

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Offshore wind presents an opportunity to provide secure, reliable, and affordable renewable energy while realizing workforce benefits and community economic development in California. Through the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, industry leaders and workers are coming together to create a model for high road labor practices and community engagement at Cierco's CADEMO project, which is likely to be California's first operational offshore wind farm.

A growing body of research shows that offshore wind power must become a significant part of California's renewable energy portfolio if the state is to reach its ambitious goals for 100 percent clean energy by 2045. However, the state has yet to demonstrate it has the infrastructure capacity and industrial supply chain to deploy the most advanced floating wind turbine technologies without resorting to importing all products and services. This project will therefore have a double demonstration effect: first, helping resolve the complex economic puzzles of creating an in-state supply chain and trained workforce for offshore wind; and second, starting California's offshore wind sector on the high road, creating a symbiotic, upward competition in which developers must meet or beat their rivals not only in price but in social and economic co-benefits.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A strong, lasting regional partnership with industry employers, local governments, worker representatives, workforce systems, equity advocates, and other stakeholders that will work together to address industry and workforce needs on an ongoing basis.
- A workforce scoping plan that fills knowledge gaps for offshore wind developers and state policymakers related to areas such as workforce development and supply-chain sourcing.
- In coordination with local trade unions, a negotiated Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) that provides priority populations access to good jobs via local pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Support to employers, unions, workforce developers, and educational institutions to shape training programs that build a workforce for the offshore wind industry.

KEY PARTNERS

- San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
- Cierco Corp.
- Tri Counties Building & Construction Trades Council
- IBEW Local 1245
- SLO Partners
- San Luis Obispo Workforce Development Board
- Santa Barbara Workforce Development Board
- Ventura Workforce Development Board
- REACH
- Environment California
- Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara