

HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES  
FOR THE  
HUMBOLDT BAY OFFSHORE WIND  
HEAVY LIFT MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT**

*Adopted by the Harbor District Board of Commissioners: 7/11/24*

*(revised from 6/22/23; not adopted by the Board)*

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# Community Engagement Commitments and Strategies: Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind and Heavy Lift Marine Terminal Project

## 1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the Harbor District’s commitments and strategies related to community engagement for the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind and Heavy Lift Marine Terminal Project (described below). This is not meant to be final, comprehensive, or conclusive; additional community engagement strategies and commitments may be added to this document throughout the remaining lifetime of the project.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Federal government has established goals of deploying 30 GW of offshore wind energy by the year 2030 and 110+ GW of offshore wind by 2050. The State of California has established goals of deploying 5 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030 and 25 GW of offshore wind energy by 2045. Studies by the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the National Renewable Energy Lab, and the California Energy Commission have indicated that major port development throughout California will be required in order for the Federal/State goals to be realized. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) is developing the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose

*The District is committed to open and meaningful community engagement throughout the project lifetime.*

Marine Terminal (“Project”)<sup>1</sup> to support offshore wind energy development. The District is committed to open and meaningful community engagement throughout the project lifetime. This document outlines the District’s commitments and strategies for communicating with interested parties, affected communities, and the general public. The District has established a community engagement strategy that will encourage early and meaningful input. The District will endeavor to carefully consider all comments received.

## 3. PROJECT PURPOSES

The proposed project will serve several purposes, including:

- A. Redevelop and repurpose a blighted and largely unutilized industrial site that formerly operated for decades as a major regional employment center.
- B. Create a diversity of new jobs and stimulate regional economic development.
- C. Develop a project that establishes Humboldt Bay as a global leader in addressing climate change and energy decarbonization by providing a critical role in offshore wind renewable energy development.
- D. Develop a facility that can contribute to the Federal goal of deploying 30 GW of offshore wind energy by the year 2030, the State goal of deploying 5 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030, and the State goal of deploying 25 GW of offshore wind energy by 2045.
- E. Provide the facilities and infrastructure required for Humboldt Bay to serve as the first floating offshore wind “staging and integration” port in California. According to the “California Floating Offshore Wind Regional Ports Assessment” study published by BOEM in January of 2023, Humboldt Bay is the only port capable of serving all three of the primary port needs of the offshore wind industry, which are: staging and integration (S&I), onsite manufacturing/fabrication (MF), and operations and maintenance (O&M). In addition, according to the BOEM study, only the Ports of Humboldt Bay, Los Angeles, and Long Beach are capable of conducting S&I functions. Among these three ports, only Humboldt Bay has immediately available developable space. Thus, a major purpose of the proposed project is to serve as California’s initial S&I port.

*Establish Humboldt Bay as a global leader in addressing climate change and energy decarbonization.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://humboltdbay.org/humboldt-bay-offshore-wind-heavy-lift-marine-terminal-project-3>



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- F. Design and construct the site in such a way that it can serve multiple purposes either simultaneous with the offshore wind energy functions described above or following the conclusion of the need for those offshore wind energy functions. Additional purposes could include breakbulk uses, dry bulk, wood product manufacturing/shipping, cargo laydown/storage/transport, and/or other related maritime transport uses that require heavy-lift wharfs and large laydown yards.
- G. Create incentives and funding streams for continued and improved maintenance of Humboldt Bay port facilities, including year-round maintenance of channel and marina depths.
- H. To the degree feasible, develop a marine terminal site with modern environmental standards related to minimization of greenhouse gas emissions, onsite renewable energy generation, green building materials, the electrification of terminal operations, and the facilities needed to accommodate vessel shore power.
- I. Prepare the site for sea level rise.
- J. Establish a modern eco-friendly shoreline transition between the marine environment and the upland development.
- K. Address any residual soil contamination that currently exists at the site.
- L. Generate revenue for the Harbor District that can be used for general District purposes throughout the rest of the Bay, including dredging, conservation, ecological restoration, and recreation programs.

## 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Throughout the life of the project, the District endeavors to meet the following objectives related to community engagement:

- **Inclusiveness and equity:** The District will strive to involve the people that will be most affected by the project while respecting cultural and language differences. The District will work to identify and remove barriers to participation that have historically disengaged residents and communities.
- **Cultural competence:** The District will work to recognize, understand, and respond effectively to racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic experiences of interested parties and effected communities.
- **Sharing of background information:** The District will provide educational content to interested parties to ensure that all participants are well informed and understand the greater context of proposed project activities.
- **Easy participation:** The District will create mid-project milestones that offer various ways for various audiences to learn about the project and to provide input via electronic and in person channels.
- **Transparency:** The District will act with integrity in open process, while providing access to clear, reliable information. The District will ensure that final versions of all district-generated and publicly funded project-related documents/studies are available to all interested parties.
- **Meaningful engagement and opportunities for input:** The District will facilitate open, inclusive, equitable, and unbiased processes that allow various audiences genuine opportunities to provide input, to give recommendations, and to offer feedback.
- **Timely communication:** The District will regularly and reliably communicate major project decisions/activities in a timely and predictable manner.
- **Respect:** The District will receive discussions and feedback in an open and respectful manner, regardless of differences in perspective, opinion, or desired outcome. Participants should feel heard.
- **Evaluation:** The District will regularly assess the objectives and strategies of this document in pursuit of fair and productive civic engagement. The District will revise this document as needed to apply on-going “lessons learned.”



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## 5. IMPACTS, EQUITY, AND ENGAGEMENT INTERNAL EVALUTATION CRITERIA

At each stage in the project, the Harbor District will consider the following:

1. Who is positively impacted by the decision?
2. Who may be negatively impacted and for how long?
3. What are the main concerns, issues and interests of the interested parties and affected communities?
4. Will any individuals, institutions, or groups be disproportionately impacted?
5. Is additional public input needed or required?
6. Are there any linguistic or cultural barriers to engaging with impacted/interested parties and affected communities?

## 6. ANTICIPATED CATEGORIES OF INTEREST GROUPS, INTERESTED PARTIES, AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The Harbor District anticipates that this project will be of interest to many different categories of interested parties and affected communities (IPACs). The District will strive to be accessible to each category/type of IPAC and will strive to hear all interests, concerns, and requests. A preliminary list of categories of IPACs is presented below, including representative examples within each category:

- Tribal governments identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as the Tribes with whom the District should communicate regarding this project:
  - Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
  - Big Lagoon Rancheria
  - Blue Lake Rancheria
  - Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
  - Hoopa Valley Tribe
  - Karuk Tribe
  - Resighini Rancheria
  - Round Valley Reservation/ Covelo Indian Community
  - Wiyot Tribe
  - Yurok Tribe
- Other Tribal governments in the general region that request to be informed and provide input on the project.
- Individuals/businesses related to fishing/aquaculture and various fishing related groups/organizations, such as:
  - Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
  - Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
  - Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association/Institute for Fisheries Resources
  - California Fishermen's Resiliency Association
  - Others tbd
- Individuals and associations of residents that live near the project site, such as:
  - Peninsula Community Collaborative
  - Others tbd
- Individuals/businesses that own properties, docks, wharfs, and/or shipping facilities adjacent to or within Humboldt Bay
- Individual business owners and business-advocacy organizations, such as:
  - Greater Eureka Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Humboldt Builders Exchange
  - Others tbd
- Labor advocacy organizations and labor unions, such as:
  - State Building and Construction Trades Council
  - The Humboldt and Del Norte Construction Trades Council
  - Operating Engineers Union No. 3
  - International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
  - Laborers' International Union Local 324
  - Carpenters' Union Local 751
  - Others tbd
- Local/regional environmental/conservation advocacy NGOs and non-profits, such as:
  - Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
  - Humboldt Baykeeper
  - Friends of the Dunes
  - Humboldt 350.org
  - Northcoast Environmental Center
  - Redwood Region Audubon
  - Surfrider Foundation Humboldt
  - Citizens Protecting Humboldt Bay (CPHB)
- Local/regional advocacy NGOs, non-profits, and community organizations
  - Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)
  - The Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub)
  - The North Coast Offshore Wind Community Benefits Network
  - Housing advocacy groups
- Other NGOs and non-profits, such as:
  - California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA)
  - Humboldt Bay Development Association (HBDA)
  - Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)
  - Others tbd



