for taking the Project from feasibility study through to development and financing. Special consideration will be given to the following elements of this development framework:

- Comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement (additional detail below);
- Collection of extensive geotechnical, geophysical, and environmental data on site to facilitate the smooth permitting process, avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts, and minimize construction risk;
- Design of Project elements in accordance with all applicable standards, guidelines, and industry best practices;
- Engagement with highly qualified, experienced, and credit-worthy suppliers through a contracting approach that limits the exposure of both debt and equity to construction risk;
- Adoption of proven techniques for logistics during the construction phase (i.e., installation, operation, and maintenance of the project);
- Close coordination with federal, state, and local permitting authorities, as well as strategic stakeholders to define a clear path towards construction and operational authorization; and
- Establishment of a path to an energy offtake agreement.

GSW believes that direct community engagement and involvement are essential to the viability and success of an offshore wind project. Since before the Lease Auction, GSW has been actively consulting with a diverse group of local stakeholders, including agencies, commercial fishermen, Tribes, environmental organizations, labor, and elected officials. GSW's community-based approach to developing California's offshore wind resource prioritizes community value and protecting the environment, while creating local jobs and economic development. GSW is committed to:

- Establishing meaningful and frequent engagement with all local stakeholders who are deeply connected to the region's coastal lands and waters;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sb100>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/09/15/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-expand-u-s-offshore-wind-energy/>

- Building long-lasting partnerships with the region’s coastal communities and ocean users, based on a foundation of transparency, collaboration, and trust; and
- Investing in workforce development and supply chain initiatives to maximize the benefits to California from the emerging offshore wind industry.

## 1.4 ACP Goals and Objectives

The general purpose of the ACP is to outline a process to establish (1) early and active information sharing, (2) focused discussion of potential issues, and (3) collaborative identification of solutions to improve the quality and efficiency of various agency decision-making processes, and to promote the sustainable development of offshore wind energy Projects.

To keep regulatory agencies educated and informed with up-to-date information about the Project, the communications goals and objectives addressed in this GSW ACP include the following:

- Proactively contacting agencies and maintaining ongoing communication for the full Project lifecycle.
- Soliciting feedback on needs, interests, concerns, and expectations from agencies;
- Understanding each agency’s jurisdictions, mandates, and regulatory authority;
- Listening actively and being responsive to agency comments and questions; and
- Committing to regulatory compliance.

## 2 AGENCY LIAISON INFORMATION

GSW has a dedicated agency liaison tasked with coordinating directly with each agency. This liaison is the main point of contact with agencies to minimize the number of people contacting an agency. GSW’s primary Agency Liaison is:

**Mark Roll**

Permitting Senior Manager

[mark.roll@oceanwinds.com](mailto:mark.roll@oceanwinds.com)

619-459-6552

The Agency Liaison develops and maintains the agency contact list. Responsibilities also include the following:

- Developing, updating, and refining the ACP;
- Collecting input for inclusion in the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) and other federal, state, and local permitting applications;
- Conducting and preparing surveys, siting, and permit applications to appropriate agencies;
- Presenting Project updates to agency stakeholders during meetings;

- Meeting with relevant agencies for informal coordination and formal consultation led by BOEM under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency;
- Keeping agencies apprised of GSW's current and planned activities;
- Contributing inputs to the BOEM semi-annual progress report; and
- Expediently addressing any compliance issues or incidents associated with conditions of the Lease, permits, and approvals.

GSW also has an additional agency liaison to ensure communication continues should the primary Agency Liaison be unavailable:

**Silvia Yanez**

State and Local Permitting Manager

[silvia.yanez@oceanwinds.com](mailto:silvia.yanez@oceanwinds.com)

415-310-4129

### **3 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND PROTOCOLS**

GSW will engage with key regulatory agencies and other stakeholders throughout the full lifecycle of the Project, through design, construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning. This section describes the key regulatory agencies considered in the ACP, the proposed approach to engagement, and the cadence for engagement. In support of the ACP, GSW will also engage with the other Central Coast and Humboldt lessees and to coordinate engagement where timelines align and where no sensitive or proprietary information will be discussed.

GSW will also engage with many other stakeholders outside the scope of this ACP, including but not limited to non-regulatory and non-jurisdictional agencies, local residents, marine users, Tribal governments, fisheries, and environmental justice organizations. Engagement with Tribal governments is described in the separate Joint Native American Tribes Communications Plan, and outreach and engagement with the commercial and recreational fishing industries is described in the Fisheries Communications Plan. GSW will keep agencies apprised of relevant updates from communications with other stakeholder groups, including updates to Project design. This information will be shared in the semi-annual progress reports, in one-way communications, website updates, and through regularly scheduled meetings on relevant topics.

#### **3.1 Key Regulatory Stakeholder Groups**

##### **3.1.1 BOEM**

The Lease Agreement details several ways in which GSW is expected to coordinate with BOEM and at what cadences, such as the semi-annual progress reports and annual avian and bat survey reports.

