

ATLAS WIND PROJECT AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

OCS-P-0563

Prepared for:



Submitted to:

Bureau of Ocean
Energy Management

January 2025

Prepared by:



TETRA TECH

Prepared pursuant to Lease Stipulation 3.1.3

CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Company Number 15058

Revision Summary

Rev	Date	Prepared by	Approved by
0	9/2023	Tetra Tech	Atlas Wind
1	12/2023	Tetra Tech	Atlas Wind
2	5/2024	Tetra Tech	Atlas Wind
3	1/2025	Tetra Tech	Atlas Wind

Description of Revisions

Rev	Page	Section	Description
0	All	All	Initial draft of ACP
1	All	All	Revisions from BOEM
2	All	All	General corrections to style, language, and structure. Updates to front matter.
3	All	All	Company Update, Contact Updates

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
FIGURES	III
APPENDICES	III
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	IV
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN	3
3. GOALS AND CORE ENGAGEMENT VALUES	4
4. ATLAS WIND’S AGENCY LIAISON	4
5. AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS	5
6. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND TOOLS	6
6.1 Points of Engagement.....	6
6.1.1 Marine Surveys	7
6.1.2 Pre-project Seafloor Characterization and Surveys	8
6.1.3 Permits, Approvals, and Consultations	8
6.1.4 Design and Siting	9
6.1.5 Construction, Operations, and Decommissioning.....	9
6.2 Engagement Best Practices	10
6.3 Coordination of Engagement Across Leases	10
6.4 Meetings	11
6.4.1 Required or Recommended Meetings	11
6.4.2 Introductory Meetings.....	11
6.4.3 Informal Consultations	11
6.4.4 Interagency Meetings.....	12
6.5 Project Website and Resources.....	12
6.6 Information and Data Sharing.....	12
6.7 Military Notifications	13
6.8 Documentation and Reports.....	13
6.8.1 Agency Contact List and Meeting Tracker	13
6.8.2 Progress Reports	13
6.8.3 Additional Notifications and Reports.....	13
6.8.4 Additional Information Requests.....	13

FIGURES

Figure 1. California Lease Area Information	1
Figure 2. Atlas Wind Project Wind Lease Area (OCS-P 0653).....	2
Figure 3. Atlas Wind's Outreach and Engagement Values	4
Figure 4. Atlas Wind Points of Engagement with Agencies.....	7

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Agency Points of Contact
Appendix B	Permitting Table
Appendix C	Example Agency Meeting Tracker

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Definition
ACP	Agency Communications Plan
Atlas Wind	Atlas Wind LLC
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
CCC	California Coastal Commission
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
Equinor	Equinor Wind US LLC
Lease Area	Area covered by Lease OCS-P 0653
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
PDE	Project Design Envelope
POI	Point of Interconnection
Project	Atlas Wind Project
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

1. INTRODUCTION

Atlas Wind LLC (Atlas Wind), a subsidiary of Equinor Wind US LLC (Equinor) was assigned Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-P 0653 provisionally in December 2022 by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) through a competitive lease auction process. Equinor is an international energy company, headquartered in Stavanger, Norway. Equinor is developing projects and has operations in over 30 countries—including 4 in the United States—and approximately 22,000 employees worldwide. With an extensive portfolio of offshore wind, oil, and gas facilities developed over its 50-year history, Equinor has a proven track record of successfully developing large-scale energy projects in some of the most challenging marine environments around the world.

The online lease auction, the first ever on the Pacific Coast, was held in a series of rounds and allowed qualified offshore wind developers to bid for five lease areas (**Figure 1**). The Lease was finalized on May 17, 2023, and went into effect as of June 1, 2023. The Lease Area is in the Central Coast region off the coast of Morro Bay (**Figure 2**). The Lease Area covers 80,062 acres (324 square kilometers). It is located approximately 60 statute miles (52 nautical miles, 96.5 kilometers) from Morro Bay Harbor Entrance, and approximately 26 statute miles (23 nautical miles, 42 kilometers) off the California coast. The Lease Area has water depths that range from approximately 1,970 feet to 3,937 feet (600 meters to 1,200 meters) and is estimated to have the capacity to generate over 2 gigawatts of electricity.

Atlas Wind proposes to construct, own, and operate the Atlas Wind Project (the Project). When developed, the Project will contribute to the Biden Administration’s goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030 and California’s goal of producing 100 percent of electricity from clean energy sources by 2045.¹

