



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

COVID-19 NOTICE: RCEA OFFICES ARE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 of March 17, 2020, and revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16, 2021, this meeting will not be convened in a physical location. CAC members will meet via an online Zoom video conference.

Participate in the meeting online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223381610>.

Participate by phone by calling (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782. Enter webinar ID: 822 2338 1610.

To make a comment during the public comment periods, raise your hand in the online Zoom webinar, or press star (*) 9 on your phone to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, a staff member will ask you to unmute your phone or computer. You will have 3 minutes to speak.

You may email written comments to PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line. Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

While downloading the Zoom application may provide a better meeting experience, Zoom does not need to be installed on your computer to participate. After clicking the webinar link above, click "start from your browser."

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any member of the public needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting or access the meeting materials should email LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org or call (707) 269-1700 at least 3 business days before the meeting. Advance notification enables RCEA staff to make their best effort to reasonably accommodate access to this meeting and its materials while maintaining public safety.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the Community Advisory Committee, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the Committee's meeting, will be made available to the public at www.RedwoodEnergy.org.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item	What / Action	When
1. Open	<u>Roll Call:</u> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Norman Bell Elizabeth Burks Colin Fiske Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair Larry Goldberg Roger Hess Chris Honar Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison </div> <div> Richard Johnson Luna Latimer Ethan Lawton Dennis Leonardi, Chair Kit Mann Emily Morris Jeff Trirogoff </div> </div> Review meeting agenda and goals.	6:00 – 6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
2. Approval of Minutes	Action: Approve minutes of July 12, 2022, CAC meeting.	6:05 - 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)
3. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	This item is provided for the public to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee may respond to statements, or refer requests requiring action to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)
4. Offshore Wind Project	Hear a presentation by representatives from Aker Offshore Wind and Mainstream Renewables. Q & A.	6:15 – 6:35 p.m. (20 min.)
5. RePower / Strategic Plan Update	Hear RCEA Strategic Plan progress report by Executive Director Matthew Marshall. (Information only)	6:35 – 6:45 p.m. (10 min.)
6. Local Major Projects	Review Board-recommended CAC engagement process. Discuss upcoming major projects for RCEA RePower engagement/advocacy.	6:45 – 7:00 p.m. (15 min.)
7. Biomass Discussion	Provide input on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed Biomass Technical Advisory Group formation methods, 2. Humboldt Sawmill Company MOU implementation improvements, and 3. Whether a recommendation should be passed on to the RCEA Board to commit to a specific sunset date for RCEA procurement of biomass power from direct combustion power plants such as HSC, as a means of implementing RePower strategic plan item 4.1.11.6. 	7:00 – 7:20 p.m. (20 min.)

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

8. Member Reports	This time is provided for Committee members to share information on topics not on the agenda. At the end of member reports, the Executive Director will set requests requiring action to a future agenda or refer requests to staff or the Board.	7:20 – 7:30 p.m. (10 min.)
9. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING – Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Location to be determined.



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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

July 12, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on July 8, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16. Chair Leonardi stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

Members present:

Norman Bell
Elizabeth Burks
Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg

Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair

Roger Hess (arrived 6:11 p.m.)

Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison (non-voting)

Richard Johnson

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann (left at 6:57 p.m.)

Emily Morris

Jerome Qiriazzi

Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Christopher Honar, Luna Latimer, Ethan Lawton

Staff present:

Lori Biondini, Business Planning and Finance Director

Aisha Cissna, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager

Sam Smith, Demand-Side Management Program Specialist

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Patricia Terry, Demand-Side Management Senior Manager

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Public Agency Solar Program (PASP) and California Schools Healthy Air and Plumbing Efficiency Program (CalSHAPE) Report

Demand-Side Management Senior Manager Terry reported on RCEA's work through the CalSHAPE program, which is funded through the PG&E Local Government Partnership Program to upgrade non-compliant plumbing fixtures and improve classroom ventilation. These measures proved important during the COVID pandemic and wildfire seasons.

Demand-Side Management Program Specialist Smith reported on the PASP program, which was originally funded by RCEA's Community Choice Energy Program revenues and is now funded through the PG&E Local Government Partnership program. Since the program's launch in 2018, RCEA staff helped 24 agencies assess their energy efficiency and electricity needs, determine appropriate solar and energy storage projects, seek and apply for funding, and contract for these public works projects. RCEA has helped agencies obtain \$4.5 million in funding so far. A total of 780 kW of electrical generation capacity has been installed on town and city halls, police and fire departments and water⁴

treatment facilities.

The members discussed upcoming HVAC system electrification funding and the relatively short wait time for agencies to participate in the PASP program. CAC members praised RCEA for funding these programs and staff for their work on these projects.

Chair Leonardi invited public comment. No member of the public offered comments.

Minutes Approval

No member of the public or committee commented on the draft minutes. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Motion Qiriazzi, Second Goldberg: Approve minutes of May 10, 2022, CAC meeting.

The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks, Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin, Hess, Johnson, Leonardi, Mann, Morris, Qiriazzi, Trirogoff. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Honar, Latimer, Lawton.

Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

Member of the public and physician Wendy Ring requested an RCEA plan to phase out biomass from its power procurement portfolio, a change to the agency's guiding principles to put public health and the climate ahead of local energy generation, and to not extend the current biomass power purchase agreement unless these new criteria are met.

The committee members discussed concerns with biomass combustion and asked that the CAC's Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee work with the Executive Director to craft proposals to take to the Board. Members asked that Dr. Ring be invited to the subcommittee meeting to participate in the discussion.

Member of the public Martha Walden supported Dr. Ring's statement and expressed satisfaction with the committee's requested actions. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Offshore Wind Update

Business Planning and Finance Director Biondini reported that the environmental assessment of the offshore wind lease process showed no significant impacts and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is proceeding with the Humboldt Wind Energy Area auction process. The fall auction will trigger several years of planning, research and many opportunities for comment.

Assembly Bill 525 outreach workshops are being held to develop an offshore wind strategic plan which includes economic benefits for seaports, workforce investments, and permitting roadmap development. RCEA is engaging in outreach to tribal entities through Lost Coast Wind, the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association and CORE Hub. Staff is supporting the Harbor Commission's pursuit of CEC port infrastructure development funding. Staff is meeting with the Board Offshore Wind Subcommittee and Redwood Offshore Wind, the public-private partnership development consortium that will bid in the lease auction.

The group discussed terms the sale notice sets for the auction, the need for more public input direction, how RCEA will notify the community of comment opportunities in a timely₅ manner, and how RCEA will work with whichever developers win Humboldt lease blocks.

No member of the public responded to Chair Leonardi's invitation to comment. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

RCEA Legislative Platform Update

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Cissna reported on the Board-adopted Legislative Platform, which allows RCEA to more efficiently engage in state and federal policy advocacy to deliver on RePower Humboldt strategic plan goals and maintain agency programs. Staff determines what regulatory engagement is consistent with the agency's mission and policy platform. The Board Chair and Vice Chair determine whether legislative advocacy is consistent with the agency legislative platform. The Board receives quarterly legislative and regulatory engagement summaries and reviews the platform each year. The CAC will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislative platform before the Board gives final approval.

CAC members noted the absence of climate crisis policy positions and suggested taking positions on transitioning off fossil fuels and accelerating carbon emission reduction. Members requested local policy advocacy guidelines.

No member of the public responded to Chair Leonardi's invitation to comment. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Deputy Executive Director's Report

The RCEA Board postponed in-person meetings with a hybrid option due to an increase in COVID-19 transmission. The Board will reconsider in-person meetings at the Jefferson Community Center when COVID case numbers trend downward. Deputy Executive Director Verbeck and CAC members thanked staff, especially Community Strategies Manager Stephenson, and CAC members Trirogoff and Mann, for their help with a very successful airport microgrid grand opening.

Member Reports

Member Qiriazzi reported that Humboldt Transit Authority was awarded \$38.7 million state grant for hydrogen buses, fueling infrastructure, and an Old Town Eureka transit center. Mendocino and Humboldt County governments are considering merging pre-proposals for Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Grants to build regional climate effort communication capacity.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item # 4

AGENDA DATE:	September 13, 2022
TO:	Board of Directors
PREPARED BY:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Offshore Wind Project Update

BACKGROUND

The RCEA Board has included regional offshore wind energy development as part of RCEA's strategic plan since 2012, with the adoption of Humboldt County Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE), RCEA's primary guiding document. CAPE action items include:

- Working with utilities and private companies to develop off-shore wind energy demonstration projects;
- Supporting emerging energy technology development from local and non-local sources;
- Collaborating with local economic development entities to attract technology developers, manufacturers and energy service providers to the County;
- Collaborating with local jurisdictions to identify and pre-assess locations and facilities that could appropriately support energy generation projects and/or other energy-related business ventures; and
- Working with local economic development entities and financial institutions to develop programs and resources that facilitate local community investment in and/or ownership of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Subsequent community-wide visioning efforts identified pursuing offshore wind energy research, development and demonstration as an important objective. These community input gathering efforts shaped: the 2014 RePower Humboldt strategic plan for achieving energy independence and security in Humboldt County, which was completed with support from the Schatz Energy Research Center, the California Energy Commission, PG&E and many community stakeholders; the Launch Period Strategy and Targets, adopted in 2016 with the inauguration of RCEA's Community Choice Energy Program; and the 2019 RePower Humboldt strategic plan/guiding document update. In 2014, community stakeholders prioritized "local acceptance, participation, and control" as key criteria for future renewable energy resource development projects. The 2019 RePower update added support for "establishing Humboldt Bay as a west-coast hub for the offshore wind industry."

In 2018, RCEA issued a request for qualifications to seek project partners to provide the needed technical and financial resources to develop the local offshore wind resource while maintaining a local stake in planning and potential development off the Humboldt County coastline. In April 2018, the Board approved joint development of a public-private partnership agreement between RCEA, Principle Power, Inc., Aker Solutions, Inc., and EDPR Offshore North America, LLC. RCEA's project partners underwent corporate restructuring, with the resultant parties to the Cooperation Agreement consisting of OW North America LLC ("OW") and Aker Offshore Winds USA LLC ("Aker"). Recently

Aker purchased OW's interest in this offshore wind project and the Cooperation Agreement has been amended to reflect OW's departure from the Cooperation Agreement.

Project activities to date include: a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management outer continental shelf renewable energy commercial unsolicited lease request; California Independent System Operator grid interconnection study initiation; Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association engagement and grant support; support for creation of the California Fishermen's Resilience Association and a fishermen-offshore wind developer template agreement; support of Humboldt Bay Harbor District harbor infrastructure improvement grant applications; and establishment of Redwood Coast Offshore Wind, LLC, the public-private partnership company to which RCEA and Aker belong.

SUMMARY

Staff and representatives from project partners Aker Offshore Wind (Mike Olsen) will present an update on the Offshore Wind Project at this meeting.

ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

4.1.9.1 Develop Offshore Wind Energy. Work with public and private entities to develop offshore wind energy off of the north coast region's coastline, and support establishing Humboldt Bay as a west-coast hub for the offshore wind industry.