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- Local, State, and Federal governmental agencies (regulatory/permitting agencies, utility providers, funding agencies, and other government agencies)
  - US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
  - US Coast Guard
  - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
  - US Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD)
  - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA NMFS)
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
  - California Energy Commission (CEC)
  - California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
  - State Lands Commission (SLC)
  - California Coastal Commission (CCC)
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
  - California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)
  - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
  - North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
  - California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz)
  - California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
  - California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
  - California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
- California Workforce Development Board
- Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD)
- County of Humboldt (various departments)
- Humboldt Harbor Safety Committee
- Samoa Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District
- City of Eureka
- Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
- Samoa Peninsula Community Services District
- PG&E
- Other utility-related public service districts and utility providers
- The Workforce Development Coalition of Humboldt County
- The California Energy Commission’s Humboldt Bay Wind Port State Agency Working Group
- Local, State, and Federal elected officials
- Educational organizations/institutions, such as:
  - CalPoly Humboldt
  - College of the Redwoods
  - Humboldt County Office of Education
  - Others tbd
- Private citizens
- Private development companies, offshore wind development companies, etc.
- Other west coast ports
- Many others are expected and welcome

## 7. PUBLIC MEETINGS

At a minimum, the Harbor District will host the following meetings that will be open to the general public:

- Monthly Harbor District Board Meetings
  - These typically occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6pm. An agenda for each meeting is released at least 72 hours in advance of each meeting.
  - Project-specific items may or may not occur at any given meeting (each item includes a public comment period).
  - Adoption of Harbor District permit for the project following the certification of the Final CEQA EIR.
- CEQA:
  - CEQA NOP Public Hearing (includes a public comment period). This meeting has already occurred.
  - CEQA DEIR Public Hearing (includes a public comment period).
  - CEQA FEIR Public Hearing (includes a public comment period).
- In addition to Board and CEQA public meeting, the District will also hold “General Public Meetings”:
  - Two general public meetings occurred in 2023.
  - District staff spoke about the project at numerous public events throughout 2023 and early 2024.
  - Between one and three additional public meetings will be held between July of 2024 and March of 2025.
  - At least one additional neighborhood-focused public meeting will be held on the Samoa Peninsula (within three miles of the project site) per calendar year in the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.



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## 8. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The Harbor District will engage in the following forms of communication to the general public and IPACs:

- Starting in July of 2024, a small quarterly newsletter about Offshore Wind in Humboldt Bay will be distributed once each quarter to the general email distribution list and will be posted on the District website.
- Interested parties may sign up to join a general email distribution list. The District will maintain an on-going list of interested parties. Once per quarter, members of the email distribution list will receive an email that summarizes relevant project updates. The total number of emails may occasionally exceed one email per quarter.
- The District maintains a project-specific webpage on the District's website. Updates will be periodically posted on the Harbor District website: <https://humboldtbay.org/humboldt-bay-offshore-wind-heavy-lift-marine-terminal-project-3>.
- Planned project schedules will be periodically updated on the project-specific webpage.
- The District will post final versions of project-related documents/studies on the project-specific webpage.
- New informational videos will be periodically posted on the Harbor District website and the Harbor District YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@humboldtbayharbordistrict>.
- CEQA-related and permit-related public hearing notices will be periodically posted in a local newspaper(s).
- The District may periodically issue press releases.
- The District will participate in media interviews.

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEETINGS WITH SPECIFIC INTEREST GROUPS, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The Harbor District will participate in many communications and limited-invite meetings with various categories of interest groups, interested parties, and affected communities, including:

- Meetings with Tribal governments. For a list of the Tribes that has been identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as the Tribes with whom the District should communicate, see Section 6 of this document above. The District will communicate with other Tribal governments in the general region that request to be informed about the project.
- Meetings with various interest groups, interested parties, and affected communities. For examples of the types of groups/organizations with whom the District will meet, see Section 6 of this document above.
- Meetings with various governmental agencies related to permitting, funding, utilities, and other topics. For examples of the agencies with whom the District expects to meet, see Section 6 of this document above.
- Upon request, District staff will attend meetings of various community interest groups (such as Rotary clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Peninsula Community Collaborative, etc). If requested to do so, District staff will provide a general presentation at such meetings. The District will not guarantee attendance of more than one meeting per interest group per quarter.