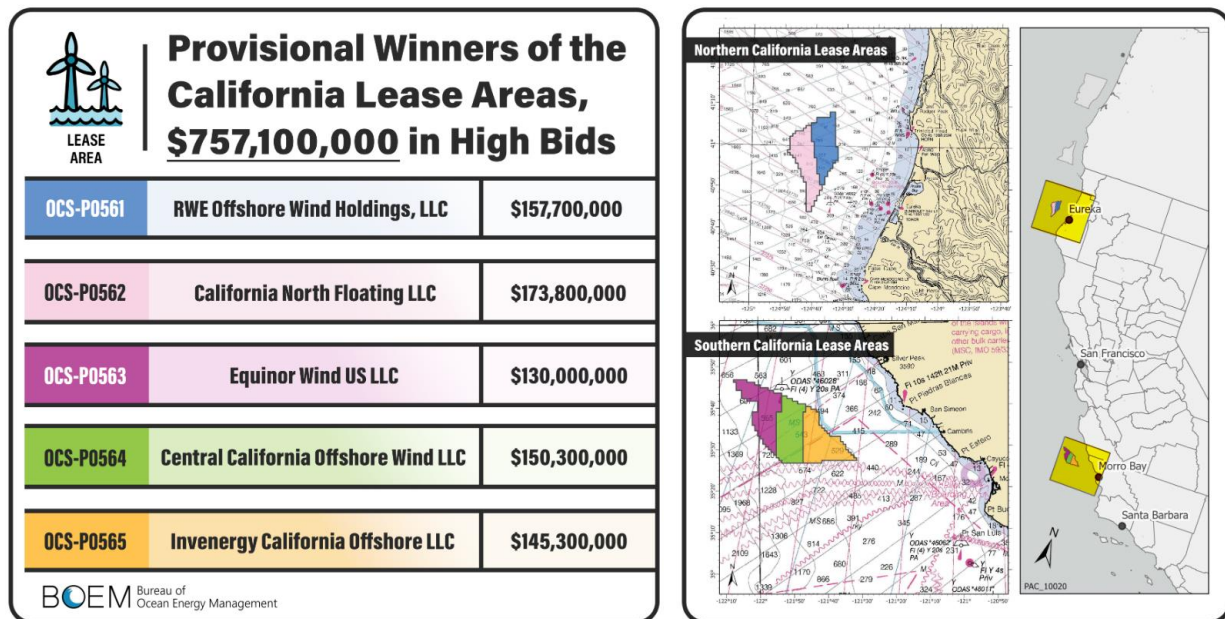


Figure 1. California Lease Area Information

¹ <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/> and <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/renewable-energy/offshore-renewable-energy>

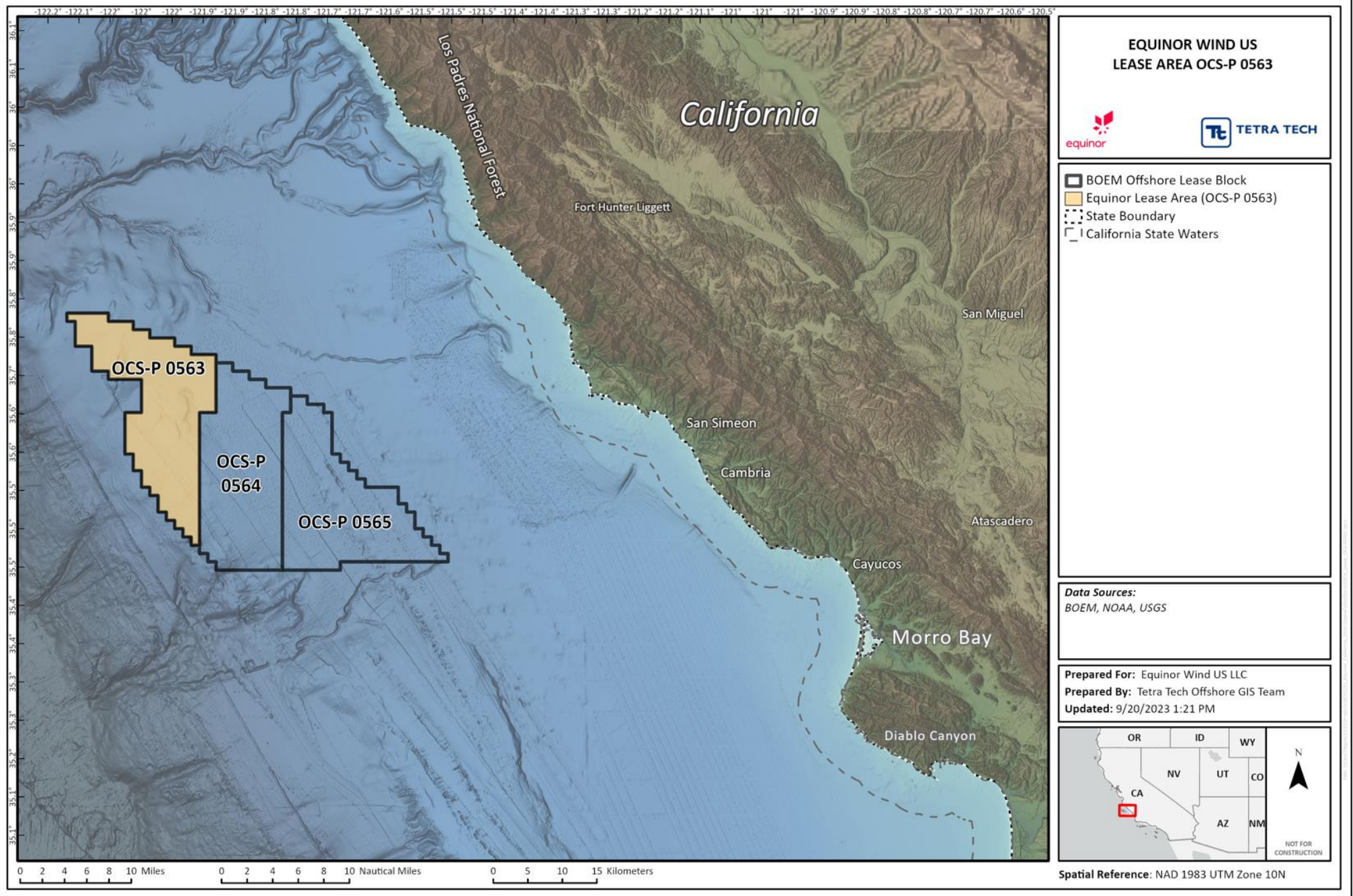


Figure 2. Atlas Wind Project Wind Lease Area (OCS-P 0563)

2. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

This Agency Communications Plan (ACP) describes the Project approach, methodology, and strategy to engage with federal, state, and local agencies with authority related to the Project. Atlas Wind will engage these agencies during the planning, development, construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of offshore windfarm development. This document is intended to describe the general approach for communication with the agencies and is expected to be a “living document”, which will evolve with the advancement of the project. Separate communications plans have been developed for Native American Tribes and fisheries stakeholders to adhere with Lease Stipulation 3.1.3 and 6.2, respectively.

The ACP outlines how the Project will share information with key agency stakeholders. It provides a description of the tools that will be used and the engagement philosophy of the Project. The ACP does not detail communications required by environmental processes such as the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or as required by permitting agencies. The ACP does not detail final mitigation measures associated with potential impacts, as those mitigation measures will be listed in the environmental impact statement, environmental impact report, and any agency permits that are issued, and will be included in any mitigation plans or agreements determined to be necessary in the future.

This ACP is provided in accordance with Lease OCS-P 0653 Stipulation 3.1.3:

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 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, planning, 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’s 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.

This living document will be expanded, refined, and updated with ongoing feedback from federal, state, and local agencies with regulatory authority over the Project. Atlas Wind’s experience with agency coordination and collaboration on the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects informed the development of this ACP. In

addition, the ACP has and will continue to be guided by input and experience from federal and state agencies who have met with the Project thus far. It is expected that this document will be evaluated and updated quarterly but will be reevaluated as the Project continues.

3. GOALS AND CORE ENGAGEMENT VALUES

Atlas Wind recognizes the importance and advantage of building strong working relationships with federal, state, and local agencies. Atlas Wind's overarching goals when interfacing with agencies include:

- Understanding each agency's jurisdictions, mandates, and regulatory authority;
- Demonstrating compliance;
- Committing to stewardship of the environment and developing the Project responsibly; and
- Communicating collaboratively and share knowledge.

Figure shows Atlas Wind's core agency outreach and engagement values through our commitments to communication, coordination, and collaboration.

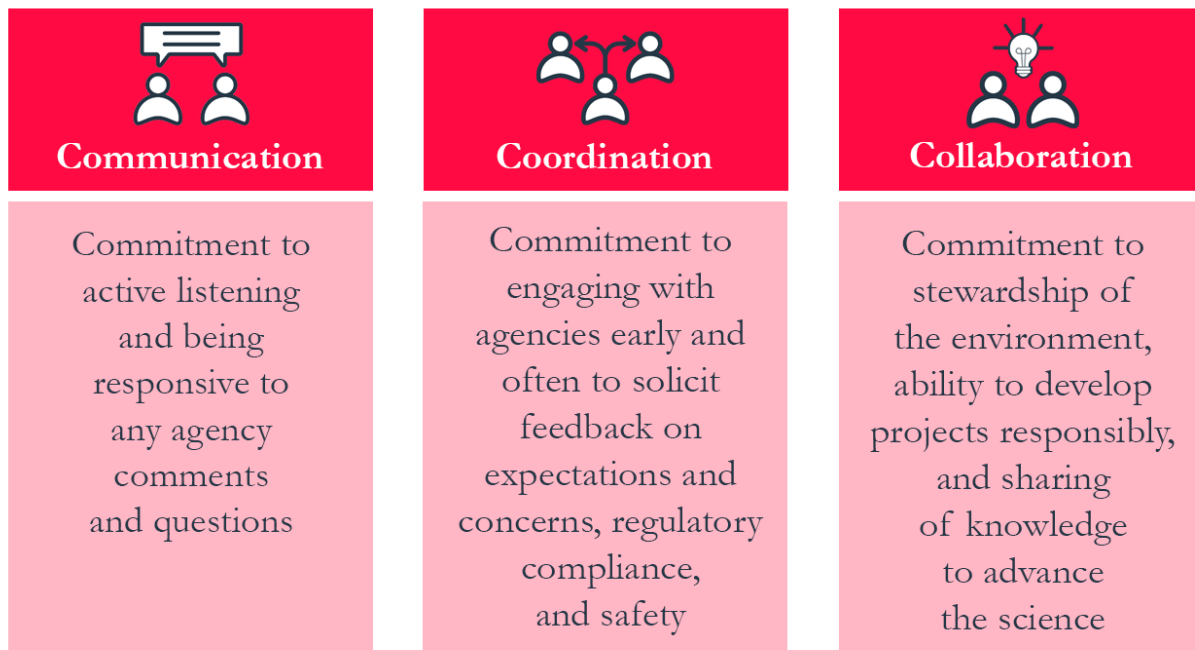


Figure 3. Atlas Wind's Outreach and Engagement Values

4. ATLAS WIND'S AGENCY LIAISON

An important part of successful outreach and communication is the establishment of an Agency Liaison. The Agency Liaison serves as the primary point of contact for engagement and information exchange with federal, state, and local agencies. Included in this section of the ACP is a detailed outline of the responsibilities and duties of the Agency Liaison.

Specific responsibilities and duties of the Agency Liaison include:

- Meeting with relevant agencies to present and obtain input on Construction and Operation Plan (COP) development, surveys, Project siting, permit applications, and support for formal consultation;
- Developing and maintaining an agency contact list;
- Updating federal, state, and local agencies about Atlas Wind's plans and activities;
- Submitting biannual progress reports that document outreach completed during the previous 6-month period and upcoming scheduled outreach;
- Communicating with agencies expeditiously on any compliance issues or incidents associated with conditions of the lease, permits, and approvals; and
- Developing and updating the ACP and continually working to facilitate communication with federal, state, and local agencies.

Atlas Wind's Primary Agency Liaison designate is:

Martin Goff, Project Director
mgoff@equino.com
(415) 949-8448

Atlas Wind recognizes that there may be times when the primary Agency Liaison is unavailable. Atlas Wind's Secondary Agency Liaison designate is:

Julia Lewis, Head of Permitting - Americas
julew@equinor.com
(617) 217-1430

5. AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS

Atlas Wind is communicating with and will be regularly updating federal, state, and local agencies with regulatory authority related to the Project. Atlas Wind will also coordinate with resource agencies as needed.

