



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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### ***Congressionally Directed Spending/State Budget "Ask" Template and Instructions***

The template below is intended to help guide Departments in the development of potential project submissions for upcoming state and federal appropriations processes. For a description of the type of projects that are currently eligible to be earmarked, please refer to the accompanying documents, either specifying the Congressional Earmark Guidance, or State Assembly and/or Senate Memos. For your project, please fill out the information below. Some information requested may be specific to state or federal processes.

**Department Name:** County Administrative Office

**Name of Project:** Offshore Wind

**Amount of Funding Requested from the Federal or State Government (Specify):** \$1.5 million

**Source of Funds:** *(ie, General Fund) If Special Fund, please name*

**Related Policy Bills:**

**Project Justification:**

Humboldt County stands at a critical juncture in offshore wind development, yet currently lacks the essential capacity to effectively engage in this complex, multi-year process. While state and federal governments have initiated ambitious offshore wind programs, they have not allocated funding to build local government capacity – leaving coastal communities to navigate these unprecedented challenges without dedicated resources.

Unlike other major infrastructure and energy projects, where mechanisms such as payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) or dedicated community benefit funds are standard practice, the current offshore wind initiatives lack these crucial local support structures. This absence of traditional funding mechanisms creates an immediate need to build basic organizational capacity precisely when strategic engagement is most crucial.

**Project Description:**

This budget request seeks \$2,000,000 to build essential staff capacity and support services for offshore wind development initiatives. This foundational investment will enable critical activities across port development, transmission planning, community engagement, and investment attraction, establishing the basic infrastructure needed for Humboldt County to effectively engage in offshore wind development processes.

Humboldt County faces a convergence of time-sensitive issues that require dedicated staff and expertise:

- Port infrastructure planning must align with both industry needs and community interests
- Transmission upgrades will significantly impact local communities and require careful coordination



- Workforce development programs must be established before construction begins
- Zoning and permitting frameworks need updating to accommodate new industries
- Local businesses require support to participate in emerging supply chains
- Community concerns about environmental and economic impacts demand thorough engagement

This funding request represents a critical first step in building Humboldt County's capacity to actively participate in and shape these developments. Without this foundational investment in staff and resources, our community risks being unable to effectively engage in decision-making processes that will impact our region for generations. This initial capacity building will enable us to develop the expertise, relationships, and frameworks necessary for future phases of offshore wind development.

**Total Cost to Complete the Project (Federal AND Non-Federal Funds) (State AND Non-State Funds):**

*\$2 million*

**Can the County Obligate all Requested Funding Within 12 Months of Receipt?:**

Yes

**List of Stakeholder Groups or Elected Officials who Support the Project:**

**Estimated Project Start Date:** July 1, 2025

**Estimated Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2027

**Current Developmental Status of the Project:**

Federal lease for waters has been awarded, federal grant has been awarded to the Harbor District, community benefits organization remains ongoing

**Contact Information:**

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<b>Agency:</b>	County Administrative Office			
<b>Project:</b>	Building Essential Capacity: Humboldt Offshore Wind Initiative			
<b>Budget Breakdown:</b>				
	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	State/Fed	\$1,000,000	Staffing costs - Economic Development, Planning, CAO	
	State/Fed	\$450,000	Professional Services - Outside Counsel, Technical Consultants	
	State/Fed	\$150,000	Community engagement - events, meeting space, materials	
	State/Fed	\$100,000	Travel	
	State/Fed	\$300,000	Overhead costs	
		\$2,000,000	Total	
		0	County match (if any)	
		\$2,000,000	Federal aid needed	
<b>Has the project previously received any federal, state, or private funding, including federal discretionary grants and/or formula funding? If yes, how much, from what source, and when?</b>				
<b>Response:</b>	Discretionary additional assistance grant (\$1.5 million) from California Economic Development Department			