EQUITY IMPACTS

RCEA's participating membership in Redwood Coast Offshore Wind, the public-private partnership company, enables the local Humboldt community to have a unique voice when determining how the region's offshore wind resource is developed, should Redwood Coast Offshore Wind successfully bid in this year's upcoming Bureau of Ocean Energy Management lease auction. This local influence is in addition to and qualitatively different from opportunities to voice opinions and concerns when offshore wind development's environmental impacts are considered.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

N/A - information only.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Offshore Wind in California



A WORLD ELECTRIFIED BY
RENEWABLE ENERGY

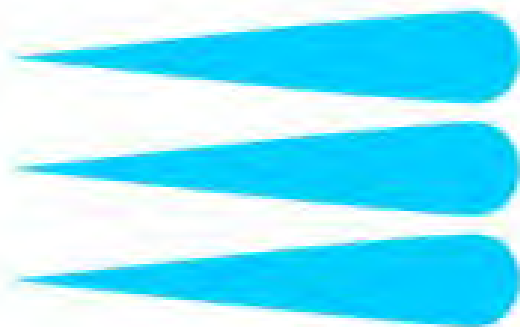
Mainstream Renewable Power Combination 27 GW Global Renewable Portfolio



AKER
OFFSHORE
WIND



MAINSTREAM
RENEWABLE
POWER



**AKER
OFFSHORE
WIND**



MAINSTREAM
RENEWABLE
POWER



Why Offshore Wind?



Clean renewable energy



No water consumption



Domestic energy source



Proximity to highest energy demand



Improvements to air quality and public health



Higher capacity factors



More attractive generation profiles



Reliability



Cost benefits afforded by economies of scale



Jobs & economic benefits

Why Humboldt?



Physical characteristics

- Excellent wind resources



Port development

- Potential for Humboldt to build up a world-class port
- Received \$11m to date in funding to promote development



Regional hub

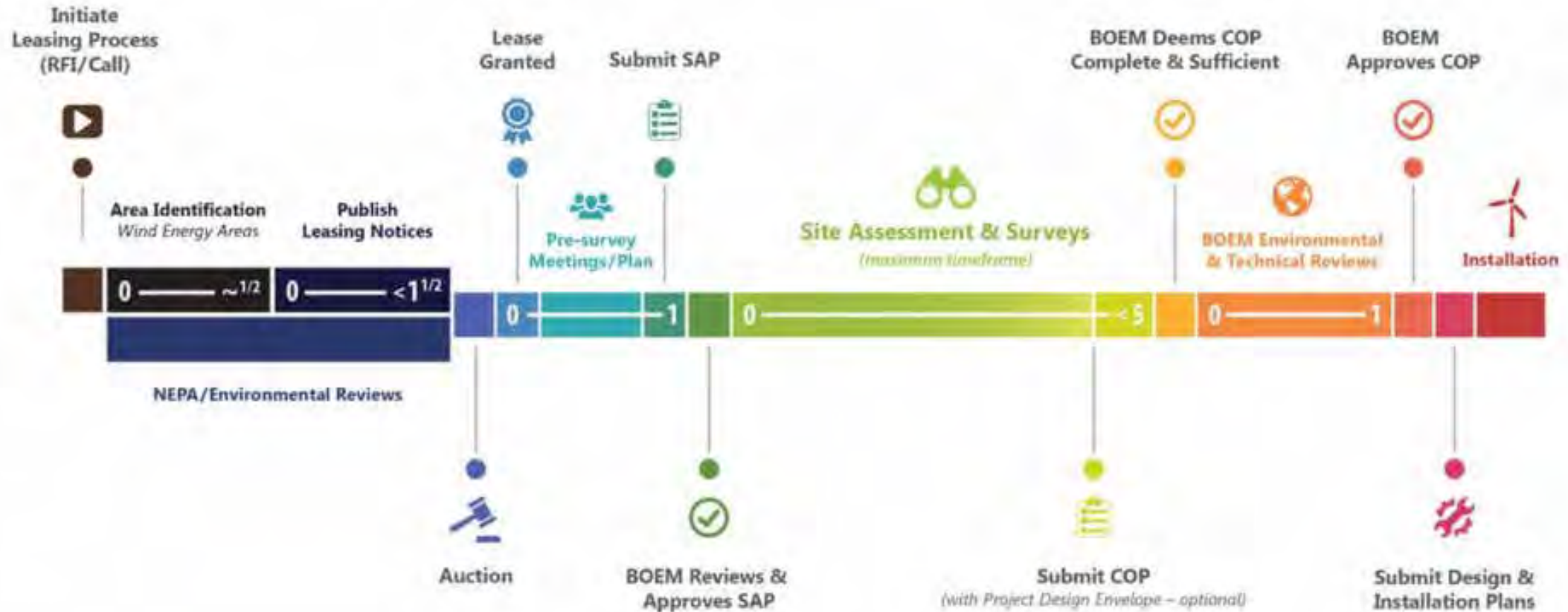
- Opportunity for Humboldt to become a regional hub for offshore wind, serving future lease areas such as Oregon and California
- Job creation and establishment of local supply chain

California Lease Auction



- > PSN was released at the end of May, triggering a 60-day public comment period
 - 5 proposed lease areas: two in Humboldt, three in Morro Bay
 - Multi-factor auction
 - Proposed bidding credits include 20% for supply chain/workforce development and 2.5% for CBA with ocean users
- > Possible auction formats
 - One single lease auction with potential for 5 winners
 - Two simultaneous lease auctions with potential for 3-5 winners
- > Further considerations
 - Developers are required to prequalify for bidding credits
 - Successful bidders are required to provide upfront bid payment to secure lease

BOEM Timeline



Supply Chain/Local Content



Thank you!



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STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item # 5

AGENDA DATE:	September 13, 2022
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	RePower Humboldt Energy Strategic Plan Update

BACKGROUND

Following approximately nine months of analysis and gathering public input, in December of 2019 the RCEA Board adopted an update to the RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan, RCEA's comprehensive action plan for energy. The plan establishes goals and strategies to guide RCEA's work over the 2020-2030 period, and is available online at:

<https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RePower-2019-Update-FINAL-.pdf>

SUMMARY

Staff intends to provide RePower Humboldt Plan updates every six months to keep the Board and Community Advisory Committee informed on implementation progress. At the meeting staff will provide a presentation on the current status of plan implementation and related activities. This will include updates on the four focus areas of the plan:

1. Regional Planning and Coordination
2. Integrated Demand Side Management
3. Low-Carbon Transportation
4. Energy Generation and Utility Services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A – Information only.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation slides will be shared at this meeting.



RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan Progress Update August 2022



RCEA's RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan

Updated December 2019 – 4 focus areas:



**Regional
Planning &
Coordination**



**Energy
Generation &
Utility Services**



**Integrated
Demand Side
Management**



**Low-carbon
Transportation**

RePower Strategic Plan – focus area goals:



**Low-carbon
Transportation**

Accelerate **electric vehicle adoption** in Humboldt County.
Goal: 6,000+ by 2025 and 22,000 by 2030.

Develop public/workplace/residential **EV charging infrastructure** to support this.

By 2030 in Humboldt County:

- Work with others to **reduce vehicle miles traveled** by at least 25%.
- **Reduce transportation GHG emissions** by 65+% through VMT reduction, improved efficiency, EV adoption, and biofuel use as a bridge to zero-emissions vehicles.

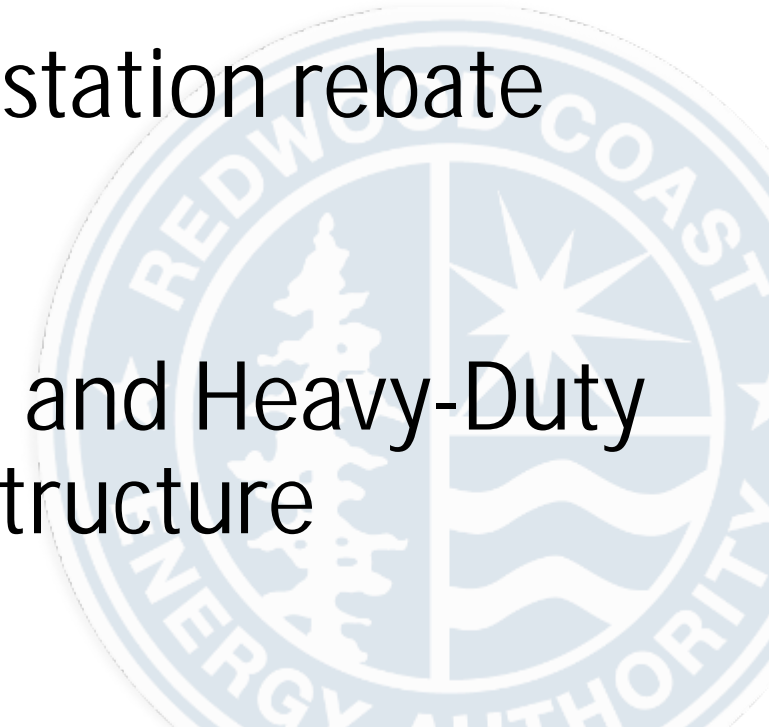
Maintain a trajectory to **eliminate fossil fuel** use by 2050.



Low-carbon
Transportation

Current activities:

- \$700,000 proposed grant award from CA Energy Commission to install additional public EV charging stations in rural areas
- Electric vehicle and charging station rebate program ongoing
- Continued work on Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure planning grant



RePower Strategic Plan – focus area goals:



**Integrated
Demand Side
Management**

Support **customer solar energy systems** installation.

Target: One system/day for the next decade

By 2030, energy efficiency and conservation services are **available to every household and business** in the county.

By 2030, **building energy efficiency, conservation and electrification programs** reduce GHG emissions from fossil fuel use by 20%. By 2050 natural gas emissions are reduced by 90%.

By 2030, a county-wide community microgrid and renewable-energy back-up power system network reduces GHG emissions and provides **long-duration emergency energy supply** at all **critical facilities**.



Integrated
Demand Side
Management

AKA:

Customer
Energy
Solutions

Current activities:

- Launched heat pump rebate program and expanded customer rebate catalog
- Submitted funding application for State-wide Rural Regional Energy Network program
- Conducted solar/storage training series for local firefighters
 - piloting solar + battery mobile unit with So. Hum. Fire Chiefs Association



RePower Strategic Plan – focus area goals:



Energy Generation & Utility Services

By 2025 100% of RCEA's **power mix** will be from solar, wind, biomass, small-hydroelectric, geothermal and existing large hydroelectric facilities.

By 2030 Humboldt County will be a **net renewable electricity exporter**. RCEA's power mix will be from 100% **local, net-zero-carbon-emission renewable sources**.

Humboldt County can **respond** to regional/local **energy disruptions** through local grid modernization, local distributed energy resources, and community microgrids.