Anticipated federal agencies that Atlas Wind will communicate with on a regular basis are listed below.

- BOEM
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)
- Department of Defense
- Federal Aviation Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) including National Marine Fisheries Service and Integrated Ocean Observing System
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Atlas Wind also expects to coordinate with stakeholders at the state and local agencies listed below.

- California Coastal Commission (CCC)
- California Department of Conservation

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Energy Commission
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
- California Natural Resources Agency including the Ocean Protection Council
- California Office of Historic Preservation
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California State Lands Commission
- California State Parks
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- City of Morro Bay
- San Luis Obispo County
- Port San Luis

A list of expected agency points of contact is provided in Appendix A. The list will evolve to include any other applicable state and local agencies once the locations of potential points of interconnection (POIs) and landfall are identified. The list will also be updated and refined as the Project develops and agency contacts change.

Atlas Wind will continue to provide information on the ACP and related activities to an agency unless the agency sends written notification to Atlas Wind stating that it does not want to participate in the ACP. At that point, Atlas Wind will remove that agency from the agency contact list in the current version of the ACP. Atlas Wind will continue to invite an agency to participate in ACP-related meetings and other engagement activities until otherwise instructed. Atlas Wind will continue to engage with regulatory authorities as it pertains to permitting requirements even if the agency opts out of ACP participation.

6. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

6.1 Points of Engagement

Atlas Wind will engage with federal, state, and local agencies throughout the development, construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of the Project. Points of engagement will include surveys, permits and approvals, Project design and siting, and construction and operations compliance. The survey plans submitted to BOEM will be consistent with the ACP and all other communications plans. See **Figure** for an overview of planned points of engagement with agencies.

Please note that the AB 525 Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap is still under development by the California Energy Commission at the time of this draft ACP. The roadmap will identify ways to streamline offshore wind permitting including timelines, milestones, and agencies with which to coordinate. The roadmap is also expected to provide guidance for engagement with applicable agencies. Atlas Wind will also adhere to the recommendations once the roadmap is finalized and released.

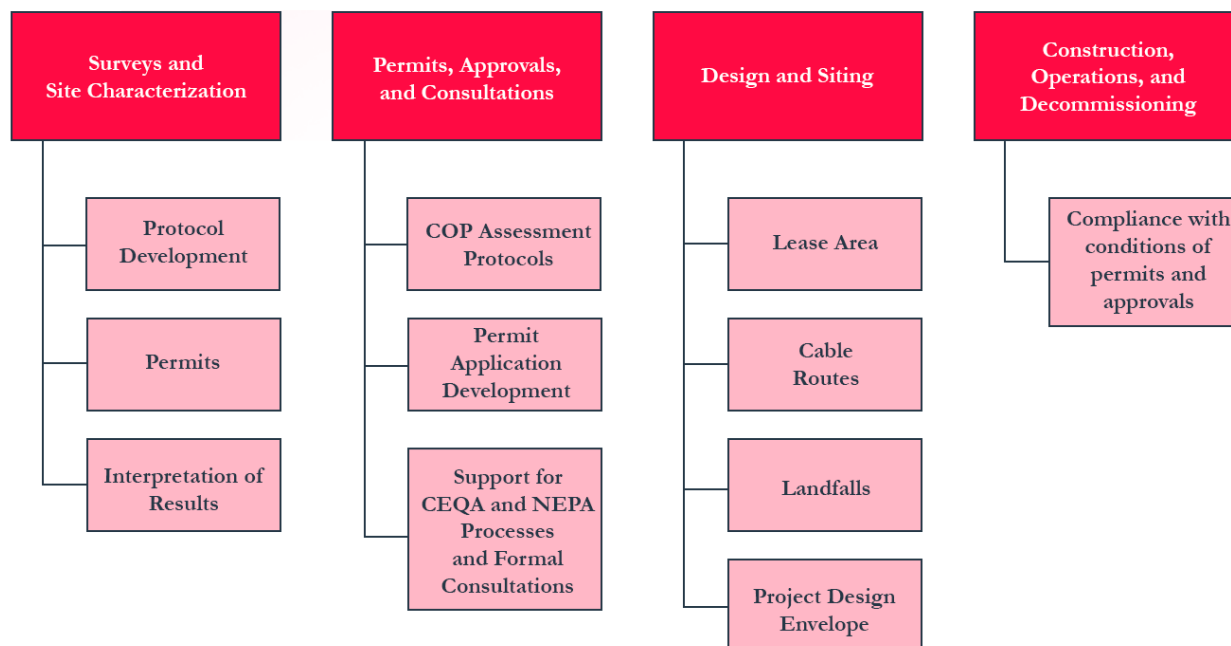


Figure 4. Atlas Wind Points of Engagement with Agencies

6.1.1 Marine Surveys

Atlas Wind will conduct a wide range of marine surveys including geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic surveys, as well as pre-, during, and post-construction surveys (e.g., fisheries pre-and post-construction surveys). Atlas Wind has and will continue to coordinate with applicable agencies early in the process regarding protocol development that will include, for example, benthic survey protocols. Atlas Wind has/will submit a survey plan to BOEM for review within 90 days of survey commencement activities, including a copy to the CCC executive director and other appropriate agencies.

In addition, Atlas Wind has and will continue to consult with state agencies such as the CCC and the California State Lands Commission to ensure that data collected will be suitable for the California Environmental Quality Act analysis and permitting needs and will minimize impacts to coastal resources. During this time, Atlas Wind will maintain continuous and open conversation with BOEM, CCC, and other pertinent agencies. Atlas Wind will also provide CCC access to survey plan submissions unless otherwise decided by BOEM.