GSW also hosts regular meetings with BOEM, which are currently held bi-weekly. Should there be an issue or question that would be best addressed via additional discussion, GSW and

BOEM will also participate in ad hoc meetings. Other federal and/or state agencies may be included in these ad hoc meetings as needed.

Where requested or required by BOEM in the Lease, GSW has and will continue to host pre-survey meetings prior to the commencement of survey activities to discuss the applicable survey plans. The survey plans must be consistent with the ACP. Additionally, GSW will host the applicable meetings outlined in Attachment 2 of BOEM's Notice of Intent (NOI) Checklist, "Recommendations for Pre-NOI Federal Interagency Engagement on Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for Offshore Wind." Cooperating local and state agencies, as well as Tribes, may be invited to each of those meetings. Where practicable, GSW will try to combine meetings to minimize the number of meetings with stakeholders.

BOEM will also be included in general agency engagement, including activity around the ACP and participation in interagency meetings, as described later in this plan (see Section 3.2.3).

### **3.1.2 Additional Jurisdictional Agencies**

Since early 2023, GSW has been engaging regularly with federal, state, and local agencies that have jurisdiction over the Lease Area and areas where offshore export cables and onshore components of the Project may be located. This outreach has thus far consisted of introductory meetings and will expand to include regular communications and updates and resource-specific permitting discussions. Appendix A contains a list of regulatory agencies that GSW is engaging. This list will continue to grow and be refined as the design of the Project continues to develop. The list of agencies may also be expanded after cable landfall(s), offshore and onshore cable routing, onshore substation(s), onshore interconnection cables, and point(s) of interconnection are identified should they differ from the current list.

Information sharing with applicable jurisdictional agencies will include but is not limited to:

- Survey plans, such as geophysical and geotechnical (G&G), benthic, and submerged aquatic vegetation surveys;
- Survey permit applications;
- Survey results to support COP and other federal and state permit review;
- Assessment and modeling protocols to support the COP and federal and state permit applications;
- Federal, state, and local construction and operations permit application planning materials, such as table of contents and/or draft sections, as needed;
- Data and information to support BOEM's agency consultations under NEPA;
- Project design envelope and siting information for the Lease Area, export cable routes, and onshore facilities;
- Environmental/wildlife monitoring survey results;
- Monitoring and mitigation plans for construction and operations of the Project; and
- Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report.

Appendix A lists the regulatory agencies with which GSW is currently engaging or expects to engage based on anticipated permitting needs.

### *3.1.2.1 Federal Regulatory Agencies*

Various federal agencies, listed in Appendix A, will have regulatory authority over components of the Project. Many of these jurisdictions are resource-specific (e.g., certain marine species). Federal agencies are anticipated to become cooperating agencies in the NEPA process, led by BOEM as the lead federal agency.

At this time, engagement with federal agencies consists of providing information on schedule and plans, understanding permitting requirements, keeping federal agencies apprised of progress, and addressing any initial feedback on the Project and ACP. GSW will meet with relevant agencies individually regarding permit applications, as part of formal consultations led by BOEM as the lead federal agency, and within joint interagency meetings including those outlined in Attachment 2 of BOEM's NOI Checklist.

### *3.1.2.2 State Regulatory Agencies*

GSW will conduct regular engagement with California agencies. This engagement will include information on activities onshore and in state waters, as well as within the Lease Area in federal waters. State agencies may also review certain federal water activities, where applicable, based on review under Coastal Zone Management Act and/or Lease stipulations. GSW will conduct regular outreach to these agencies in advance of submitting applicable survey plans, survey permit applications, and construction and operations permit applications, as well as during agency review of these plans.

California state agencies have regulatory jurisdiction for offshore activities, such as surveys and offshore export cables, within 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) of shore, as well as onshore activities within California.

### *3.1.2.3 Local Regulatory Agencies*

GSW is also conducting regular engagement with local agencies. The initial focus for engagement with local regulatory agencies, including harbor districts, has been to provide Project information and education on offshore wind, including an overview of offshore wind projects as well as Project-specific information and community impacts. As Project design advances and the specific locations of onshore Project components are determined, GSW will coordinate with the applicable municipality(ies), county(ies), air districts, and local regulatory agencies relevant to the onshore and nearshore Project locations.

Onshore surveys, such as environmental, visual, cultural resources, and engineering surveys, are expected to be required in support of Project development. GSW will engage with local agencies and harbor districts to keep them apprised of survey efforts and obtain any necessary permits and/or coordination required for survey activities.

## **3.2 Additional Relevant Stakeholder Groups**

### **3.2.1 Other Lessees**

Lease OCS-P 0564 Stipulation 3.1.4 directs lessees to coordinate engagement activities with the other two Central Coast lessees (Equinor Wind US LLC and Invenergy California Offshore LLC) and with the Northern California lessees (RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC and California North Floating LLC) to minimize impact on stakeholders. GSW has and will continue to work collaboratively with other lessees to develop coordinated engagement activities where practicable, as there will be situations where a coordinated effort may not be feasible or practical due to differences in timeline and the need to discuss sensitive or proprietary information. Coordinated engagement will focus more heavily on the Central Coast lessees, as they share the most overlap of location-specific topics. This coordinated engagement includes local coordination such as hosting informational meetings, as well as discussions of location-specific resources or potential impacts. Examples of opportunities to coordinate with the other four regional lessees include, but are not limited to, development of the Joint Native American Tribes Communications Plan, engagement with commercial and recreational fisheries, BOEM's planned Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, development of mitigation and monitoring plans, and opportunities for regional monitoring that are broadly applicable to California. GSW is already coordinating regularly with both the Central Coast and regional lessees.

### **3.2.2 Internal**

GSW has an internal team inclusive of a permitting team, engineering/technical team, external affairs team, procurement team, legal, and other Project controls support. Additionally, GSW has engaged top-of-class consultants to provide Project development and permitting support. GSW's strategy is to build a consortium of experienced consultants to provide the strongest applications and permits and to conduct safe and reliable surveys and studies that are grounded in the best available science and robust data. Contractors include, but are not limited to, environmental and permitting support contractors, engineering design contractors, G&G survey contractors, and contractors supporting Project communication and stakeholder engagement, including a Fisheries Liaison and a Tribal Liaison. The Agency Liaison will distribute agency communications, share information, and provide updates on various elements of the Project within the internal team, as needed, to ensure that important information is shared and to streamline communication.

## **3.3 Meetings**

Meetings are a key component of Project development and permitting because they provide an opportunity for direct engagement between GSW and regulatory agencies to share information and gather feedback. Meetings provide opportunities for GSW and other lessees to meet with stakeholders to understand their viewpoints, concerns, and recommendations. They are opportunities for collaboration, information sharing, and continuing to make progress toward goals while meeting the needs of those involved.

This subsection provides an overview of meetings required as part of Lease OCS-P 0564 as well as others that GSW will implement to fulfill its commitment to meaningful and frequent engagement as well as its communication and agency-specific goals and objectives. For each meeting, GSW will develop an agenda, slide deck (if needed), and other required meeting materials. GSW will also take minutes and update its internal meeting tracking log, which will inform the BOEM semi-annual progress report.

GSW will accommodate any known accessibility needs and ensure all meeting materials that will be made available to the public are Section 508 and Assembly Bill 434 compliant, as required<sup>4</sup>. GSW expects that the majority of regulatory agencies' meetings will be held virtually as a means of maximizing attendance by reducing travel requirements but will schedule in-person meetings, as appropriate.

### **3.3.1 Initial Meetings**

Initial meetings with regulatory agencies have been focused on introductions and providing an overview of the Project and GSW. These meetings are opportunities to share intended engagement strategies and establish or build on existing relationships. Additionally, these have been opportunities to discuss anticipated schedules, permitting requirements, survey permits, and strategies and protocols for surveys, assessments, and modeling to support the COP and federal and state permit applications.

GSW has shared its plan to engage agencies on the development of the ACP during initial meetings, and also clarified preferred communication protocol and cadence moving forward.

GSW began proactively contacting agencies in July 2022, ahead of obtaining a Lease, and continues to meet with agencies to share information.

### **3.3.2 ACP Meeting**

In accordance with Lease stipulation 3.1.3, the draft ACP was shared with BOEM and other federal, state, and local regulatory agencies for their review and comment. Agencies first received a draft of the ACP on August 18, 2023. GSW hosted two meetings with these regulatory agencies (listed in Appendix A) to present at a high level and discuss the ACP as a group. The ACP meetings were held on August 30 and September 8, 2023. Feedback from the agencies was incorporated into the ACP.

### **3.3.3 Interagency Meetings**

In addition to the ACP meetings mentioned above, GSW has conducted several interagency meetings regarding survey planning in federal waters. These meetings have provided an

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<sup>4</sup> Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), amended in 1998, requires agencies to provide equal access to digital information for persons with disabilities. This includes digital presentations and PDFs. Assembly Bill 434 establishes requirements for state websites to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 which includes similar requirements for PDFs and presentation files.

opportunity to formally introduce the Project, receive feedback from agencies, and answer questions.

GSW will host an interagency meeting to kick off COP development one to two years prior to the anticipated COP submission. The meeting will be designed for a large attendance from all regulatory agencies and ensure that key information is shared. This meeting will also serve as the “Pre-COP Kick Off Meeting” as described in the BOEM NOI Checklist.

Additional meetings throughout the Project development will involve multiple agencies, including those recommended in Attachment 2 of the NOI Checklist, as applicable.

### **3.3.4 Coordination with Command Headquarters**

As per Section 4.2.5 of Addendum C of the Lease, GSW must “establish and maintain early contact and coordination with the appropriate command headquarters, in order to avoid or minimize the potential to conflict with, and minimize the potential effects of conflicts with, military operations.”