Energy
Generation &
Utility Services

Current activities:

- Testing and approvals for airport microgrid operating in island mode completed



- Exploring other potential microgrid opportunities, particularly in northeastern Humboldt

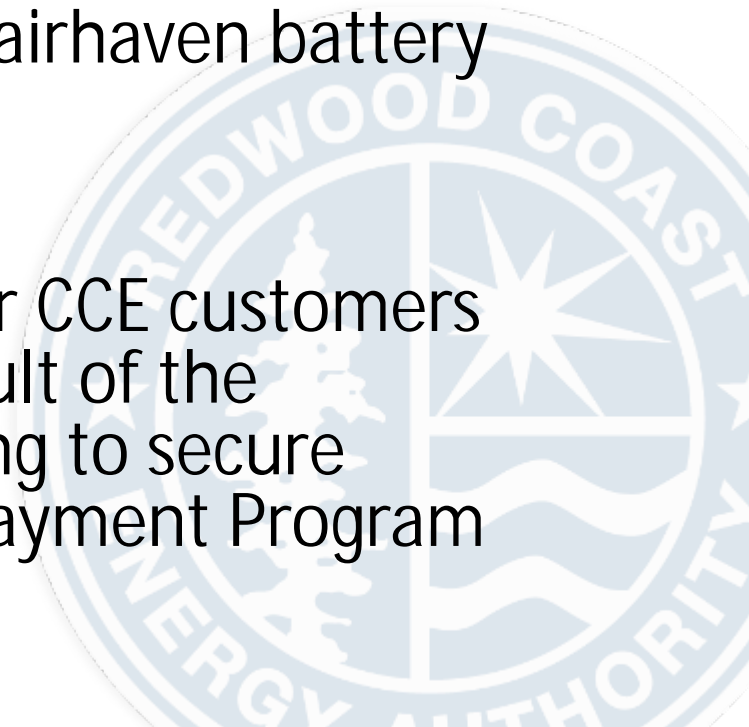




Energy Generation & Utility Services

Current activities:

- CA Community Power joint procurement to meet CA Public Utility Commission mandates:
 - 2.5 MW of Tumbleweed long-duration storage project
 - 2.0 MW of Goal Line long-duration storage project
 - 4.36 MW of new baseload geothermal
- Contracted for 17.25 MW with local Fairhaven battery storage project
- Secured \$1.46 million in bill credits for CCE customers who fell behind on payments as a result of the pandemic's economic impacts; working to secure additional funds from CA Arrearage Payment Program



RePower Strategic Plan - focus area goals:



Regional
Planning &
Coordination

Achieve **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** county-wide by 2030.

By 2030, Humboldt County is **energy secure**, affordably and reliably meeting local energy needs with local renewable resources. Robust local capabilities and infrastructure can **effectively respond to energy emergencies** or energy supply disruptions.

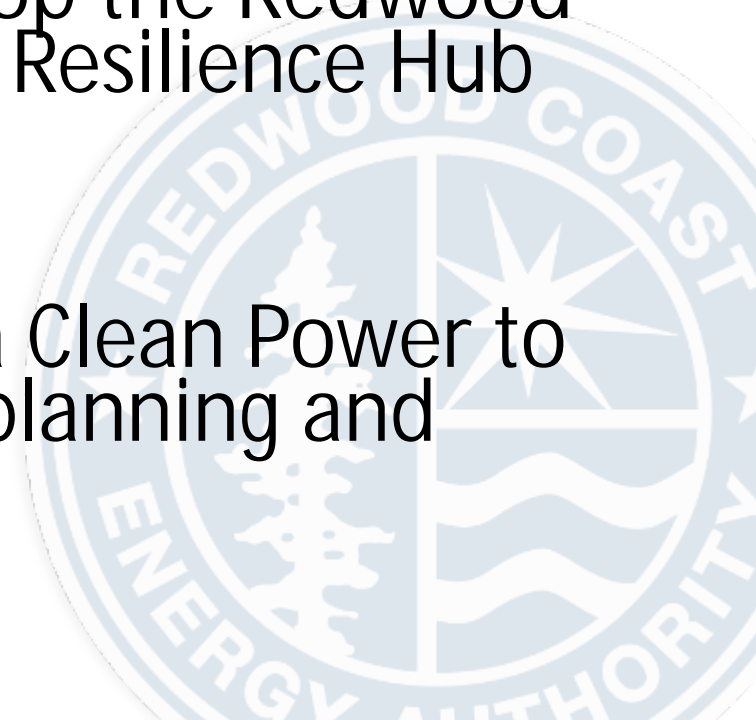
Build the clean energy sector into a local economy cornerstone through innovation, research and development, local energy-related business development, and **establishing Humboldt Bay** as the primary **offshore wind energy industry west coast hub**.



**Regional
Planning &
Coordination**

Current activities:

- Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan public review draft published in April
- Continuing to work with Humboldt Area Foundation and others to develop the Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub)
- Entered into MOU with Sonoma Clean Power to collaborate on regional energy planning and development



A photograph of three offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The turbines are white with yellow bases and are mounted on yellow jackets. The sky is blue with white clouds. The text "Offshore Wind Update" is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

Offshore Wind Update



Regional Planning & Coordination

Offshore Wind:

- Continuing work with development partners and local stakeholders
- With mini-grant from RCEA, Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association established joint non-profit: CA Fishermen's Resilience Association
 - Represents the port associations for Crescent City, Trinidad Bay, Humboldt Bay, Shelter Cove, Fort Bragg/Noyo, Bodega Bay and San Francisco.
 - With RCEA funding CFRA developed a template "Fishing Community Benefit Agreement for Offshore Wind Development"
- Contracted with local consulting team "Lost Coast Wind" to support RCEA with Tribal engagement



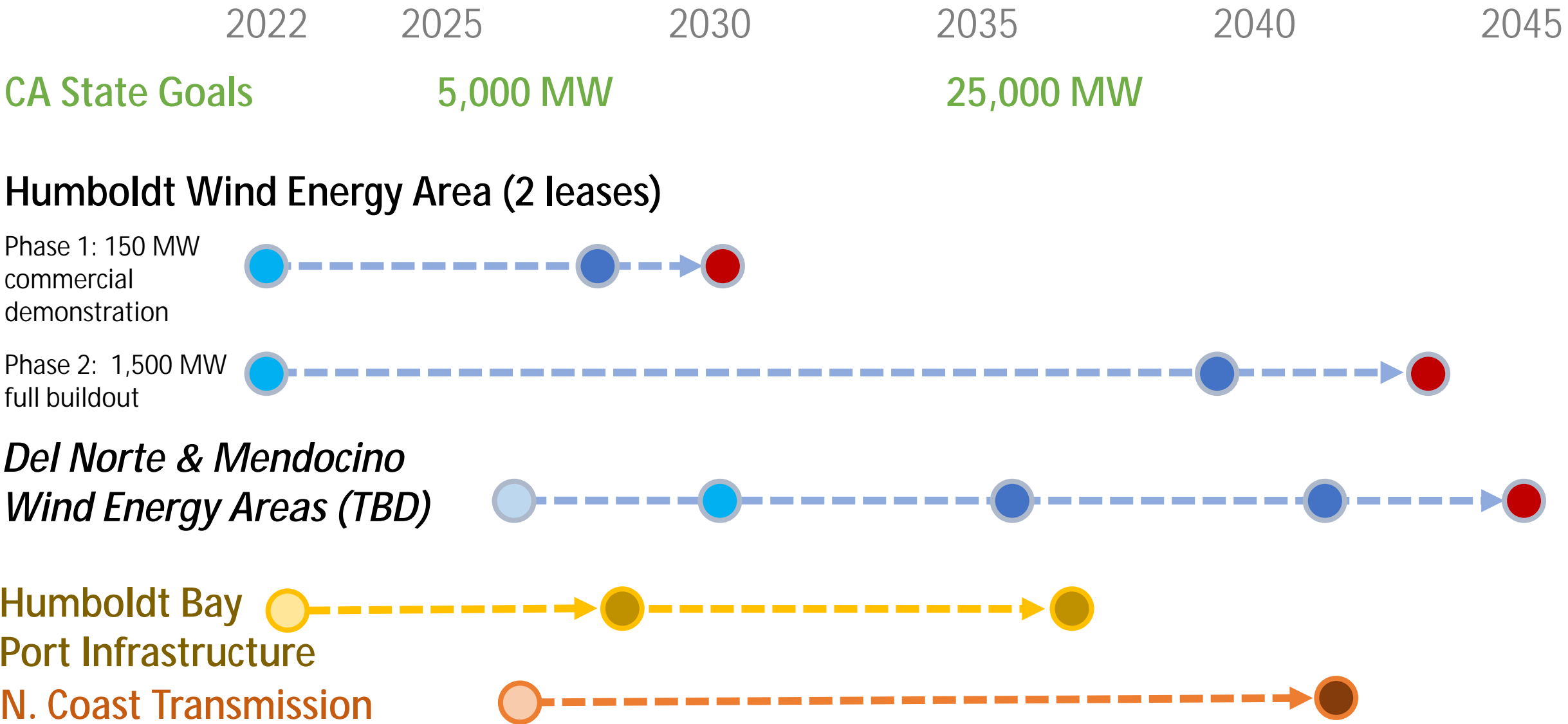
Regional Planning & Coordination

Offshore Wind:

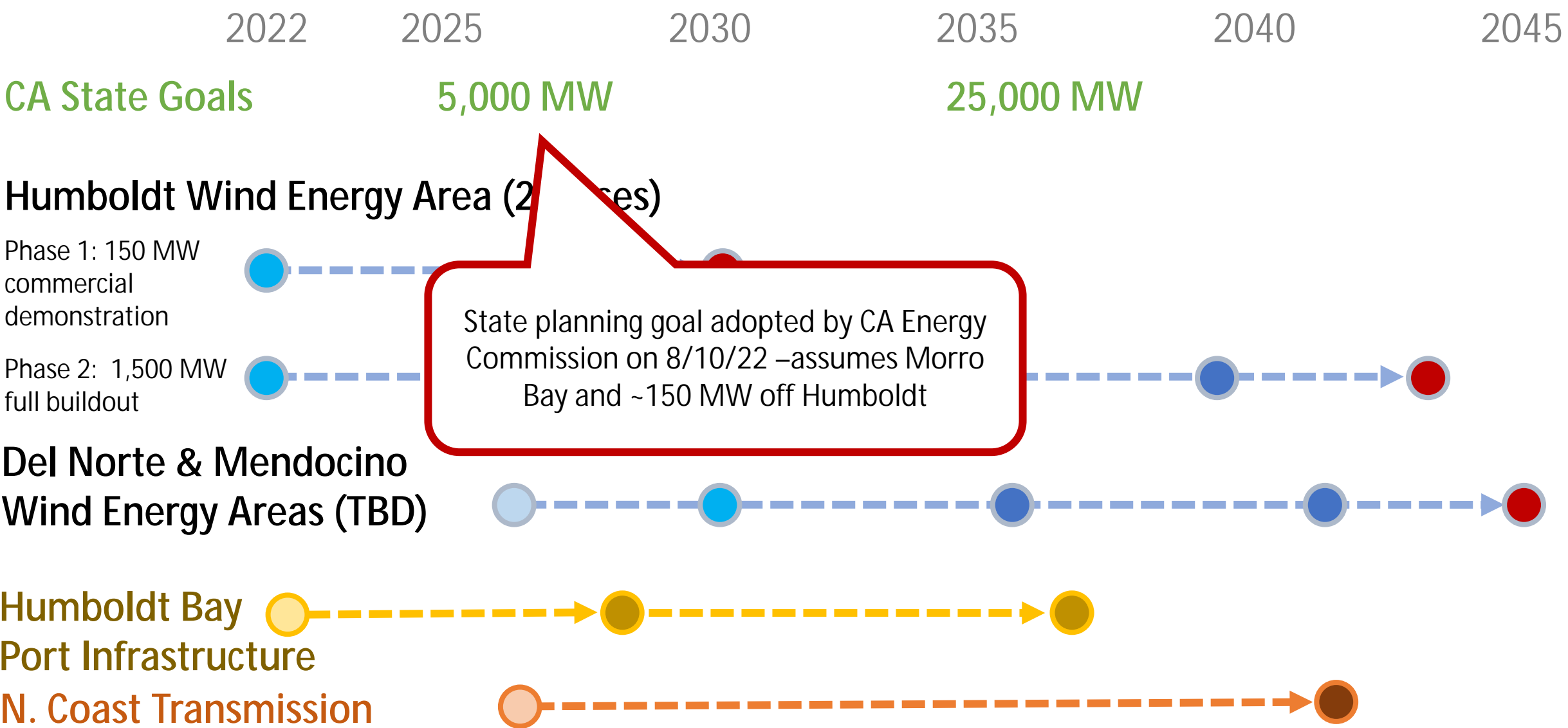
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on track for lease auction in the coming months
 - Completed environment assessment
 - Received CA Coastal Commission consistency determination
 - Issued Proposed Sale Notice, completed public comment period
 - Auction can be held as soon as 30 days after publication of the Final Sale Notice.
- On 8/10 the State adopted ambitious target for California offshore wind development



