

From: [Richard Charter](#)
To: [PlanningAgency](#)
Cc: planning.agency@sonoma-county.org
Subject: support
Date: June 28, 2022 10:48:22 PM
Attachments: [SUBSEA CABLE PLAN OFFSHORE WIND 62722 CEC PRESENTATION.png](#)

EXTERNAL

June 29, 2022

Re: Support for Local Control Over Coastal Industrialization in the LCP

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments on the May 2022 draft of the County of Sonoma Local Coastal Plan Update.

As you know, Sonoma County voters in 1986 adopted a ballot measure intended to protect the Sonoma Coast from offshore oil and gas infrastructure by maintaining local control of our coastal lands as the petroleum industry sought inappropriate sites for the construction of onshore facilities to support offshore drilling here. The resulting Sonoma County Ordinance number 3592R remains, as it must, in the update of the LCP. Strengthening language is now needed, due to an entirely new industry, involving some of the same oil companies, that is now emerging in coastal waters to our North.

It is now necessary to adjust the offshore drilling facilities ordinance in our County, because the recent advent of offshore floating and fixed wind electrical generating arrays and offshore wave energy devices raises the specter of other types of onshore facilities here that would be incompatible with the non-industrial character of our communities. Bodega Bay represents one of the only ports on this stretch of coastline, and therefore could become a target for offshore oil developers who are now pursuing offshore wind energy.

The attached map of prospective electrical grid intertie options was presented on this week at a Sacramento meeting of the California Energy Commission. This map depicts the option of a potential subsea cable off our coast, and that infrastructure would clearly need to come ashore at some point. For this reason, a broader interpretation of our present onshore facilities language should be undertaken in the Sonoma County LCP update to protect lands on our coast that would otherwise be vulnerable to subsea cable landfalls, onshore electrical switchyards and substations, high-tension power lines, and staging areas for offshore industry. We are not seeking a ban, or to interfere with this industry, but rather to continue to maintain longstanding local control over our sensitive coastal lands and unique habitats as has been accomplished by our existing LCP since 1986.

In summary, the current update of the LCP should produce a comprehensive Local Coastal Plan relevant to emerging issues, one that truly protects our coast and that works in the interests the people and places of Sonoma County.

Thanks for your service and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Charter

The Ocean Foundation

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Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, County of Sonoma