GSW will request informal review by the Department of Defense Clearinghouse in order to request early Project feedback, identify all necessary command headquarters, and begin coordinating early on. GSW will work with the appropriate groups to determine how best to communicate going forward to streamline communications and minimize potential effects on military operations.

### **3.3.5 Recurring and Topic-Specific Meetings**

GSW will hold recurring and topic-specific meetings with regulatory agencies. GSW began a bi-weekly update meeting with BOEM in May 2023. GSW will establish recurring meetings, which could range from meeting weekly to semi-annually, based on agency preferences and Project status. Additional or more frequent recurring meetings will be scheduled with regulatory agencies as needed and/or as requested by the agencies. GSW anticipates that these meetings will be focused on key periods of agency involvement (i.e., a monthly meeting may be scheduled with an agency for the months leading up to and immediately following submittal of a permit application to that agency).

### **3.3.6 Ad Hoc Meetings**

In addition to formally scheduled meetings, it is expected that there will be unplanned meetings, consultations, or requests for GSW to present additional information to agencies. GSW will accommodate these requests to the extent practicable and work with the requesting agencies to schedule meetings for mutually convenient times.

### **3.3.7 Meeting Tracking Log**

GSW is logging all meeting information in a log that includes the following information per meeting:

- Agency engaged;
- Date and time of meeting;

- Focus of discussion;
- Follow-up actions, activities, and outcomes; and
- Whether the meeting included coordinated engagement with other lessees.

This information will be provided in the semi-annual progress report.

### **3.4 Key Information**

GSW will prepare key information to be shared in Project communications materials. Communications materials will include Project overview slide decks, Project information sheet, Project website, and frequently asked questions (FAQs). These materials will include Project overview information, mapping, and information on expected schedule. These materials will be updated regularly as Project development progresses. Additionally, topic-specific Project information sheets can be developed, as needed, to address topic-specific information.

GSW will develop FAQs and an information sheet to serve as quick references for Project information.

Key messages and FAQs will be updated as needed. The information sheet will be updated on an annual basis.

### **3.5 Project Website and Email**

A Project website, [www.goldenstatewind.com](http://www.goldenstatewind.com), has been developed to serve as a central source for information on the Project.

The website contains a Project overview, our commitments, news and events, a dedicated page for mariners, and Project documents including communications plans.

Additionally, GSW has created a public Project email address to provide Project updates and receive messages from stakeholders. The GSW email address is: [goldenstatewind@oceanwinds.com](mailto:goldenstatewind@oceanwinds.com).

The GSW Agency Liaison will continue to work with agencies as the direct point of contact.

### **3.6 Key Phases for Agency Engagement**

#### **3.6.1 General Project Coordination**

Communication with regulatory agencies will be direct, regular, and ongoing. GSW will endeavor to be responsive, clear, and concise in its communications and provide up-to-date, accurate Project and schedule information. GSW will regularly correspond with regulatory agencies via email and will provide prompt written documentation of any Project or schedule updates. GSW understands that clear information on schedule expectations from developers is important to allow an agency to plan their staffing and workloads. GSW will request meetings well in advance of when it expects the meeting to occur, work with meeting participants to accommodate attendees' schedules, and provide supporting materials in advance of the meeting to allow agency review.

Key Project phases for agency engagement are outlined in the following sections. Note that these phases of coordination may occur concurrently, particularly in the pre-construction phase.

### **3.6.2 Surveys and Assessments**

The first Project phase consists of site characterization and assessment. During this phase GSW will be collecting data in onshore and offshore portions of the Project to characterize the resources in the Project area.

Surveys of the marine and onshore Project area will include, but not be limited to, G&G, benthic, and other onshore survey activities such as archaeological and cultural resource surveys, visual surveys, and ecological surveys which will support submittal of the Project's construction and operation permit applications. Additionally, GSW will perform desktop assessments and modeling including, but not limited to, a socioeconomic assessment, electric and magnetic field (EMF) modeling, sediment transport modeling, a navigation and safety risk assessment, and an avian and bat risk assessment, to support the COP and other federal and state construction permit applications.

GSW, through the Agency Liaison, will coordinate with representatives of the jurisdictional agencies to verify the survey, assessment, and modeling needs. GSW will coordinate during the planning stages of the surveys and assessments to present and confirm surveying protocols and methodologies and receive agency feedback on survey, assessment, and modeling protocols and plans.

GSW has started survey planning and early coordination with agencies. Pre-survey meetings for 2024 surveys, in compliance with Section 2.2 of the Lease, were conducted with Tribes throughout February, March, and April of 2024 and with BOEM on March 21, 2024.

Additionally, GSW is planning to deploy metocean buoys in the Lease Area in 2024 to collect meteorological and ocean condition data to support the design and engineering of the floating wind turbine generators. At this time, GSW has engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, BOEM, and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) on planning and permitting for this metocean buoy deployment.