Atlas Wind will coordinate with wildlife resource agencies including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine potential monitoring needs. Atlas Wind will share survey results and collaborate with the agencies on interpretation of results.

The site characterization activities will include survey vessels working in the Lease Area and along potential export cable routes gathering geophysical and geotechnical data to inform COP assessments and Project engineering. During this phase, Atlas Wind will coordinate with permitting and approval agencies (e.g., BOEM, NOAA, USACE, and relevant state and local agencies) and Native American Tribes early in the process to receive comments and/or obtain approvals for site survey activities and present results.

Further details on communications with Native American Tribes and fisheries are included in the Native American Tribes Communications Plan and Fisheries Communications Plan.

In summary, to accomplish these communication objectives, Atlas Wind will:

- Prepare survey plans and applicable permit applications early in the process;
- Coordinate meetings with agencies;
- Respond to comments received; and
- Comply with permit, approval, and lease conditions during survey activities.

6.1.2 Pre-project Seafloor Characterization and Surveys

Each survey plan will include any proposed physical, biological, and/or cultural resources surveys in support of the submission of a COP. Prior to the submittal of survey plan(s), Atlas Wind will share a draft of the plan to permitting agencies who will use the data during the analysis of the Project and/or for permitting purposes as per Lease Stipulation 2.2. Atlas Wind will seek input to the survey plan(s) to ensure data collected will meet future analysis needs as necessary.

As per Lease Stipulation 5.6, Atlas Wind will work closely with CCC prior to the submission of the survey plan through open communication, identification of permitting needs, and how to minimally impact the coast.

Atlas Wind will invite the necessary local, state, and federal agencies if individually requested and as required by BOEM. During applicable survey meetings, Atlas Wind will provide a list of surveys, methodologies, objectives, and expected timelines.

6.1.3 Permits, Approvals, and Consultations

The purpose of agency communication during the permitting phase is to support the design of the Project and obtain necessary federal, state, and local permits to support the construction and operation of the Project. Atlas Wind will coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies on a host of environmental and socioeconomic assessments to be included in the COP, including benthic and coastal analysis, as well as marine mammal, archaeology, and wetlands assessments. Atlas Wind will work closely with BOEM and other agencies during COP development to ensure that our assessments include the information required to meet Project review needs.

Specifically, BOEM requires Atlas Wind to host two meetings focused on the COP. First is a pre-COP meeting where Atlas Wind will share the tentative schedule through COP submittal. Atlas Wind will also provide a high-level description of Lease Area development. Agency participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the schedule and high-level plan and input into any potential areas and resources of concern. This meeting will be held at least 1 year prior to COP submission. Atlas Wind will invite all anticipated federal and state cooperating agencies, as well as potential Native American Tribes, to share the tentative schedule through COP submittal.

Following this will be the COP overview meeting. Atlas Wind will invite the same attendees from the pre-COP meeting. Held approximately 1 month after the COP is submitted, Atlas Wind will:

- Share information on the Project design envelope (PDE), layout, offshore export route(s), nearshore cable route(s), landfall(s), and POIs;
- Provide a summary of deconfliction efforts and how feedback from agencies, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders was incorporated;
- Summarize how the Project changed from early planning to COP submittal; and
- Provide an overview of proposed avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures.

Atlas Wind will also continue to engage with agencies on a wide range of permits, approvals, and consultations. This includes coordinating during the early stages of permit application development to understand required information needs.

Finally, Atlas Wind will support BOEM with data and assessments needed for their Section 7 and Section 106 consultations. See Appendix B for a list of potential permits approvals and consultations with federal and state agencies at the time of this report. Atlas Wind is considering several possible POIs in California and the list of state permits and local permits will be further developed based on Project siting and design and location of POIs, landfall(s), and onshore routing.

6.1.4 Design and Siting

Atlas Wind will engage with agencies upon the development of Project designs and layouts for the Lease Area and cable route(s). For example, Atlas Wind will meet with the U.S. Coast Guard early in the process to understand potential siting/navigation constraints, port availability, and capacity issues, and meet with USACE to minimize interference with civil works projects.

BOEM recommends that Atlas Wind host three preliminary design meetings, with the first meeting occurring as early as possible, the second being held at least 6 months prior to COP submission, and third approximately 3 to 4 months prior to Notice of Intent (NOI). Atlas Wind will invite representatives from federal and state agencies, as necessary, to each design meeting.

A summary of meeting topics is list below.

- **Meeting One: Wind Turbine Generator Layout(s), Offshore Export Cable Route(s), and Landfall(s), and Resource Concerns.** Atlas Wind will share preliminary layouts, export cable route(s), and landfall(s). Atlas Wind will share any site selection considerations and constraints identified up until the point of the meeting. Attendees will provide feedback on the layout(s), route(s), and landfall(s) and provide alternative considerations.
- **Meeting Two: PDE, Onshore Cable Route(s), POIs, and Supporting Onshore Infrastructure.** The second meeting will focus on the proposed PDE, onshore route(s), and onshore infrastructure. Atlas Wind will share updated maps and discussion on how agency feedback was considered. Atlas Wind will also discuss proposed technologies and any identified constraints.
- **Meeting Three: Confirming PDE for NOI.** The last design meeting focuses on the PDE. Atlas Wind will provide an update on the PDE and overview of revisions from the initial PDE meeting.

6.1.5 Construction, Operations, and Decommissioning

During these phases of the Project, Atlas Wind will work with agencies to develop monitoring plans and ensure compliance with conditions of permits and approvals. The construction and operations engagement activities include keeping agencies informed about the construction schedule, activities, and any potential impacts on compliance with agency permits and approval conditions, lease stipulations, and regulations.

For decommissioning, Atlas Wind expects to follow guidance established by BSEE at that time. As of the time of this report, Atlas Wind will send a notice to BSEE after the decommissioning application has been approved. This will occur at least 60 days before decommissioning activities begin.

