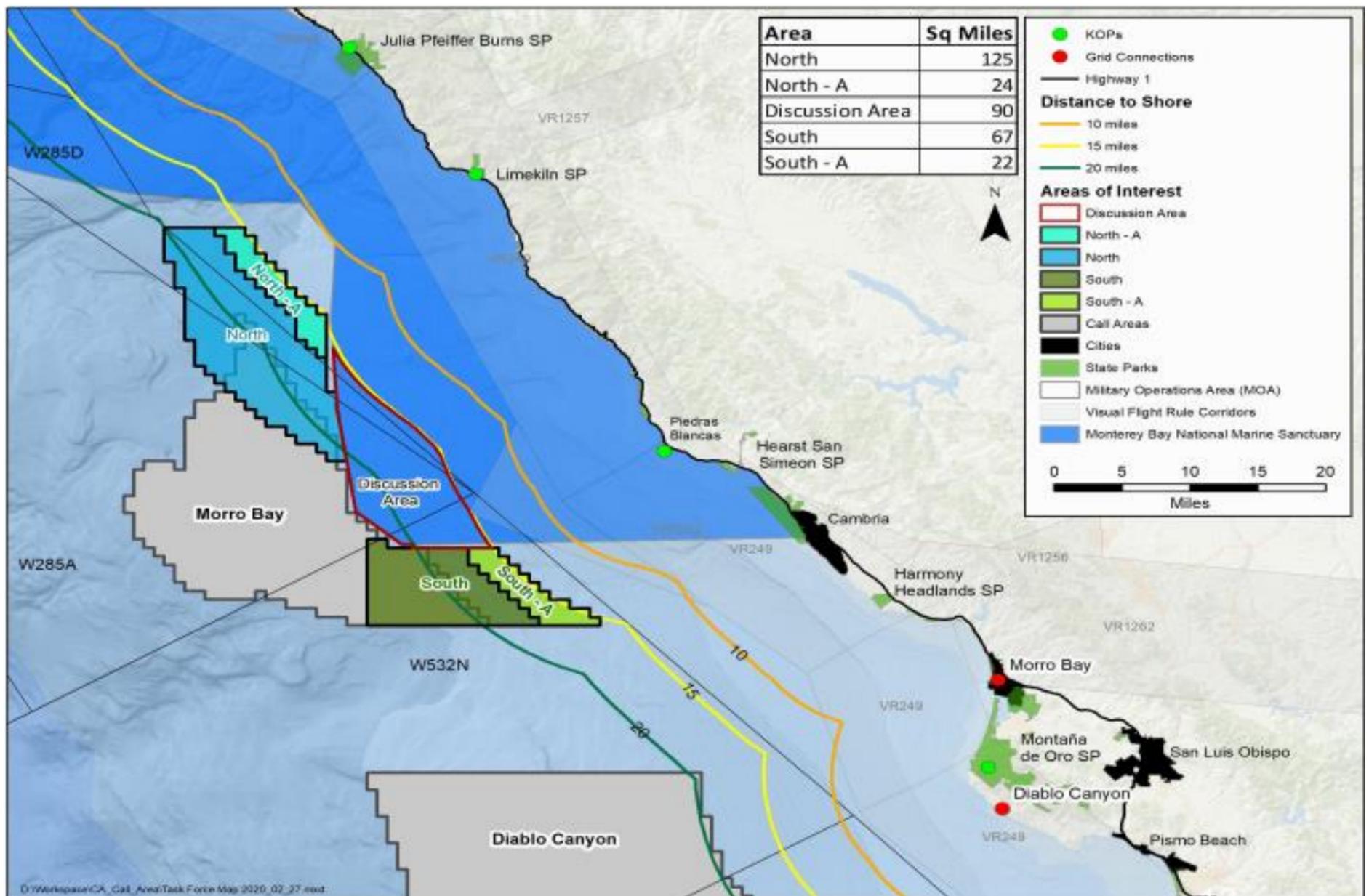


Connecting with Nature on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve: Thinking about the View



By KITTY CONNOLLY, Executive Director, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (fiscaliniranchpreserve.org)

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is known for its amazing coastal views and its strong environmental values. A planned offshore energy project has some potential to impact those views.

The California Energy Commission is in the process of planning a lease within or adjacent to the Morro Bay Call Area (24 miles West of Cambria, ~311 square miles) to Castle Wind LLC for the installation of about 100 wind turbines. The energy would be cabled to the abandoned power plant in Morro Bay or, less likely, to the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

Two locations are under consideration: South and South-A are west of Cambria and Harmony, while North and North A are west of Limekiln to Piedras Blancas (see map). Part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is between the north and south areas (Discussion Area on the map). The southern area has been targeted as a new national marine sanctuary so is slightly less likely. It is possible that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary could issue a lease, putting that area back into play.

To inform public discussion, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) commissioned images of what the project would look like from four different locations (KOPs on the map) at different times of day. To see the visual simulations and to download the large images: <https://www.boem.gov/march-9-2020>

At 15 to 20 miles offshore, the lights on the towers might be all you could notice from Cambria and only at night when the Ranch is closed.

BOEM is seeking input into offshore wind facility locations by **July 30**. Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 17-MISC-01 and "California Offshore Renewable Energy" in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may also be sent to:
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 17-MISC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512