In addition to deployment of the metocean buoys, some field surveys will require permits to conduct the work. The Agency Liaison will coordinate with the relevant jurisdictional agencies to obtain the permit approvals. This also includes coordinating with supplemental agencies, such as wildlife resource agencies, to verify monitoring needs.

The Agency Liaison will ensure appropriate agencies are informed of surveying activities, progress, and results through meetings and email correspondence. Post-survey compliance reporting (e.g., Protected Species Observer reports) and post-metocean buoy deployment reporting will be submitted to BOEM and/or the relevant federal and state agency and GSW will respond to agency comments on these reports. Should any comments from the public be received by BOEM, or any other agency related to GSW's survey activities, GSW will log and address those comments.

### **3.6.3 Design and Siting**

Outlining mechanisms for receiving agency feedback is a key principle of the ACP and GSW is required to document how stakeholder feedback was incorporated into Project development in its semi-annual progress report. GSW will develop Project siting, routing, and offshore wind farm layout and seek feedback from regulatory agencies. Additionally, GSW will develop visualizations of the visible Project components which will be shared with agencies and the public. GSW will endeavor to refine Project design, as needed, based on feedback.

The ACP will be updated to reflect the design and siting phase of the Project. As per the NOI Checklist Attachment 2, GSW will host one to two dedicated interagency meetings to present the proposed design, layout, Project design envelope, and routes, and begin the process for modifying siting based on agency and other stakeholder input. These meetings will also address resource concerns, if any, and will be held as early as possible with key regulatory agencies, no later than six months before COP submission.

### **3.6.4 Permitting**

Construction and operations permitting is the next phase of Project communication, and the early portions of the permitting phase will overlap with Project design and siting. During this phase, GSW will work with permitting agencies to confirm their requirements, data needs, review and decision-making process, and detailed schedules for processing applications in support of Project construction and operation. GSW will also coordinate with agencies on environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic assessments that are required for the COP and other studies required by federal, state, and local agencies to obtain necessary permits. Proactively, GSW may share preliminary results of these surveys and assessments ahead of submitting the relevant permit application.

Leading up to permit application submission, GSW will initiate communications with the regulatory agency and request a formal pre-application meeting. During this meeting, GSW will provide an overview of the application, confirm the schedule for the upcoming submittal, and address any agency questions or concerns. Ahead of submission, GSW will be in regular communication to provide status updates and to address any submittal logistics.

GSW will coordinate with the regulatory agency to submit the permit application and any supporting materials in easily accessible formats, including secure electronic data transfers, secure hard drives, and/or hard copies. If requested, GSW will host a meeting shortly after submittal with the relevant agency, as well as cooperating and participating agencies where applicable, to provide an overview of the application and its contents.

Once the permit application is submitted, GSW will work with the relevant agency staff assigned to the application as they conduct their completeness and sufficiency review to address any questions or application data gaps. GSW will respond to agency comments in a comment matrix format provided by the agency or developed by GSW. GSW will amend, supplement, or re-submit the permit application, as necessary, to incorporate data gaps requested by the permitting agency. GSW will meet with the relevant agency as necessary to provide clarifications on the data gaps identified.

Once the permit application is deemed complete, GSW will support the agency staff review throughout the statutory review period. GSW activities during this period will vary based on the specific permit application and the communication protocols set forth by the agency and in the applicable regulations and guidelines. Types of engagement that GSW would participate in include, but are not limited to:

- Providing support to NEPA and CEQA lead agencies and their selected third-party consultant during the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as BOEM anticipates for their review under NEPA, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required under CEQA;
- Participation in public scoping or public comment meetings, as requested or required by an agency or by regulation;
- Participation in formal consultation meetings with consulting agencies and Tribal governments hosted by BOEM and the CEQA lead agency as requested by the agency or required by regulation;
- Participation in individual agency meetings to provide updates on Project decisions potentially relevant to the permit application, and review status and schedule of agency review;
- Responding to requests for information from the agency and/or its selected third-party consultant;
- Reviewing and providing comment on any draft agency review material, as requested, and issued EIS/EIR documents; and
- Participation in meetings to discuss potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation options or opportunities,<sup>5</sup> potential permit conditions, and development of mitigation plans or proposals, as needed.

GSW anticipates regular coordination during permit application review and will endeavor to make agency review as smooth as possible by submitting complete and comprehensive permit applications informed by extensive early engagement, responding to data/information requests promptly, providing information on Project decisions and any design changes promptly, and expeditiously organizing meetings to clarify questions or concerns.

Once permits are issued, GSW will follow up with the relevant agencies to clarify any questions on permit conditions. GSW anticipates that the permit conditions will require development of monitoring plans to be implemented during construction and operations. GSW will coordinate with relevant agencies in the development of monitoring plans to confirm that the plan is developed in accordance with relevant guidelines and agency expectations. Appendix C has a list of anticipated permits and associated jurisdictional agency for the Project. The ACP will be updated to reflect any additional permits identified of other communication changes or additions as Project development advances.