To accomplish these communication objectives, Atlas Wind will:

- Share information about construction activities including the schedule with agencies via email notices and the Project website;
- Prepare compliance plans to be shared with agencies;
- Develop mechanisms for updating agencies on compliance with conditions and share monitoring and other data collected to comply with the conditions; and
- Meet with agencies on an as-needed basis to share information.

6.2 Engagement Best Practices

Atlas Wind follows best practices to support successful agency outreach and engagement throughout the development of the Project. These best practices include the following actions:

- Be aware of agency resource constraints. Schedule meetings with agencies when there is input needed, information to share, at their request, or to meet regulatory requirements. Work with BOEM to determine appropriate meeting invitees and to schedule meetings that best accommodate schedules.
- Distribute meeting materials in advance of meeting, as applicable. Provide a notetaker for the meetings. Respond to comments and action items in a timely manner following meetings.
- Be engaged early. Schedule early engagement with agencies so they can become familiar with the Atlas Wind Project and team, provide any guidance on early-stage actions, and identify how their agency would like to remain engaged with the Project in the future.
- Be informed and prepared. Demonstrate an understanding of each agency's jurisdictions, mandates, regulatory authority, guidelines, and processes. Customize information to meet agency expectations and needs.
- Be outcome driven. Develop defined goals for meetings and follow up with action items.
- Be responsive. Address agency comments completely and in a timely manner. Listen to agency concerns to understand their interests.
- Be transparent. Share information and concerns with agencies.
- Be proactive. Develop solutions that can satisfy both agency and Atlas Wind interests.
- Be flexible. Identify multiple ways to achieve a desired outcome and adapt approaches to address emerging issues and concerns in different ways.
- Be committed. Demonstrate a long-term commitment to stakeholder engagement and allocating resources to support strong engagement with agencies.
- Be accessible. Attend agency stakeholder meetings to help Atlas Wind gather information and input from stakeholders.

6.3 Coordination of Engagement Across Leases

Atlas Wind welcomes the opportunity to coordinate with other Morro Bay offshore wind lessees. Morro Bay lessees have been engaging with one another and are committed to continually seek opportunities for collaboration to reduce burdens on resource-limited agencies and stakeholders. Atlas Wind will work together with other lessees to identify innovative avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures based on lessons learned in the industry both domestically and globally. Atlas Wind will seek opportunities to meet as a group on select topics to reduce the need for individual meetings with agencies, as was done recently with BOEM on the New York Bight Programmatic environmental impact statement.

Atlas Wind will seek to meet jointly in other forums and/or request joint Morro Bay presentations/agenda items at various working group and stakeholder meetings to reduce the need for individual presentations. Atlas Wind will work together with other lessees to coordinate port hours so that fishers have consolidated, rather than dispersed, times to discuss issues with the leaseholders. Finally, Atlas Wind will participate together with other lessees in BOEM convenings of Native American Tribes. Atlas Wind welcomes suggestions from agencies on how to best coordinate with other lessees.

6.4 Meetings

Atlas Wind will utilize in-person and virtual meetings as the primary engagement platforms for agencies. Virtual meetings will be preferred to support accessibility and flexibility in scheduling. Virtual closed captioning will be made available to support accessibility, if requested. Atlas Wind will prepare an agenda and as needed a slide deck, protocol, or other materials to share with agencies before a meeting to efficiently disseminate information and form the basis of a productive conversation.

Meetings are anticipated to occur every 6 months unless more frequent meetings are needed. Where possible, Atlas Wind will partner with other lessees to minimize the number of meetings with agencies.

6.4.1 Required or Recommended Meetings

The purpose of the meetings described in this section is to coordinate with agencies as mandated to support Project compliance throughout development and beyond. These meetings may be required by certain policies and/or lease stipulations or recommended by industry and/or agency best practices.

For example, some prescribed meetings are detailed in BOEM lease stipulations, BOEM's *Final Information Needed for Issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a Construction and Operations Plan (COP)* described in the previous section, and within the NEPA Section 106 process. Atlas Wind will engage agencies and follow all prescribed timeframes of engagement, such as for pre-survey and pre-application meetings.

6.4.2 Introductory Meetings

The purpose of introductory meetings is for the Agency Liaison to meet representatives from regulatory and resource agencies. Atlas Wind held introductory meetings with several agencies individually. In addition, Atlas Wind held initial interagency meetings in September 2023 to share preliminary Project information and solicit feedback on engagement strategies with a larger group of key agencies.

In addition to introductory meetings, Atlas Wind plans to continue to meet individually with agencies to develop a trusted and efficient relationship between the Atlas Wind team and agencies, and to understand potential concerns and critical points of engagement. At these early-stage meetings, Atlas Wind also plans to discuss permits/approvals for upcoming geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic surveys; Lease Area and export cable route siting; and/or COP assessment protocols.

6.4.3 Informal Consultations

Informal consultations are intended to solicit agency feedback during planning phases and beyond. The purpose of these meetings is to support Project compliance and align Project activities with agency best practices, guidance, and recommendations as applicable. Informal consultations will occur at the convenience of the pertinent agency as is recommended or is useful to agencies and/or to address specific concerns.

6.4.4 Interagency Meetings

It is anticipated that Atlas Wind will hold an interagency meeting up to once a year. Interagency meetings will be used for Project updates and knowledge sharing activities when such high-level meetings will benefit multiple agencies. In addition, this will include a summary of project design updates based on stakeholder and Tribal input, as necessary.

Appendix C shows an example of the agency meeting tracker that will capture the schedule of past and upcoming meetings with agencies, meeting frequency, and meeting notes. The Semi-Annual Progress Reports will include a summary of the agency meetings that took place during the reporting period for each Semi-Annual Progress Report.