## 10. COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Harbor District will establish a series of community-based project advisory committees to assist with the envisioning and evaluation of the project. At a minimum, the following committees will be established:

1. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
2. Community Engagement and Community Benefit Program Advisory Committee (CAC)
3. Green Terminal Committee (GTC) (~12 members)
4. Environmental Mitigation Subcommittee





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5. Dredge Material Testing and Management Regulation Committee
6. Aquaculture Committee
7. HBHRC Board Fisheries Sub-Committee
8. Other committees to be established as needed.

The objectives and details of the committees are provided here:

- Overall objectives of the various advisory committees:
  - Focus exclusively on the Heavy Lift Wind Terminal Project (and not offshore wind farms or electrical transmission projects).
  - Seek to understand and represent the perspectives of everyday citizens and a diverse range of stakeholder categories while simultaneously seeking to understand and support the project's underlying purposes.
  - Receive information about on-going project design and then serve as citizen scientists that accurately understand the nuances of the project.
  - Provide advisory recommendations to the project management team, who will convey those recommendations to the design/permitting team.
  - Help the broader community to accurately understand the project by sharing reliable sources of information.
- **Committee #1: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**
  - Status: Established in early-2024. Meets approximately quarterly.
  - Committee-specific Objectives:
    - See "Objectives and overall mission" of all Advisory Committees (listed above).
    - Receive periodic updates from engineering/permitting/mitigation consultants.
    - Provide analysis and recommendations of the project's technical components: engineering, permitting, mitigation, etc.
    - Provide recommendations regarding community engagement on technical topics.
    - Other objectives to be suggested by committee.
- **Committee #2: Community Engagement and Community Benefit Program Advisory Committee (CAC)**
  - Status: To be established in July 2024. Meets approximately every other month.
  - Committee specific objectives:
    - See "Objectives and overall mission" of all Advisory Committees (listed above).
    - Receive periodic updates about project, especially those elements most directly related to community engagement and the planned "Community Benefit Program."
    - Provide recommendations regarding community engagement. Recommendations can include when engagement should occur, how often, where, what types, with whom, etc.
    - Provide recommendations regarding the District's planned "Community Benefit Program."
    - Other objectives to be suggested by committee.
- **Committee #3: Green Terminal Committee (GTC)**
  - Status: To be established in July 2024. Meets approximately every other month.
  - Committee specific objectives:
    - See "Objectives and overall mission" of all Advisory Committees (listed above).
    - Receive periodic updates about project, especially those elements most directly related to policies associated with energy, water quality, and related topics.
    - Provide recommendations regarding the development of a "Green Terminal Strategy," which will ultimately be adopted by the District Board.
- **Committee #4: Environmental Mitigation Subcommittee**
  - Status: Established in mid-2023. Meets approximately every other month.



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- Committee specific objectives:
  - Provide the District and its consultants with access to the resources, guidance, and feedback of resource agency ecologists, environmental scientists, and mitigation specialists.
  - Provide feedback and ideas from the various regulatory agencies that will be involved in issuing permits, determining impacts, and establishing biological mitigation requirements.
- **Committee #5: Dredge Material Testing and Management Regulation Committee**
  - Status: Established in mid-2023. Meets approximately every other month.
  - Committee specific objectives:
    - Provide the District and its consultants with access to the resources, guidance, and feedback of resource agency ecologists, environmental scientists, and mitigation specialists.
    - Provide feedback and ideas from the various regulatory agencies that will be involved in issuing permits, determining impacts, and establishing requirements for dredging of the project.
- **Committee #6: Aquaculture Committee**
  - Status:
    - Already established (in mid-2023). Meets approximately monthly.
    - Consists of 30+ owners/employees of various Humboldt-based aquaculture businesses, representatives of aquaculture advocacy organizations, and staff members of various regulatory agencies.
  - Committee specific objectives:
    - Generally represent the broad aquaculture community.
    - Provide the District and its consultants with information, feedback, and guidance about the concerns, needs, and requests of the aquaculture community as they relate to the HLMT project.
- **Committee #7: HBHRCD Board Fisheries Sub-Committee**
  - Status:
    - This is a previously-existing sub-committee of the HBHRCD Board that consists of two elected Board members (appointed by the Board President) and representatives of the fishing community as determined by the Board President.
    - Meets as needed and/or as determined by Executive Director.
    - This existing committee will discuss the HLMT project periodically.
  - Committee specific objectives:
    - Generally represent the broad fishing community.
    - Provide the District and its consultants with information, feedback, and guidance about the concerns, needs, and requests of the fishing community as they relate to the HLMT project.