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<sup>5</sup> Meetings specifically regarding avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring strategies related to fisheries, including but not limited to the Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group, are covered in the separate Fisheries Communications Plan.

### **3.6.5 Construction**

The construction phase of the Project will have the most activity to date of the Project lifecycle. Proactive and ongoing communications will be important during this phase to ensure regulatory agencies and stakeholders are informed throughout the process.

Ahead of construction beginning, GSW will work with regulatory agencies to finalize any monitoring plans and perform any pre-construction resource monitoring required as part of the permit conditions. Also ahead of construction, GSW will develop a compliance management system to track permit conditions and compliance for construction contractors and environmental and Tribal monitors. GSW may continue to coordinate with agencies during this process to clarify permit conditions.

Leading up to construction start, GSW will regularly share information on expected start date and any relevant contingencies and logistics. A start-of-construction notification will be developed to be distributed electronically to agencies that provides a high-level overview of the Project, expected impacts, schedule, safety, and the Project's website and email address.

During construction and commissioning, GSW will provide regular updates to BOEM, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and other relevant federal, state, and local agencies on progress, any compliance issues, and compliance reporting. Additionally, construction resource monitoring will be underway and GSW will keep agencies informed of the progress of these activities and submit any required interim monitoring reports.

The ACP will be updated prior to construction to focus on milestones and engagement with agencies related to requirements in permit conditions. Leading up to construction start and throughout construction, GSW will update information sheets and FAQs and post these on the Project website and share them agencies which can be used as a communication tool to help answer questions they receive from the public.

### **3.6.6 Operations**

Operations will be the longest phase of the Project. Frequent agency communication is expected during the first five years of the Project being operational. Regular, less frequent communication will continue throughout the entire operational life of the Project.

Monitoring will continue to be a main activity during operations. The full scope of monitoring needs is unknown at this time, but may include post-installation inter-array and export cable inspections, and fisheries monitoring. GSW will coordinate with agencies on implementing and reporting results of the monitoring activities in accordance with permitting requirements through meetings and correspondence.

Regular maintenance will be required for the Project throughout the operations phase. Each component of the Project will have a maintenance schedule, and maintenance frequency may fluctuate throughout the year based on storm activity or other events. Agencies will be notified of planned maintenance activities, including expected timelines. Should un-planned maintenance be required, GSW will also notify agencies to make them aware of the upcoming activities, impacts, and estimated timelines. GSW will inform agencies when maintenance activities are completed.

The ACP will be updated prior to construction completion and then as needed through the operations phase to provide additional detail on agency coordination throughout the operations phase.

### 3.6.7 Decommissioning

The final phase of the Project is decommissioning, which involves the removal or decommissioning of Project components at the end of the Project lifespan. The current operations term of the Lease is 33 years, which GSW may request to extend in accordance with applicable regulations. Unless otherwise authorized, decommissioning will include removal of Project facilities and obstructions on the seafloor within two years following Lease termination.

As per 30 CFR Part 285, subpart I, GSW will prepare a decommissioning application for approval from BSEE. This must be completed by the earliest of the following dates:

- Two years before the Lease expires;
- 90 days after completing approved commercial activities under the Lease terms; or
- 90 days after cancellation, relinquishment, or other termination of the Lease or grant.

Upon receiving approval, GSW will submit a decommissioning notice 60 days prior to commencing decommissioning activities. The notice will include a description of changes, if any, to the approved removal methods and procedures in the decommissioning application and an updated decommissioning schedule.

Before decommissioning, GSW will update the ACP to outline additional communication process and details and develop a monitoring plan to reflect the final communications activities.

## 3.7 Timing and Frequency for Stakeholder Communication

The following table displays expected dates and cadences for proposed communications activities.

**Table 1. Expected Timing and Frequencies for Engagement**

Action	Begin	End	Frequency
Initial Meetings with Individual Agencies	Summer 2023	Winter 2024	Once per agency
ACP Meetings	August 30, 2023	September 8, 2023	Once (two meetings held to accommodate agency schedules)
Interagency pre-COP Meeting(s)	Between Fall 2024 and Fall 2025	Between Fall 2024 and Fall 2025	Once
Coordination with Command Headquarters	Summer 2023	Decommissioning	As needed