6.5 Project Website and Resources

Atlas Wind established a website² to serve as a central source of information for the Project. The website will be similar to Empire Wind's website³ and will provide a copy of the latest ACP, cover the most up-to-date Project information, and will include fact sheets, community benefits and engagement information, environmental and sustainable impacts, news releases, supplier information, and contact information. The website may also provide an option to sign up for the forthcoming Project newsletter. The Project website will be developed and updated during all project phases to ensure that members of the public and agencies can easily find needed information.

Atlas Wind will also develop a Project fact sheet and slide deck to provide basic information and contacts to applicable agencies. The fact sheet will be updated when there are pertinent changes such as milestone achievements for the Project. Each slide deck will be tailored to a given agency to ensure information relevant to that agency is shared.

Atlas Wind will also prepare a newsletter for periodic distribution to stakeholders. Stakeholders will opt in to receive information which will cover the most recent Project updates, schedules, and opportunities for engagement.

6.6 Information and Data Sharing

The types of information and data that Atlas Wind will provide to applicable agencies includes but is not limited to:

- Geophysical and geotechnical survey results to support COP review;
- Geophysical and geotechnical plans and permit applications to support surveys;
- COP assessment protocols;
- COP drafts;
- Permit applications to support construction;
- Data and information to support BOEM's agency consultations;
- Project design envelope siting plans for Lease Area, export cable routes, and onshore facilities;
- Environmental/wildlife monitoring survey results;
- Numerous monitoring and mitigation plans for construction and operation of the Project; and
- Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report.

² <https://atlaswind.com/>

³ <https://www.empirewind.com/>

6.7 Military Notifications

As per Section 4 of Lease OCS-P 0653, Atlas Wind and military installations will proactively notify each other of upcoming activities. Section 4.2.5 requires Atlas Wind to establish and maintain early and ongoing communication with appropriate command headquarters to avoid or minimize potential operational conflicts. Likewise, as per Section 4.2.2, military agencies will provide as much advanced notice as possible should Atlas Wind be required to temporarily suspend operations or evacuate.

6.8 Documentation and Reports

6.8.1 Agency Contact List and Meeting Tracker

Atlas Wind will maintain an agency contact list that identifies the agencies and their representatives who may have authority over or have an interest in the Project. Atlas Wind will manage the update of the register as the Project progresses and additional agency representatives are identified and added.

The Agency Meeting Tracker will include sign-in and registration lists gathered during in-person and virtual meetings. The tracker will also include relevant engagement details, including:

- Agency engaged,
- Date of engagement, and
- Discussion topics.

6.8.2 Progress Reports

The biannual progress report will summarize agency engagements over 6-month periods. The progress reports will provide an overview of engagement that occurred over the previous 6 months and detail any upcoming engagements known at the time of the report. Additional requirements, per Lease Stipulation 3.1 Progress Report, will be included biannually.

6.8.3 Additional Notifications and Reports

Lease OCS-P 0653 lists several additional reports and required notifications including but not limited to:

- Discoveries of archaeological resources.
- Changes to Atlas Wind contacts and/or contact information.
- Communications briefing prior to starting commercial operations.
- Annual avian reporting.

6.8.4 Additional Information Requests

It is anticipated that there will be questions that arise outside of topics previously covered in the ACP or in the biannual Progress Report. For all additional questions, Atlas Wind will encourage agency stakeholders to email the Agency Liaison with those data requests.

The Agency Liaison will acknowledge receipt of the inquiry if the inquiry is one that cannot be answered same-day because it will require additional review and input. For those inquiries, the Agency Liaison will work with Atlas Wind to determine a response and if the information can be shared publicly. Depending on the applicability of the information, Atlas Wind may notify agencies, Native American Tribes, or other lessees. This information would also be included in the biannual Progress Report.

If an information request is deemed confidential or business-sensitive, the Agency Liaison will respond to the requestor to let them know that this is information that cannot be shared externally.

Atlas Wind will aim to respond to all requestors within two business days.

Appendix A Agency Points of Contact

Agency	Contact
Federal	
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Deanna Meier deanna.meier@boem.gov Susan Zaleski Susan.zaleski@boem.gov Protected Species Observation Reporting renewableenergypocs@boem.gov
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Bobby Kurtz Bobby.Kurtz@bsee.gov John Bain John.Bain@bsee.gov Nathan Sinkula Nathan.Sinkula@bsee.gov
Department of Defense	Steve Sample steven.j.sample4.civ@mail.mil
Federal Aviation Administration	Cindy Whitten Cindy.whitten@faa.gov
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Lilah Ise (Jennifer goes by Lilah) / National Marine Fisheries Service jennifer.ise@noaa.gov Brian Zelenke / NOAA National Ocean Service Integrated Ocean brian.zelenke@noaa.gov Paul Michel / NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries paul.michel@noaa.gov Protected Species Observation Reporting psoreports.nmfswestcoast@noaa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Theresa Stevens theresa.stevens@usace.army.mil
U.S. Coast Guard	CDR William George William.j.george@uscg.mil Capt. Ron Caputo Ronald.j.caputo@uscg.mil LT Miranda Brumbaugh Miranda.E.Brumbaugh@uscg.mil Mike Salsman Michael.J.Salsman@uscg.mil Will Robinson william.a.robinson@uscg.mil