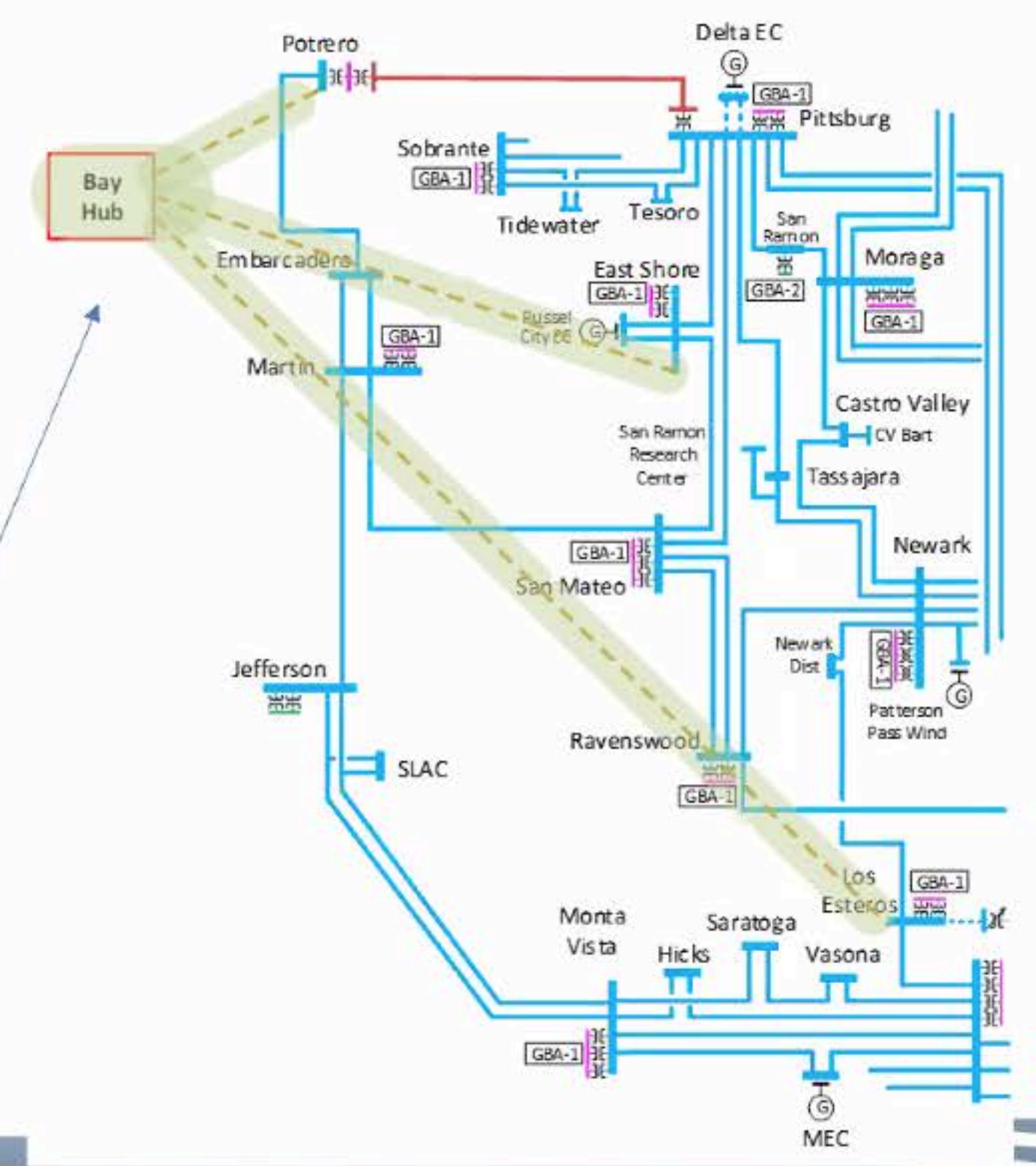
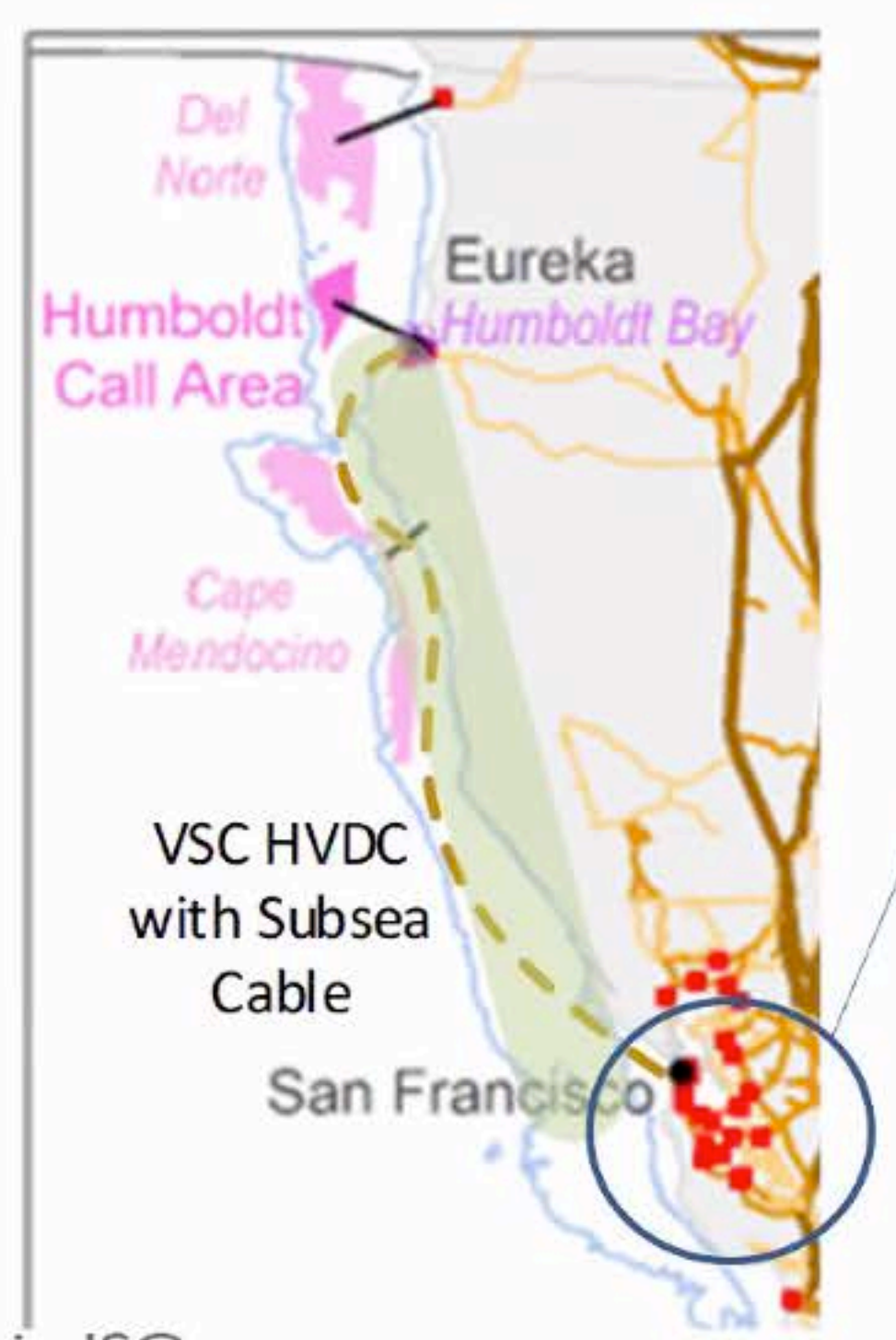
Attachment: CAISO grid connectivity map for Humboldt Offshore Wind Area

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Humboldt 1.6 GW Interconnection Alternatives (2/3)

- Option 2: VSC-HVDC subsea cable to a converter station in the Bay area with 3 AC connections to Potrero, East Shore, and Los Esteros



Jeff Billinton