Action	Begin	End	Frequency
Recurring Meetings	June 2023	Operations Phase	Bi-weekly with BOEM, as needed or requested with other agencies
Ad hoc Meetings	Summer 2023	Decommissioning	As needed
Semi-annual Progress Reports a/	Winter 2023	End of Operations Phase	Every six months
Avian Reports a/	Within 6 months of the start of the first survey	Conclusion of surveys	Annually
Establish Meeting Tracker a/	Summer 2023	Summer 2023	Once
Launch Website a/	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Once
Initial Project Information Sheet a/	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Once
Update Meeting Tracker a/	Summer 2023	Decommissioning	As needed
Update Website a/	Fall 2023	Decommissioning	As needed
Update Project Information Sheets a/	Summer 2023	Decommissioning	As needed
Survey Strategy Meeting	Prior to survey	Prior to survey	Once
Survey Notifications a/	Spring 2024	Conclusion of surveys	As required prior to each survey
Marine Wildlife Monitoring Report a/	Summer 2024	Conclusion of surveys	No more than 90 days following yearly completion of survey activities
Preliminary Project Design Meeting(s)	Winter/Spring 2024	Winter/Spring 2024	At least once, with additional meetings if needed
COP Overview Meeting	Approximately one month after COP submitted	Approximately one month after COP submitted	Once
Pre-NOI Meeting(s)	1-4 months before NOI	1-4 months before NOI	Once
Start-of-Construction Notifications a/	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	Once
Monitoring Plans and Results a/	Pre-construction	Decommissioning	As required
Decommissioning Application a/	Pre-decommissioning	Pre-decommissioning	Once
Decommissioning Notice a/	Pre-decommissioning	Pre-decommissioning	Once
Note: a/ One-way submittals or notifications to agencies.			

### **3.8 Progress Reports**

GSW will provide progress reports to BOEM every six months, unless otherwise noted by BOEM during site assessment and operation as per Section 3.1 of the Lease. The report will detail all progress made over the course of the last six months or since the Lease effective date. Agency meeting information will be included as part of each report as well as information on any known upcoming engagement.

Each progress report will also include if any input from agencies has contributed to potential changes in the Project as well as any identified potential adverse impacts identified by agencies.

### **3.9 Supplemental Information**

Should agencies have additional questions or request information that is not provided by one of the methods already identified in this ACP or a progress report, GSW will encourage them to reach out to the Agency Liaisons listed in Section 2.

The Agency Liaisons will acknowledge requests and will respond to the agency requestor. This correspondence will be included in the next progress report if the information is broadly applicable and not of a confidential matter.

### **3.10 Disinterested or Unresponsive Agencies**

It is expected there may be agencies that will not want to engage in regular communication with GSW. Should an agency be disinterested in participating in the ACP or receiving communications regarding the Project, they will be requested to document this decision in writing. GSW will update the ACP to reflect this information.

In situations where an agency is unresponsive, GSW will continue to send communications and invite the agency to participate in the ACP. This will continue until the agency sends a written request to be removed from communications and the ACP as per Section 3.1.3 of the Lease.

## **Appendix A   Agency Information**

**Table A-1. Current List of Expected Permitting, Planning, and Resource Agencies for Communication**

Agency	Type	Primary Contact	Alternate Contact
BOEM	Federal	Carlos Gomez juan.gomez@boem.gov	Deanna Meier deanna.meier@boem.gov Susan Zaleski (Compliance Reporting) <a href="mailto:susan.zaleski@boem.gov">susan.zaleski@boem.gov</a> renewableenergypocs@boem.com
BSSE	Federal	John Bain john.bain@bsee.gov	Not Identified
Federal Aviation Administration	Federal	Cindy Whitten cindy.whitten@faa.gov	Not identified
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)	Federal	Lilah Ise jennifer.ise@noaa.gov	NMFS West Coast Regional Office and HQ Office of Protected Resources psoreports.nmfswestcoast@noaa.gov
NOAA National Ocean Service Integrated Ocean Observing System Office	Federal	Brian Zelenke brian.zelenke@noaa.gov	Not identified
NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries	Federal	Paul Michel (West Coast Region) paul.michel@noaa.gov	Lisa Wooninck (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) lisa.wooninck@noaa.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9	Federal	Po-Chieh Ting ting.pochieh@epa.gov	Christa Cichoski cichoski.christa@epa.gov Jason Gerdes (NEPA Coordinator) gerdes.jason@epa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Federal	Aaron Allen aaron.o.allen@usace.army.mil	Theresa Stevens theresa.stevens@usace.army.mil
U.S. Coast Guard	Federal	Miranda Brumbaugh miranda.e.brumbaugh@uscg.mil	Commander William George william.j.george@uscg.mil
U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Navy	Federal	Anna Sheperd anna.shepherd4.civ@us.navy.mil	Muska Laiq muska.laiq.civ@us.navy.mil
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal	Tracy Borneman tracy_borneman@fws.gov	Steve Henry steve_henry@fws.gov
California Coastal Commission	State	Annie Rosen annie.rosen@coastal.ca.gov	Heather McNair heather.mcnair@coastal.ca.gov

Agency	Type	Primary Contact	Alternate Contact
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	State	offshorerenewableenergy@wildlife.ca.gov	Jay Staton Jay.Staton@wildlife.ca.gov
California Energy Commission	State	Eli Harland eli.harland@energy.ca.gov	Elizabeth Barminski elizabeth.barminski@energy.ca.gov
California Office of Historic Preservation	State	Jeff Brooke jeff.brooke@parks.ca.gov	Not identified
California State Lands Commission	State	Amy Vierra amy.vierra@slc.ca.gov	Jennifer Mattox jennifer.mattox@slc.ca.gov
California State Water Resources Control Board	State	Phillip Hammer phillip.hammer@waterboards.ca.gov	Not identified
California Ocean Protection Council a/	State	Jenn Eckerle jenn.eckerle@resources.ca.gov	Justine Kimball justine.kimball@resources.ca.gov
California State Parks a/	State	Jay Chamberlin jay.chamberlin@parks.ca.gov	Marina Cazorla marina.cazorla@parks.ca.gov
California Public Utilities Commission a/	State	John Reynolds john.reynolds@cpuc.ca.gov	David Withrow david.withrow@cpuc.ca.gov Maria Sotero <a href="mailto:maria.sotero@cpuc.ca.gov">maria.sotero@cpuc.ca.gov</a>
California Environmental Protection Agency a/	State	Sarah Izant sarah.izant@calepa.ca.gov	Not identified
California Department of Water Resources a/	State	Karla Nemeth	Delphine Hou delphine.hou@water.ca.gov
California Department of Conservation a/	State	Keali'i Bright keali'i.bright@conservation.ca.gov	Not Identified
California Labor & Workforce Development Agency a/	State	Derek Kirk derek.kirk@labor.ca.gov	Abby Snay <a href="mailto:abby.snay@labor.ca.gov">abby.snay@labor.ca.gov</a>
California Natural Resources Agency a/	State	Le-Quyen Nguyen le-quyen.nguyen@resources.ca.gov	Not Identified
San Luis Obispo County	Local	Susan Strachan sstrachan@co.slo.ca.us	Rebecca Campbell <a href="mailto:rcampbell@co.slo.ca.us">rcampbell@co.slo.ca.us</a>

Agency	Type	Primary Contact	Alternate Contact
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District	Local	Andrew Mutziger amutziger@co.slo.ca.us	Dora Drexler <a href="mailto:ddrexler@co.slo.ca.us">ddrexler@co.slo.ca.us</a> Tom Hickey <a href="mailto:thickey@co.slo.ca.us">thickey@co.slo.ca.us</a> Karl Tupper <a href="mailto:ktupper@co.slo.ca.us">ktupper@co.slo.ca.us</a>
City of Morro Bay a/	Local	Carla Wixom cwixom@morrobayca.gov	Yvonne Kimball ykimball@morrobayca.gov Zara Landrum zlandrum@morrobayca.gov
City of Morro Bay Harbor Department a/	Local	<u>Chris Munson</u> <a href="mailto:cmunson@morrobayca.gov">cmunson@morrobayca.gov</a>	Yvonne Kimball ykimball@morrobayca.gov
Port San Luis a/	Local	<u>Bob Vessely</u> <a href="mailto:bobv@portsanluis.com">bobv@portsanluis.com</a>	Not identified
a/ Agency is not expected or is unknown to have regulatory authority at the time of writing but is included for completeness and/or by agency request.			

Note: This table reflects the list of permitting, planning, and resource agencies expected to have regulatory authority at the time of this plan update, except where noted. This table will be updated and refined as the Project is developed and Project design and siting is finalized.

## **Appendix B    Template Meeting Log**



## **Appendix C List of Potential Permits**

Agency	Potential Permits, Approvals, and/or Consultations ( <i>if applicable to the Project</i> )
<b>Federal Permits</b>	
BOEM	Survey Plan and Construction and Operations Plan approvals, National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act Office of Historic Preservation Section 106 consultations
Federal Aviation Administration	Determination of No Hazards to Air Navigation
NOAA Fisheries	Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental Harassment Authorization and Incidental Take Regulation/Letter of Authorization approval, Essential Fish Habitat consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and Letter of Acknowledgement for scientific research or Exempted Fishing Permit under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
NOAA National Ocean Service Integrated Ocean Observing System Office	Mitigation of interference to oceanographic high-frequency radar sensors
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404, Section 10, Section 408 Permits
U.S. Coast Guard	Private Aid to Navigation approval, issuance of Local Notice to Mariners
U.S. Department of Defense	Informal Project Review
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Outer Continental Shelf Air Permit, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 consultation under Environmental Species Act
<b>State and Local Permits</b>	
California State Lands Commission	Geophysical Survey Permit, Submerged Lands Lease Application, California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Impact Report (anticipated)
California Coastal Commission	Coastal Development Permit, Coastal Zone Management Act Section 307(c)(3)(A) Consistency Certification, Survey and Site Assessment Plan consultation
California State Water Resources Control Board	Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Stormwater Permit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Scientific Collection Permit (surveys, if needed), Incidental Take Permit under California Fish and Game Code Section 2081 and/or Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination for State-listed species, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreements
California Office of Historic Preservation	Consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and CEQA

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Potential Permits, Approvals, and/or Consultations (<i>if applicable to the Project</i>)</b>
San Luis Obispo County	Conditional Use Permit (inland) and Coastal Development Permit (coastal)
Local California Air Resources District	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District and/or Monterey Bay Air Resources District Operating Permit and consultations