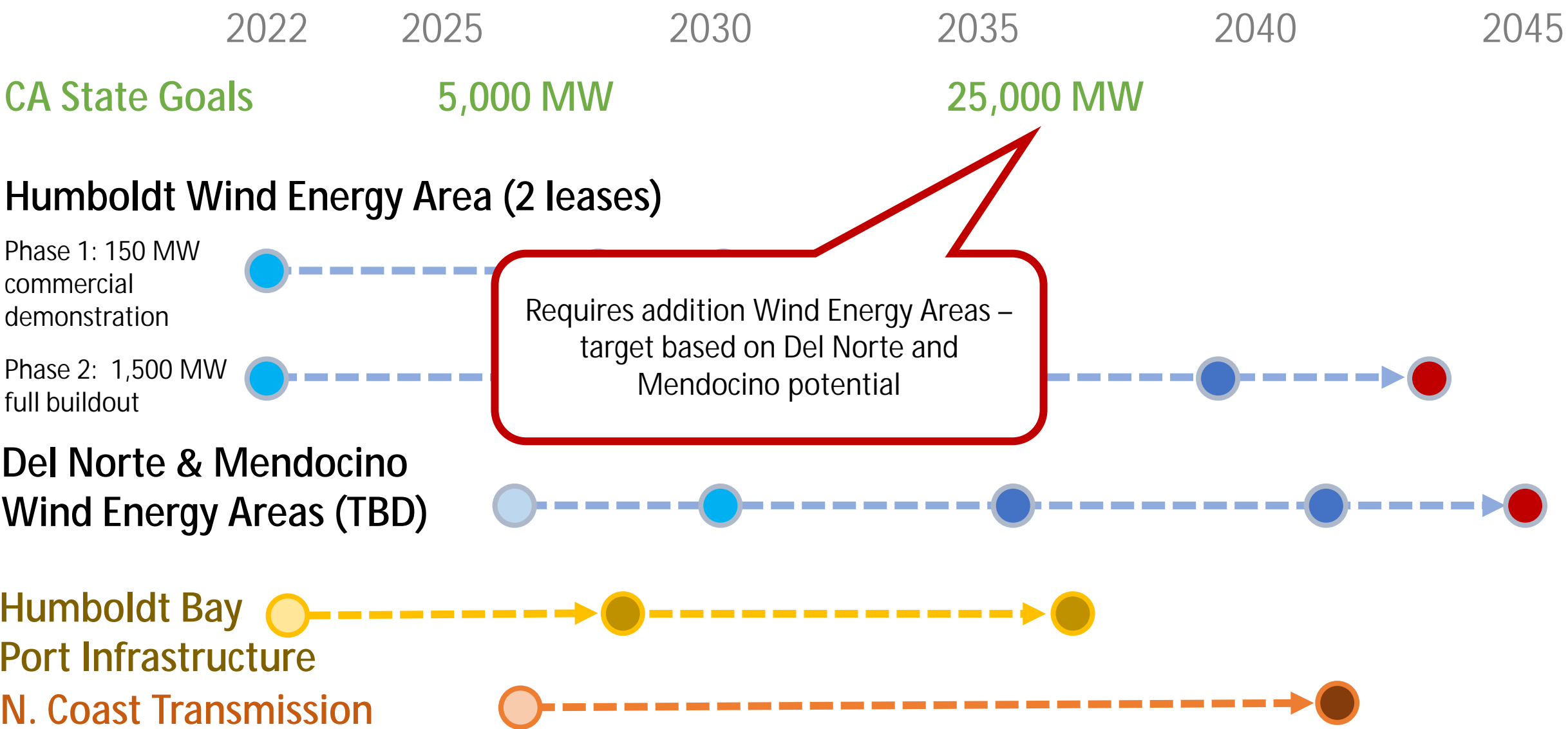
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



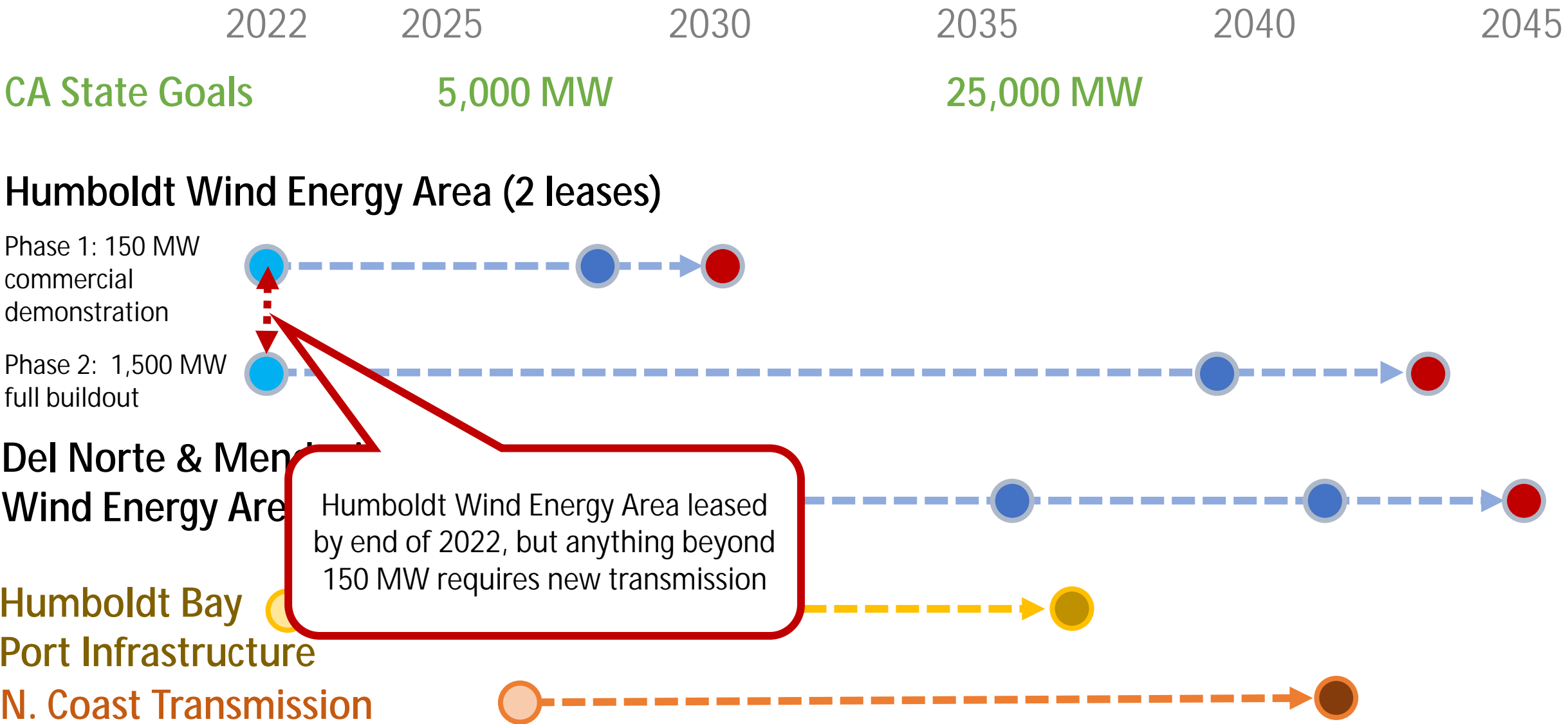
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



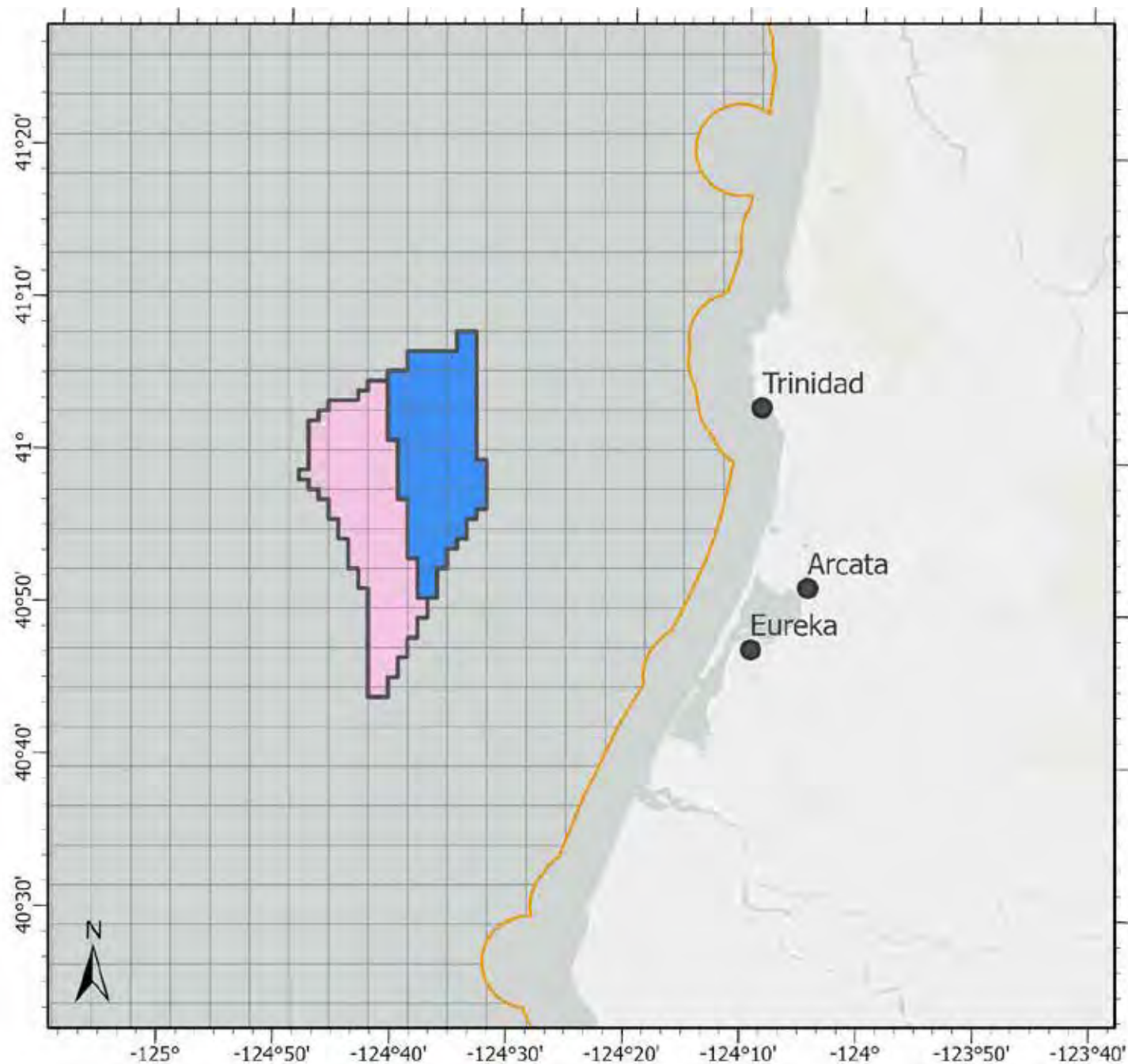
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



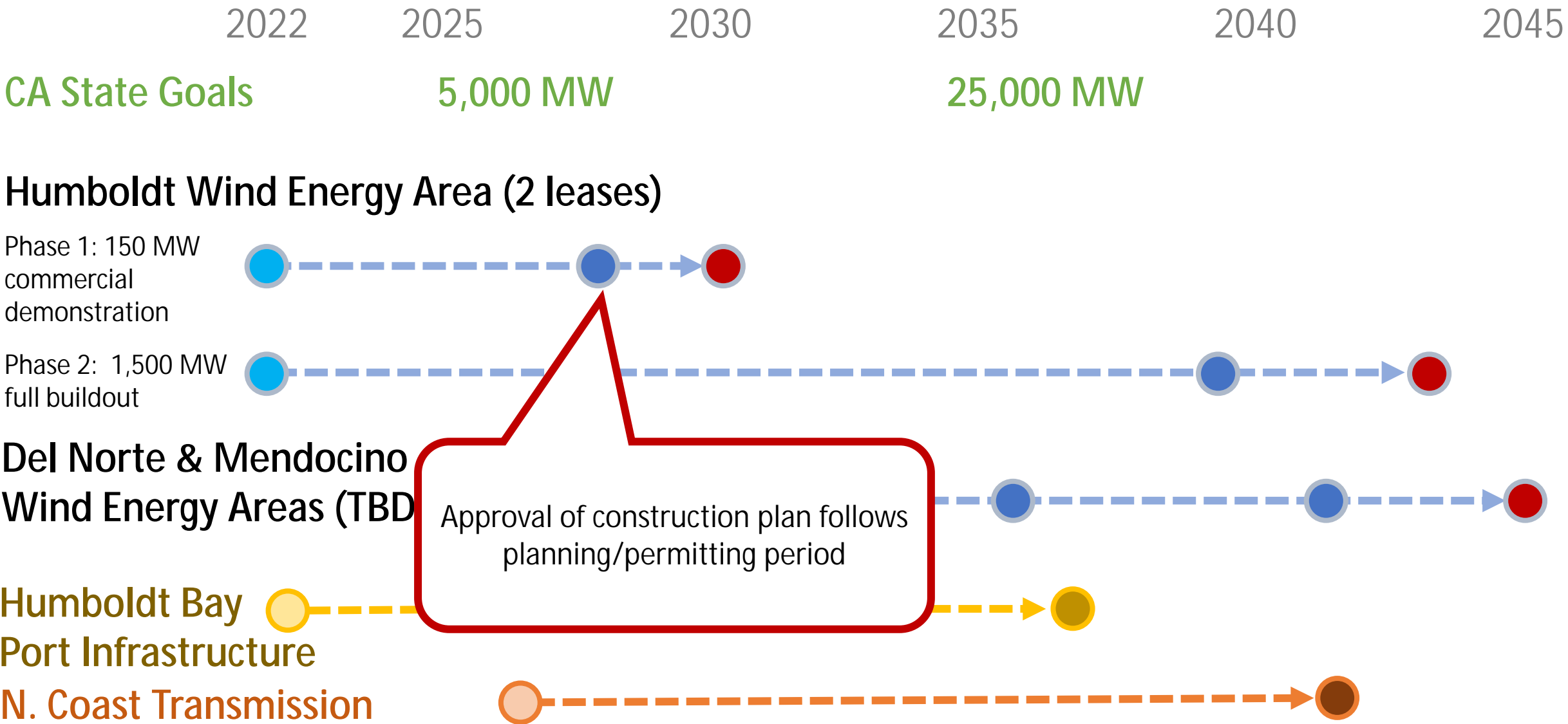
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



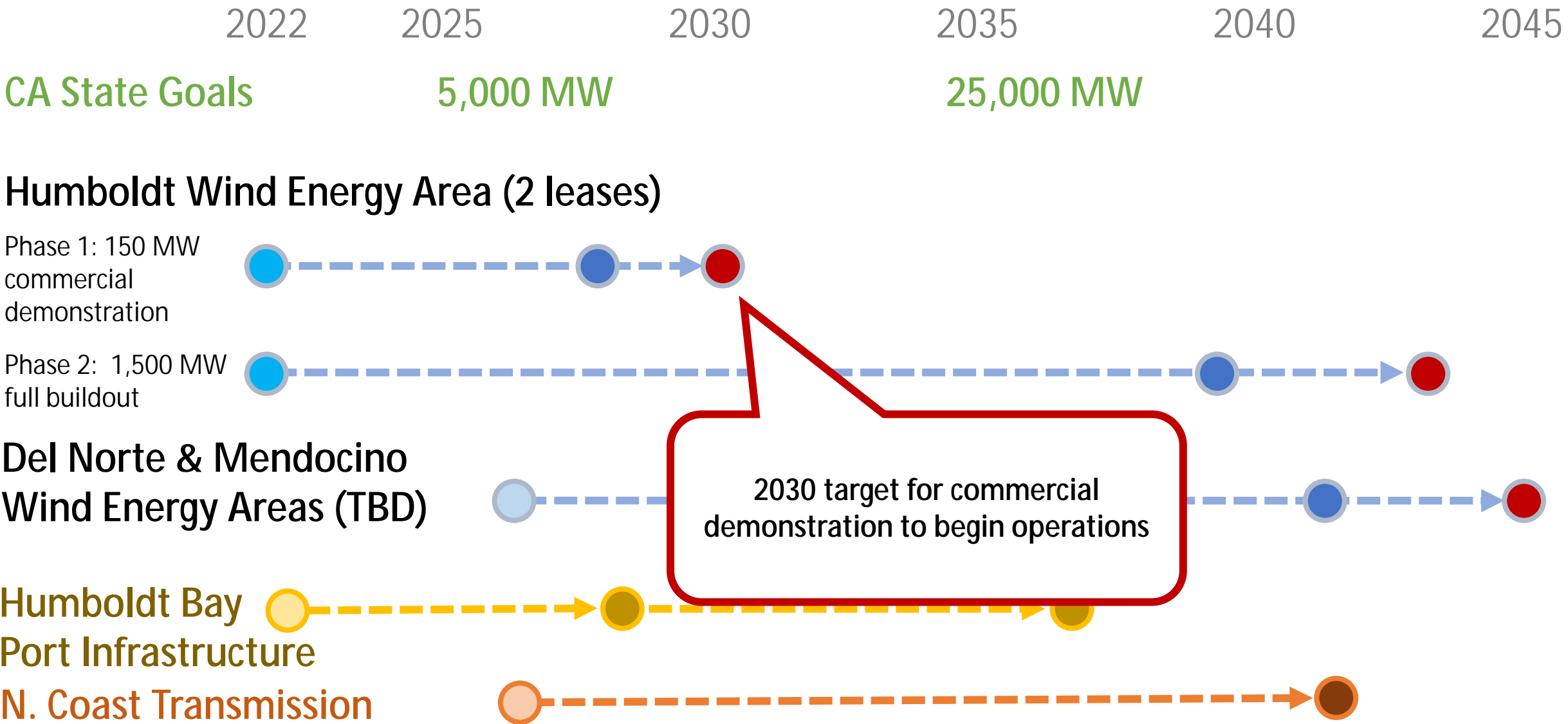
BOEM's
proposed
Humboldt
offshore wind
lease areas



CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



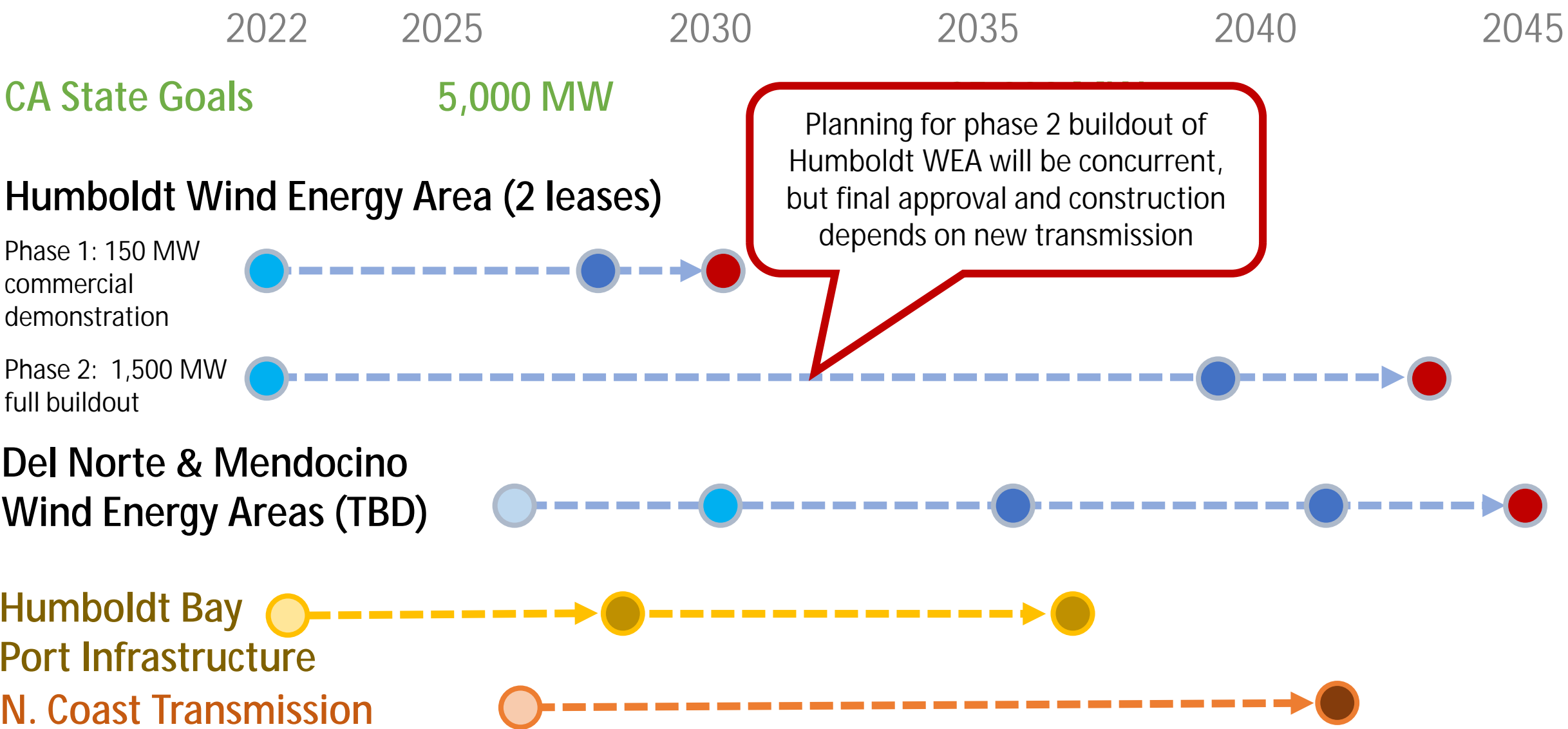
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



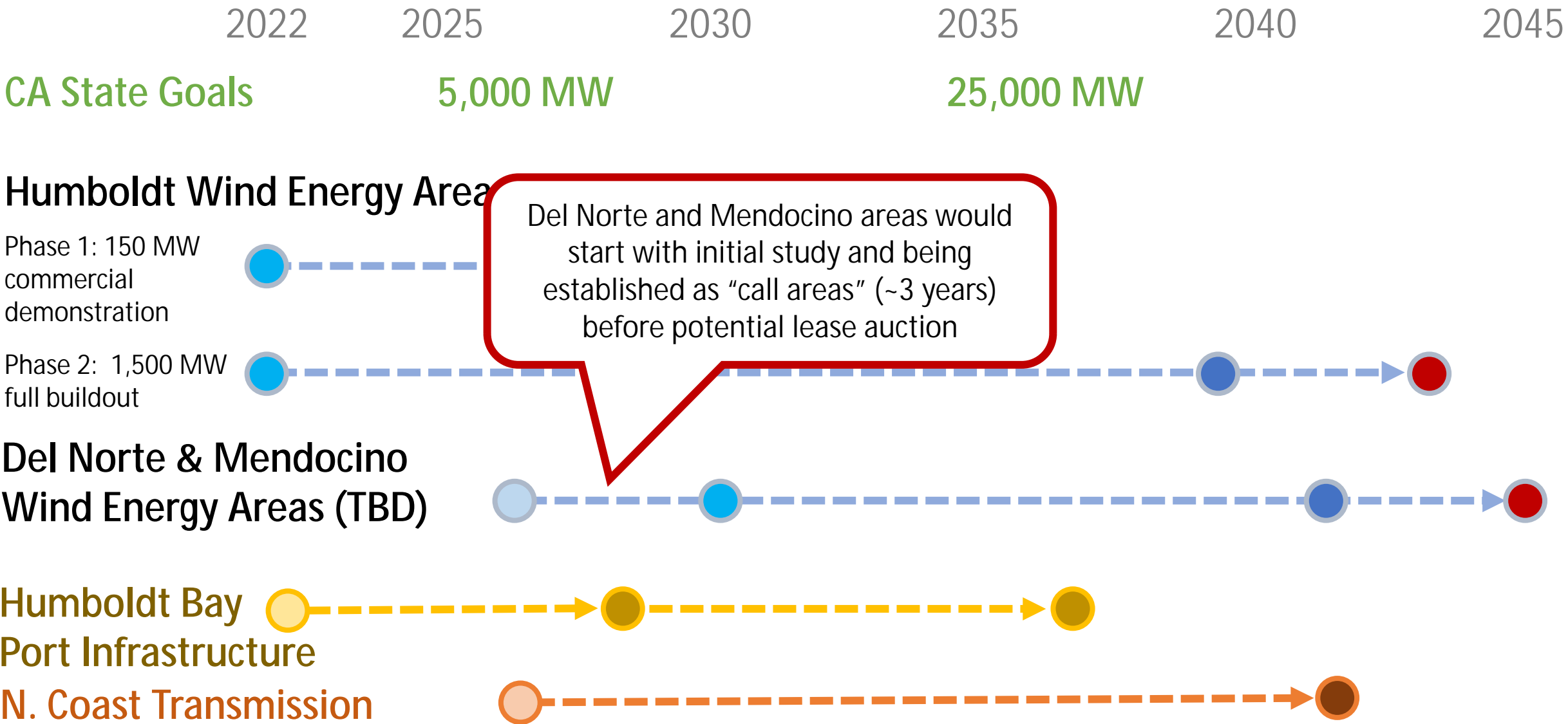
150 MW proposed Redwood Coast Offshore Wind Commercial Demonstration Project



CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



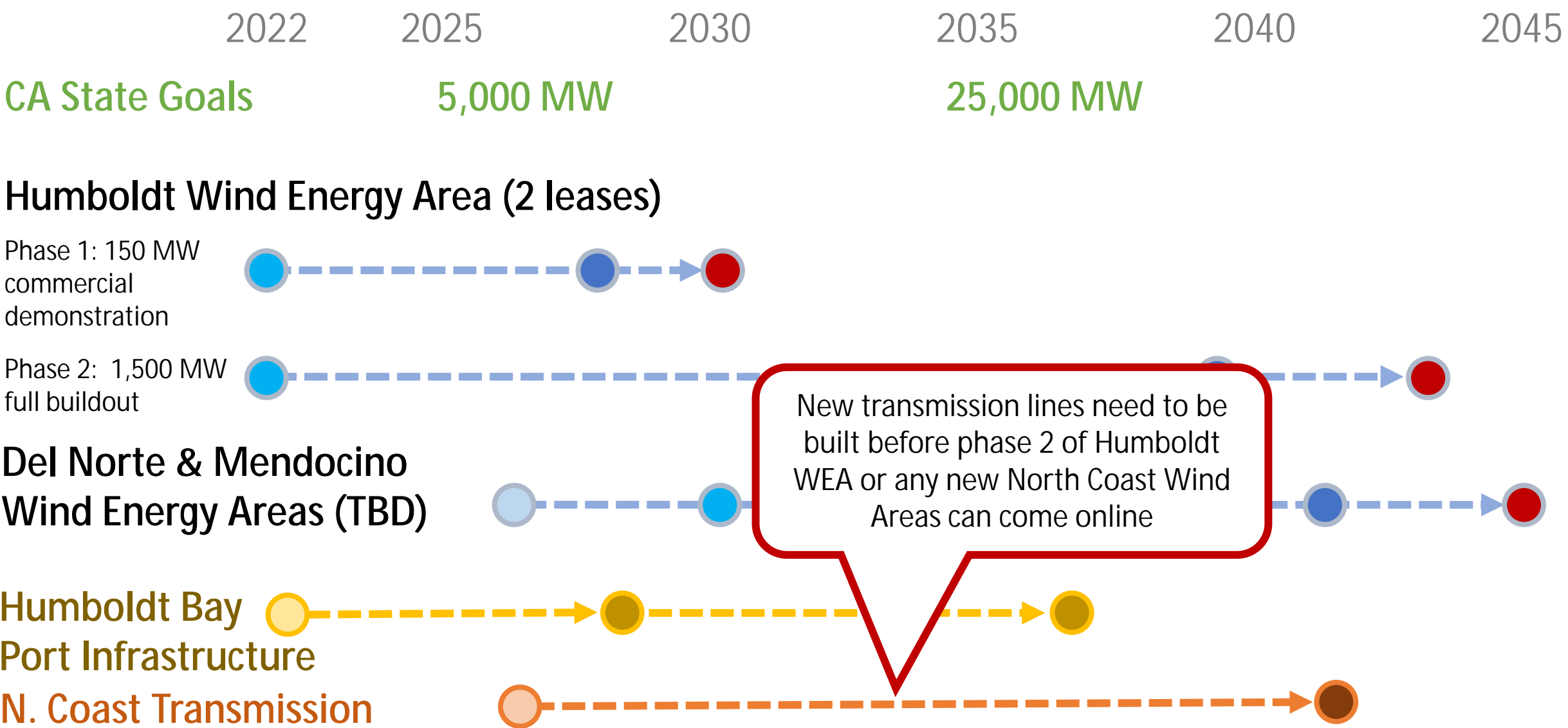
CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



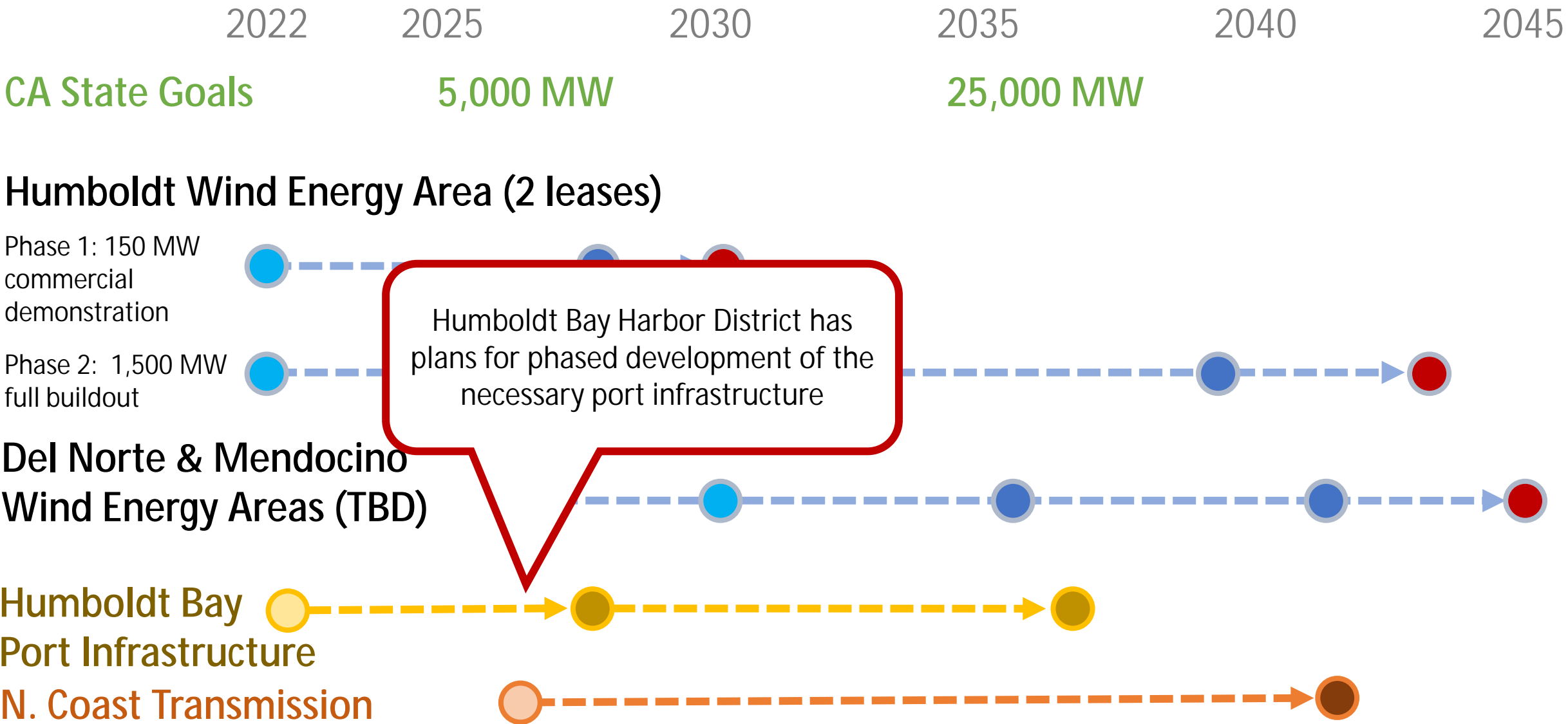
Assumption behind State 2045 planning goal



CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline



CA North Coast Offshore Wind Energy Projected Development Timeline





Aker Offshore Wind



Aker Offshore Wind





REDWOOD COAST
EnergyAuthority



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item # 6

AGENDA DATE:	September 13, 2022
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Local Major Projects

BACKGROUND

Prior to the adoption of the CAC goals in February 2022, the CAC formed a Major Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee to draft and present recommended comments to the North McKay Ranch Development project's draft environmental impact report. The evaluation and input provided by the CAC focused on the proposed project's impact on RePower Humboldt strategic plan goals. The CAC Major Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee sunset date coincided with the approval of the comment letter by the Board and the designation of a process for the CAC to provide input for local projects moving forward.

Based on the feedback from this process the CAC created work goal B, *monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals and notify staff of community activities and projects that may have significant impact on the ability to reach these goals.*

Further clarification from the Board outlines the process for the CAC to discuss local major projects as it relates to work goal B as follows:

1. If CAC members see a need to comment on or engage with a local project in development in ways that are within RCEA's scope, they notify RCEA Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director.
2. If staff agrees that engaging with project developers is appropriate for RCEA, then staff will follow up or request volunteers for an ad hoc CAC Major Projects Subcommittee specific to a particular project for assistance in drafting comments.
3. If it is unclear whether engagement falls within RCEA's scope, staff will check with the Board for direction.
4. It is more productive for RCEA to engage and provide input early in the development process, rather than when the project is soliciting public comment (e.g. RCEA provided Nordic Aquafarms with technical input prior to the solicitation for public comments).
5. If RCEA has not been invited to provide input and RePower strategies are not accounted for in project plans, then it is appropriate for RCEA to comment during the public comment phase.

SUMMARY

Staff proposes having a standing agenda item at each CAC meeting to provide an opportunity for CAC members to bring forward any upcoming projects or plans that may impact RCEA's ability to meet the Repower goals. If staff agrees that a project is within RCEA scope, staff will engage with developers of the project in early stages or a project-specific CAC ad hoc subcommittee will be formed to develop comments to present to the Board if the project is in the public comment phase.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A – Discussion and Information only.



STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 7

AGENDA DATE:	September 13, 2022
TO:	Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Richard Engel, Director of Power Resources
SUBJECT:	Update on Alternative Uses of Biomass Subcommittee Activity

BACKGROUND

The Community Advisory Committee formed an Alternative Biomass Uses Ad Hoc Subcommittee at its October 2020 meeting. The scope of work for this ad hoc subcommittee was to draft a proposal to the RCEA Board on RCEA's involvement in alternative biomass use options. The sunset date for this ad hoc subcommittee is after the proposal is submitted to the RCEA Board for approval and the establishment of a Biomass Technical Advisory Group. The RCEA Board has received the report and the only outstanding item is the formation of the Biomass Technical Advisory Group.

The Community Advisory Committee's Alternative Biomass Uses Ad Hoc Subcommittee met on September 1, 2022. CAC member Norman Bell and community member Wendy Ring who made comments on biomass to the CAC at its July 2022 meeting joined the meeting as guests. The meeting covered the following topics:

- A recap of the first annual report presentation to the RCEA Board on RCEA's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Humboldt Sawmill Company (HSC) regarding potential alternative biomass uses
- Updates on other local biomass plants and RCEA's biomass procurement
- Establishment of a Biomass Technical Advisory Group
- Process improvement for future annual reports from HSC's MOU
- Follow-up on public comment and ensuing CAC discussion on biomass power at the CAC's July 12, 2022, meeting

This report presents material that the subcommittee agreed to bring to the full CAC for discussion.

SUMMARY

Staff presented the subcommittee with a proposal for implementing item 4.1.11.4 from RCEA's RePower strategic plan, "Establish a Biomass Technical Advisory Committee." The diagram below shows the proposed process for establishing a Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG). The first step was completed at the subcommittee meeting, with staff asking the

subcommittee members for suggestions on what interest groups should be represented on the biomass technical advisory group (BTAG), providing some examples for discussion. Subcommittee members offered additional ideas.

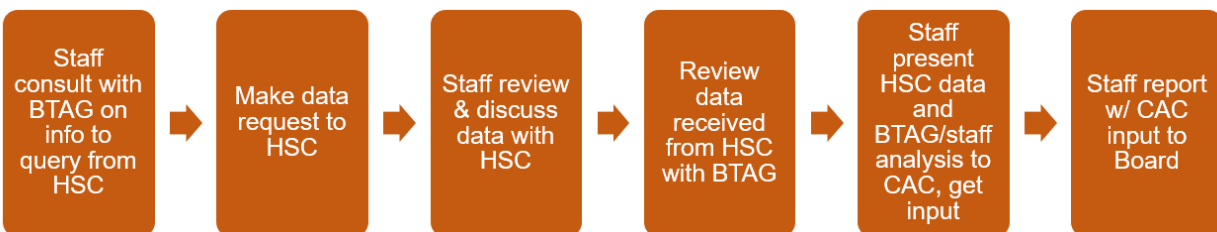


The discussion concluded with the following list of stakeholder interest groups and some specific organizations proposed for representation on BTAG:

- Tribal/traditional ecological
- Forest products industry
- Agricultural producers (soil carbon interest)
- Energy industry
- Environmental groups
- Public health/air quality
- Federal and state regulators
 - CalFIRE
 - California Natural Resources Agency
- Academic/research
 - UC Extension
- Local agencies (other than RCEA members)
 - HCAOG
- Communities of practice
 - Watershed Research & Training Center (Trinity Co.)
 - CalForest WRX Alliance
- Vulnerable communities

Subcommittee members commented that it may be challenging to build such a group from scratch and that an organization such as the CORE Hub that already has built extensive stakeholder networks could act as a bridge to other community groups with interest in biomass energy and alternative biomass uses.

The subcommittee also discussed a staff proposal for process improvements to the annual consultation with HSC per the MOU. The proposal presented is shown in the diagram below:



The subcommittee members were generally supportive of this proposed process.

The subcommittee discussed whether a recommendation should be passed on to the RCEA Board to commit to a specific sunset date for RCEA procurement of biomass power from direct combustion power plants such as HSC, as a means of implementing RePower strategic plan item 4.1.11.6: “Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest-Derived

Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material.” A proposal was considered for this sunset to take place when RCEA’s current contract with HSC ends in 2031.

CAC members are invited to provide input on the above items, with CAC recommendations to be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

4.1.11.2 Procure Local Biomass Energy. Contract with local biomass facilities as a means of providing locally generated renewable power and managing wood waste from mills and, when feasible and appropriate, from forest management and restoration activities. Require and support a high standard of environmental performance from RCEA’s biomass suppliers. Support the deployment of the best-available emissions control technologies, recognizing that power producers’ ability to implement such technologies is affected by the price they are paid for their power and term length of contracts.

4.1.11.3 Investigate the Impacts of Biomass Emissions. Support research and quantification of the gross and net emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants associated with local biomass energy production, and the potential emissions reductions associated with disposing of biomass feedstocks by other means. Support development of a locally specific model to estimate human exposure to criteria pollutants from biomass power plants under different operating scenarios. Adjust RCEA’s biomass power procurement strategy as appropriate based on these findings and power producers’ progress in limiting emissions, and in keeping with achieving RCEA’s power mix goals for 2025 and 2030. Consider power producers’ historic emissions performance in making procurement decisions.

4.1.11.4 Establish a Biomass Technical Advisory Committee. Create a technical advisory committee made up of local government representatives; state and federal natural resource agencies; and subject matter experts on biomass energy, public health, the local forest products industry, and environmental impacts associated with biomass energy. The committee shall meet periodically and provide a quarterly report to the RCEA Board of Directors on technical feasibility and financial, environmental, and health implications of biomass use alternatives.

4.1.11.6 Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest-Derived Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material. Investigate and pursue development funding for alternative pathways that could address local forest products industry biowaste management needs, including:

- Repowering of the existing biomass plants to substantially reduce emissions and/or improve efficiency
- Emerging biomass energy technologies, including but not limited to gasification, torrefaction, and briquetting
- Non-energy products, including but not limited to biochar and durable goods

Limit procurement of biomass power from existing direct combustion plants to short-to-midterm contracts, recognizing that power producers’ ability to reduce their emission output is affected by the price they are paid for their power and term length of contracts. Pursue partnerships with others, including research organizations and interested public agencies, in development of pilot projects to produce low-emissions energy as a means of treating mill waste and where feasible

sequestering the carbon in this material; where potential nonenergy products are identified, refer potential pilot projects to appropriate stakeholders.

EQUITY IMPACTS

Criteria pollutants from biomass combustion at power plants in RCEA's service area do not impact all communities equally. Reduction of RCEA's biomass procurement from existing plants, through development of alternative uses of biomass residuals or other means, could improve equity in pollution exposure across Humboldt County. However, recognizing economic opportunity as another important equity matter, biomass power also provides jobs in the community for workers at a variety of skill levels. It is not clear how replacement of biomass power production with alternative uses of biomass would affect employment or what the related equity impacts would be.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Under current contractual terms, procurement of biomass energy is financially favorable to RCEA as compared with procuring energy, renewable energy certificates and resource adequacy through alternative sources.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The subcommittee requests that the CAC provide input on

1. The proposed Biomass Technical Advisory Group formation methods,
2. Humboldt Sawmill Company MOU implementation improvements, and
3. Whether a recommendation should be passed on to the RCEA Board to commit to a specific sunset date for RCEA procurement of biomass power from direct combustion power plants such as HSC, as a means of implementing RePower strategic plan item 4.1.11.6.

ATTACHMENTS

A presentation will be made at the CAC meeting.