Agency	Contact
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Po-Chieh (Glen) Ting ting.pochieh@epa.gov Jessica Montanez Montanez.Jessica@epa.gov Jason Gerdes gerdes.jason@epa.gov Christa Cichoski Cichoski.Christa@epa.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Project Coordination & Reporting fw8venturasection7@fws.gov Kirby Bartlett kirby_bartlett@fws.gov Scott Johnston scott_johnston@fws.gov Steve Henry steve_henry@fws.gov Lilian Carswell lilian_carswell@fws.gov Tracy Borneman tracy_borneman@fws.gov Noelle L. Rayman-Metcalf noelle_rayman@fws.gov
State	
California Coastal Commission	Holly Wyer holly.wyer@coastal.ca.gov Heather McNair heather.mcnair@coastal.ca.gov
California Department of Conservation	Gabe Tiffany Gabe.Tiffany@conservation.ca.gov
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	offshorerenewableenergy@wildlife.ca.gov
California Department of Water Resources	Thomas Gibson Thomas.Gibson@water.ca.gov Delphine Hou Delphine.hou@water.ca.gov
California Energy Commission	Mona Badie Mona.Badie@energy.ca.gov Elizabeth Huber Elizabeth.Huber@energy.ca.gov Rachel MacDonald Rachel.MacDonald@energy.ca.gov

Agency	Contact
California Environmental Protection Agency	Catalina Hayes-Bautista Catalina.hayes-bautista@calepa.ca.gov
California Labor and Workforce Development Agency//California Workforce Development Board	Nancy Steffan nancy.steffan@labor.ca.gov Kaina Pereira Kaina.pereira@cwdb.ca.gov
California Natural Resources Agency	Le-Quyen Nguyen Le-quyen.Nguyen@resources.ca.gov
California Natural Resources Agency, Ocean Protection Council	Yi-hui Wang yi-hui.wang@resources.ca.gov
California Office of Historic Preservation	Jeff Brooke, Associate State Archaeologist Jeff.brooke@parks.ca.gov
California Public Utilities Commission	Rachel Peterson Rachel.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov Leuwam Tesfaii Leuwam.tesfaii@cpuc.ca.gov David Withrow David.Withrow@cpuc.ca.gov
California State Lands Commission	Amy Vierra Amy.Vierra@slc.ca.gov Grace Kato Grace.Kato@slc.ca.gov Nicole Dobroski Nicole.Dobroski@slc.ca.gov
California State Parks	Armando Quintero Armando.Quintero@parks.ca.gov Jay Chamberlin Jay.Chamberlin@parks.ca.gov Marina Cazorla Marina.Cazorla@parks.ca.gov
California State Water Resources Control Board	Kathleen Hicks Kathleen.hicks@waterboards.ca.gov Alex Lopez Alexander.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov Eric Oppenheimer Eric.Oppenheimer@waterboards.ca.gov

Agency	Contact
Local	
City of Morro Bay	Carla Wixom, Mayor cwixom@morrobayca.gov Yvonne Kimball, City Manager ykimball@morrobayca.gov Whitney Gordon, Assistant to the City Manager wgordon@morrobayca.gov Chris Munson, Harbor Vitality Director cmunson@morrobayca.gov
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District	Andy Mutziger, Division Manager – Planning & Grants amutziger@co.slo.ca.us Tom Hickey Air Quality Specialist – Planning & Grants thickey@co.slo.ca.us Karl Tupper, Division Manager – Engineering & Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer ktupper@co.slo.ca.us Dora Drexler, Division Manager – Compliance ddrexler@co.slo.ca.us
Port San Luis	Suzy Watkins, Harbor Director Port San Luis Harbor SuzyW@portsanluis.com

Appendix B Permitting Table

Agency	Agency Abbreviation	Permits
Federal		
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	ACHP	Section 106; National Historic Preservation Act
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	BOEM	Limited or Commercial Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease; NEPA Lead
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	BSEE	30 CFR 285
Department of Defense	DoD	Siting Clearinghouse review, Mission Compatibility Evaluation 32 CFR 211
Environmental Protection Agency	EPA	Clean Air Act (CAA) General Conformity, OCS air permit under CAA section 328
Federal Aviation Administration	FAA	No Hazard Determination to Air and Navigation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS	Essential Fish Habitat, Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act; MMPA; National Marine Sanctuary Research Permit
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	NWP, Individual CWA Section 404 Permit, Section 10 (rivers and Harbors Act)
U.S. Coast Guard	USCG	Private Aids to Navigation Permit (PATON)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS	FESA, MBTA, BGEPA, MMPA
State Permits		
California Coastal Commission	CCC	Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA - Federal Consistency Certification); Coastal Development Permit
California Department of Conservation	CDOC	To be determined
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW	CESA (ITP), Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602); Scientific Collecting Permit
California Department of Water Resources	CDWR	To be determined
California Energy Commission	CEC	N/A
California Environmental Protection Agency	CalEPA	To be determined
California Labor and Workforce Development Agency	CLWDA	To be determined

Agency	Agency Abbreviation	Permits
California Natural Resources Agency	CNRA	To be determined
California Natural Resources Agency, Ocean Protection Council	OPC	N/A
California Office of Historic Preservation	COHP	To be determined
California Public Utilities Commission	CPUC	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN); Permit to Construct (PTC)
California State Lands Commission	CSLC	State Tidelands Lease; California Environmental Quality Act lead, Geophysical and Geological Survey Permits
California State Parks	CSP	To be determined
California State Water Resources Control Board	SWRCB	CWA 401 Water Quality Certification; NPDES Permit
California Independent Service	CAISO	Interconnection agreement
California Air Resources Board	CARB	Air Permit

Appendix C Example Agency Meeting Tracker

Date	Participants/ Agency	Topic	Action Items	Outcomes	Points of Discussion and Notes
09/22/2023	BOEM USCG District 11 EPA NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) CSLC BSEE CalEPA	Agency Communications Plan: Interagency Meeting Part 1	Add points of contacts	Update the ACP per verbal and written comments	Atlas Wind/Project overview, discuss purpose of ACP

SAMPLE