

Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm

Green Acres Diversion Application

Section 5

**Statement of Support for State Development and
Redevelopment Plan Goals**

5. Statement of Support for State Development and Redevelopment Plan Goals

In 1985, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey adopted the State Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196, et seq.). In the Act, the Legislature declared that the State of New Jersey needs sound and integrated “statewide planning” to:

“...conserve its natural resources, revitalize its urban centers, protect the quality of its environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal...”

The State Planning Act contains three key provisions that mandate the approaches the Plan must use in achieving State Planning Goals. The Plan must:

- encourage development, redevelopment and economic growth in locations that are well situated with respect to present or anticipated public services or facilities and to discourage development where it may impair or destroy natural resources or environmental qualities;
- reduce sprawl; and
- promote development and redevelopment in a manner consistent with sound planning and where infrastructure can be provided at private expense or with reasonable expenditures of public funds. (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196, et seq.)

Use of the Green Acres encumbered parcels for the Project will support development of a renewable energy source that will deliver competitively priced renewable energy and additional capacity to meet State and regional renewable energy demands and goals. The Project provides clean renewable energy that is expected to replace fossil fuel energy generation, resulting in net benefits to the environment. Other expected benefits of the Project include:

- Improving regional air quality through the net reduction of regional air pollution over the life of the Project;
- Creating artificial reefs through the placement of WTGs, which will create hard substrate habitats for a new, more diverse community of finfish and invertebrates; and
- Increased job opportunities, increased property tax revenue, and increased income associated with local construction employment. Long-term employment opportunities during the operations phase would include the creation of operations and maintenance jobs. Artificial reefs are expected to increase the number of trips and revenue for recreational fishermen.

Because the Project has economic and environmental benefits, has been designed and sited to minimize impacts to natural resources, and impacts that could not be avoided through design will be mitigated, the Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan.