

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

The Government of Norway and the Government of the State of California, referred to as the participants, agree as follows:

CONSIDERING the urgent need to accelerate the expansion of clean, renewable energy on a global scale, accelerate economy-wide decarbonization, and recent commitments to responsibly develop floating offshore wind energy resources in deep coastal waters while protecting the ocean ecosystem;

RECOGNIZING that California and Norway share common goals to ensure access to affordable, reliable energy while supporting the transition to a net zero economy and the potential for offshore wind projects to generate large, consistent power output increasing the diversity and flexibility of existing energy resources;

WHEREAS California and Norway are committed to strengthening reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and welcome opportunities to strengthen climate-related cooperation and enhanced promotion of clean, renewable energy innovation and technologies;

WHEREAS California and Norway have a long-standing relationship around efforts to develop systemic solutions to combat climate change;

WHEREAS Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis has previously engaged with Norway to highlight the impacts of climate change, the value of higher education and research institutions, and the role of green technology in economic recovery;

WHEREAS both California and Norway are committed to conserving and strengthening the carbon storage of natural ecosystems to continue to provide and enhance the one third of the global climate change mitigation necessary to meet the 1,5 degrees C target;

WHEREAS both California and Norway are committed to building a clean energy economy through continued investment in innovation and technology aimed at tackling climate change and are actively working on the development of floating offshore wind projects in deep coastal waters;

WHEREAS Norway aims to allocate 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2040, and the State of California has a goal of 2-5 GW by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045;

CONSIDERING that the participants' intention to strengthen and coordinate efforts on combating climate change; to promote the development and expansion of clean, renewable energy – specifically the development of floating offshore wind energy resources and related technologies; and to strengthen the cooperative and collaborative relationship through continued information sharing and engagement aimed at accelerating the achievement of shared goals; and

WHEREAS California and Norway recognize the ongoing processes of reconciliation with California Native American tribes and the Sámi people, respectively, and the importance of full and meaningful representation and participation of Indigenous peoples in climate action and decision-making.

Therefore, the participants have reached the following understanding:

SECTION I Objective

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework between the Participants to work collaboratively to establish a flexible framework to achieve tangible results in the multi-faceted exchange of knowledges, experience, data, and best practices for the development of solutions to combat climate change and support economic growth. Relevant agencies and stakeholders from the private sector, interest groups, academia and research institutions will be engaged and included in the dialogue whenever considered appropriate by both Participants.

SECTION II Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to work collaboratively together, and with relevant stakeholders, to address the climate crisis through the following areas of cooperation:

- a. Clean energy, including offshore wind, clean renewable hydrogen, battery storage, and solar;
- a. Clean and zero emissions ports, including workforce development, development strategies, and management best practices;
- b. Transportation decarbonization, including zero-emission vehicles and zero-emission charging and refueling infrastructure;
- c. Carbon removal, including carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration best practices and business models and pipeline safety standards to protect public health and safety;
- d. Circular economy, including plastic packaging, electronics, textiles, battery recycling, reuse and agricultural waste;
- e. Climate smart management of land under agriculture and natural climate solutions, including conserving, restoring and sustainably managing forests, protecting biodiversity, and reducing deforestation; and
- f. Critical minerals, including the development of commercial partnerships and exchanges.

SECTION III Coordination

The Participants respectively designate the Norwegian Consulate General in San Francisco and the California Energy Commission to establish the creation of an action plan to implement the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Participants will endeavor to review and update the action plan as necessary and no less than once per year.

The Participants, by common consent, may seek the collaboration of third parties, including universities and other public and private academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and local, state, or national government institutions whose activities may contribute to achieving the goals of this Memorandum of Understanding.

SECTION IV Specific Activities

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding for the key sectors and initiatives identified in Section II may include:

- a) Developing regular staff-to-staff meetings or public workshops;
- b) Coordinating participation at relevant international conferences;
- c) Facilitating partnerships and communication with local and regional jurisdictions;
- d) Conducting a high-level status and planning meeting between respective principals at least once every year to give guidance to the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding; and
- e) Facilitating business, academic, non-profit, and/or government workshops in relevant sectors.

SECTION V Points of Contact

The Royal Norwegian Consulate General and the California Energy Commission will serve as the respective contact points for communication and information exchange, as well as any notice required to be submitted under this Memorandum of Understanding.

SECTION VI No Legal Obligations, Rights, or Remedies

This Memorandum of Understanding is a voluntary initiative. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and creates no legally cognizable or enforceable rights or remedies, legal or equitable, in any forum whatsoever. In addition, the pledges in this Memorandum of Understanding are not conditioned upon reciprocal actions by other participants; each participant retains full discretion over the implementation of its pledges in light of the participant's individual circumstances, laws, and policies; and each participant is free to withdraw from the Memorandum.

SECTION VII Availability of Personnel and Resources

This Memorandum of Understanding does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by either participant. All costs that may arise from activities covered by, mentioned in, or pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be assumed by the participant who incurs them unless otherwise specifically memorialized in a future written arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. All activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources of each participant.

The personnel designated by a participant for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will work under the orders and responsibility of that participant and any other organization or institution to which the personnel already belongs, at all times maintaining any preexisting employment relationship only with that participant and organization or institution, and not with any other participant.

SECTION VIII
Compliance with Applicable Laws

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed consistent with all applicable laws, and activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to, and shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with, all otherwise-applicable laws.

SECTION IX
Interpretation and Application

Any difference that may arise in relation to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the participants, which will endeavor in good faith to resolve such differences.

SECTION X
Final Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature, for a four-year period, unless renewed or extended by the participants in the same manner that the participants may otherwise modify this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the participants. Any modification will be made in writing and specify the date on which such modification is to become effective.

Either participant may, at any time, withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to the other participant. A participant who intends to withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding shall endeavor to provide notice of such withdrawal to the other participant 60 days in advance.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the conclusion of cooperative activities that may have been initiated during the time this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect unless the participants mutually decide otherwise.


Signed in Larkspur, California, on April 16, 2024.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
NORWAY**



Jan Christian Vestre
Minister of Trade and Industry

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



David Hochschild
**Chair, California Energy
Commission**