Update on Alternative Uses of Biomass Subcommittee Activity

Presentation to RCEA's
Community Advisory Committee
September 13, 2022



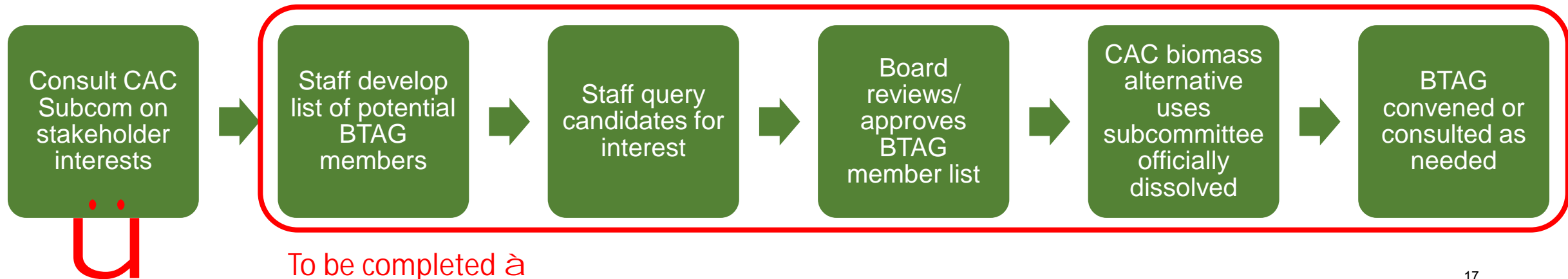
Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee's Recommendations to the CAC

The subcommittee requests that the CAC provide input on:

1. The proposed Biomass Technical Advisory Group formation methods
2. Humboldt Sawmill Company MOU implementation improvements
3. Whether a recommendation should be passed on to the RCEA Board to commit to a specific sunset date for RCEA procurement of biomass power from direct combustion power plants such as HSC, as a means of implementing RePower strategic plan item 4.1.11.6.

Establishment of Biomass Technical Advisory Group

- RCEA's RePower strategic plan calls for establishment of a Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG)
- At the CAC biomass alternative uses subcommittee's 9/1/2022 meeting, staff requested input on what stakeholder interests should be represented in BTAG membership
- Per prior agreement, establishment of BTAG will trigger dissolution of CAC biomass alternative uses subcommittee



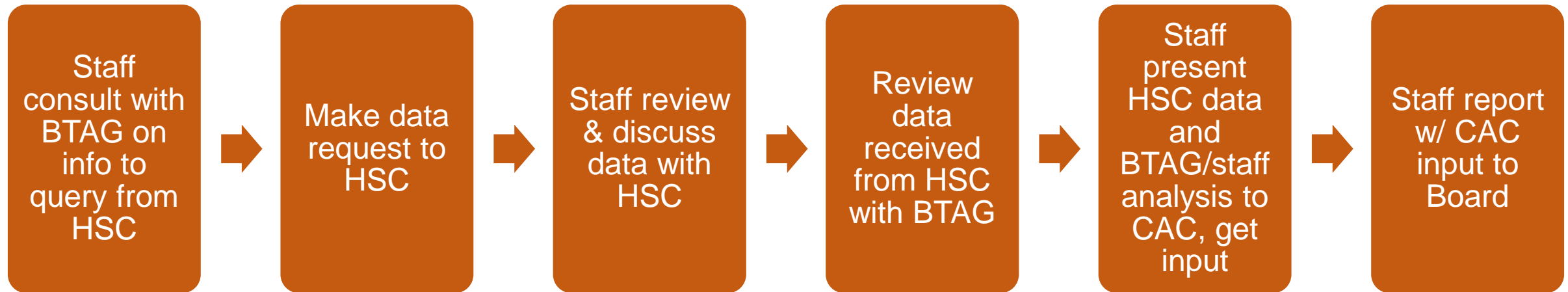
Proposed Stakeholder Interests to Be Represented on Biomass Technical Advisory Group (BTAG)

- Tribal/traditional ecological
- Forest products industry
- Agricultural producers (soil carbon interest)
- Energy industry
- Environmental groups
- Public health/air quality
- Federal and state regulators
 - CalFIRE
 - California Natural Resources Agency
- Academic/research
 - UC Extension
- Local agencies (other than RCEA members)
 - HCAOG
- Communities of practice
 - Watershed Research & Training Center (Trinity Co.)
 - CalForest WRX Alliance
- Vulnerable communities

CAC Input?

Process improvement for future annual reports from HSC MOU

- In this first reporting year, staff met with HSC staff, obtained data from them, did some analysis and reported back to RCEA Board
- Opportunity to involve BTAG and full CAC (subcommittee will have dissolved by then) in the process to bring additional community perspectives to the Board as part of the MOU reporting process



CAC Input?

From RCEA's RePower Strategic Plan (2019 update):

4.1.11.6 Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest-Derived Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material. Investigate and pursue development funding for alternative pathways that could address local forest products industry biowaste management needs, including:

- Repowering of the existing biomass plants to substantially reduce emissions and/or improve efficiency
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- Non-energy products, including but not limited to biochar and durable goods

Limit procurement of biomass power from existing direct combustion plants to short-to-midterm contracts, recognizing that power producers' ability to reduce their emission output is affected by the price they are paid for their power and term length of contracts. Pursue partnerships with others, including research organizations and interested public agencies, in development of pilot projects to produce low-emissions energy as a means of treating mill waste and where feasible sequestering the carbon in this material; where potential nonenergy products are identified, refer potential pilot projects to appropriate stakeholders.

Does the CAC wish to make a recommendation to the RCEA Board to commit to a specific sunset date for RCEA procurement of biomass power from direct combustion power plants such as HSC?

Public Comment

September 13, 2022

Community Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting

Agenda Item 7 - Biomass Discussion

As a medical and public health professional who has dedicated over 20 years to improving the health of Humboldt's most vulnerable residents, I call on RCEA's Community Advisory Committee to pressure RCEA to make good on its commitment in the RePower Plan to end biomass combustion. Biomass combustion is NOT in the public interest and it is the CAC's job to represent that interest. RCEA had years to establish its promised Biomass Technical Advisory Committee and had no interest in doing so until now, when they are being pressed to stop burning biomass. A Technical Advisory Committee is not a bad thing but it is not a substitute for a committee whose mission is to represent the community's interests. The CAC should keep advocating for what is best for the community with regards to biomass even if a new technical committee is constituted.

While biomass is renewable, it is neither clean, nor carbon free. Biomass plants are federally designated major sources of air pollution with emission standards based, not on public safety, but on the EPA's finding that the best available controls can't make them any cleaner than coal.

Biomass pollution doesn't just harm people living nearby. Fine particulates can stay in the air for many days and travel hundreds of miles. The science is clear that even low levels of exposure cause heart attacks, lung disease, hospitalizations, and premature death. Requiring each community with a power plant to have its own study proving harm, aka the "show me the bodies", before taking action is a shameful delaying tactic that runs counter to the basic tenets of epidemiology and public health. No one would expect every coal fired power plant to undergo this kind of study before being shut down. Biomass is as dirty as coal.

Humboldt Redwoods' biomass plant burns mill waste, not slash, so it doesn't prevent forest fires. In fact, it increases the risk of fire by emitting tons of greenhouse gas that will not be reabsorbed from the atmosphere fast enough to avoid climate catastrophe. Wildfires and drought are also decreasing air quality in our county. The American Lung Association's State of the Air Report for 2022 gave Humboldt County a C for 24 hour fine particulate pollution and indicated that our annual average fine particulate exposure is increasing and is only a few decimal points away from violating the new air quality standard recommended to the EPA by its expert panel. The American Lung Association counts over 50,000 Humboldt residents who are particularly vulnerable to health harms from fine particulates. The best way to protect these residents is to decrease fine particulate emissions from the sources we can control.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, and the American Public Health Association have declared that biomass combustion plants are harmful to human health and should not be supported with public dollars.

RCEA's practice of prioritizing local renewable energy, regardless of pollutant and carbon emissions, does not serve our county well. We ask that you place a higher value on protecting the health of current residents and future generations by putting public health and climate first and prioritizing clean carbon-free power over dirty local energy.

With only 8 years remaining until the current biomass contract ends, another timber company talking about building a new biomass plant, and a draft climate action plan that could easily lead to increased biomass combustion as local electricity demand increases, the CAC must take a stand now that polluting and carbon emitting power plants should not be a part of RCEA's "clean energy" portfolio. Please ask the RCEA board to commit now to:

- 1) No increases in biomass energy between now and 2030

- 2) No biomass combustion energy after 2030.
- 3) Only contracting with new non-combustion biomass plants which have pollution controls that reduce emissions to at least the level of a natural gas fired power plant and capture of at least 90% of carbon emissions.
- 4) Passing a resolution that reorders its priorities to put public health and climate first, above local, when making energy procurement decisions

There are a couple of other points I want to address: Whose responsibility is it to end biomass combustion? Won't someone else just buy the electricity if we don't? Is biomass really comparable in cost to other sources of clean energy?

We have learned from the plastic waste debacle that companies trying to foist the responsibility for their waste onto the public by claiming that users should recycle just doesn't work. This has failed so badly that countries and states like CA have adopted a policy of extended producer responsibility which requires producers of products packaged in plastic to take financial responsibility for recycling the plastic. If that cuts into their profits, so be it. The same concept should apply to the timber industry. It is not the responsibility of RCEA or our community to pay for recycling mill waste with our utility bills or our health. Investing in alternatives for mill waste is a cost of doing business that the industry should have to shoulder.

The CCA should ask for numbers to back up RCEA staff's assertion that power purchase agreements for truly clean energy are more expensive than PPAs for biomass. I've looked at reports of PPA pricing and haven't found this to be true. Even if the PPA cost is equal, those prices do not include the social cost of carbon or particulates. If you add those into the equation, biomass costs us many millions more each year. By financially supporting biomass combustion, RCEA is participating in the industry's practice of externalizing these costs onto the public.

If HRC could sell their power so easily to others, they would not care if RCEA didn't buy it, but instead we've seen them repeatedly pressure the RCEA board to continue. Most of CA electricity is purchased by community choice aggregation entities and at least one large CCA has dropped biomass from their definition of clean energy. When a group of CCAs recently got together to purchase clean firm power, the other CCAs influenced the group's decision to choose batteries over biomass.

Even if others did buy HRC's power output, RCEA joining the movement to buy only truly clean energy will help HRC see that the writing is on the wall and that being a socially responsible company means investing in other alternatives.

Alternatives do exist. Biomass is valuable feedstock for carbon sequestration, hydrogen production, jet fuel, and bio-plastic. All of this is happening now commercially in the US. By helping to end biomass combustion we can be part of turning a climate problem into a climate solution. Please help give the RCEA board a push to do the right thing.

Sincerely, Wendy Ring MD, MPH

Materials Submitted

After Agenda

Publication



County of Humboldt
Water Storage and Renewable Energy System Grants
UPDATED Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) v03

Renewable Energy System Program

1. Funds may be awarded for eligible projects that replace gas/diesel/propane powered generators used for commercial cannabis cultivation operations with renewable energy systems.
2. Funds may be used for purchase and/or installation of renewable energy system infrastructure, and engineering for renewable energy systems.
3. Funds may be used to establish a property's connection to the commercial power grid
4. Other expenses may also be funded if reductions in gas/diesel/propane powered generator use are documented.
5. Funds may be applied toward permitting fees associated with eligible renewable energy projects.

Renewable Energy Grant Program

Client	Monthly fuel consumed	# GHG/mo.	% projected savings
#1	37	722	99%
#2	300	5,910	17%
#3	300	5,910	90%
#4	460	8,865	86%
#5	412	8,107	81%
#6	147	2,889	34%
#7	30	591	100%
#8	233	2,963	95%
#10	116	2,276	73%
#11	300	5,910	64%
#12	488	9,604	71%
#13	297	5,844	95%
#14	216	4,258	78%
#15	185	3,653	33%
Totals:	3,521	67,502	
Average:	252	4,822	73%