

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the ongoing planning for the proposed Wind Terminal. Climate change is an imminent threat, that is indisputable. So there is a tendency to urge fast development. We encourage you, however, to take your time with this lease and development to ensure that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past by rushing this process. Although you have a timeline to finalize the lease with Crowley Wind Services, we urge you to slow down, make firm commitments to a publicly transparent process, and ensure that the concerns of the community are heard, addressed and enshrined in the lease with any developer. Commitments to address community needs and concerns need to happen *before* the Harbor District leases or signs an option to lease the property.

Specifically, we would like to know if the District will seek to address concerns raised by community about the developer and the project by making clear and binding commitments to transparency, communication and community governance and decision making, above and beyond what is required by law; protecting environmental and cultural resources through site design, complying with CEQA and other environmental laws and adaptive management; taking strong measures to prevent MMIP and sexual harassment/trafficking; and using best available technology to achieve a zero-emissions wind terminal?

Throughout the country, other renewable energy projects have failed because developers and permitting agencies have failed to involve the community from the start and address their concerns in meaningful, tangible ways. Please take the time to do this right, with community input and firm commitments, so that this effort that is ostensibly to benefit the environment and community actually does that, rather than just benefitting a developer.

Thank you.

**Caroline Griffith (she/they)**

**Executive Director and EcoNews Editor**

*The Northcoast Environmental Center sits in Goudi'ni, part of the unceded ancestral land of the Wiyot peoples. We strive to follow the example of the Indigenous peoples of the north coast who continue to steward this land as they have done since time immemorial. We pledge to listen to, learn from, respect, and include the voices of Indigenous peoples in our work advocating for the wellbeing of this land and the people who call it home. Join us in acknowledging and respecting the sovereignty of the Wiyot Tribe by participating in the [Wiyot Honor Tax](#), or supporting the tribe upon whose land you reside.*

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