

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 65 (Petrie-Norris) Green Infrastructure & Sea-Level Rise - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Friedman:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and our 100,000 California members, I write in support of AB 65 which would heavily invest in use of natural, or green infrastructure, along the coasts of California. TNC has worked to protect the most ecologically important lands and waters in California for over 60 years. Through sound science and expert planning, as well as policy-making that embraces multiple constituencies, we endeavor to identify and solve the world's most significant environmental challenges.

In June 2018, California's voters passed Proposition 68, which authorized \$4 billion in bonds for the purpose of financing drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access-for-all programs. Proposition 68 authorized \$40 million of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities with adaption to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection.

AB 65 would require the Coastal Conservancy, when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to Proposition 68, to prioritize projects that use natural/green infrastructure to help adapt to climate change.

AB 65 would also require the Coastal Conservancy to provide information to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) on any projects funded to be considered for inclusion into the clearinghouse for climate adaption information.

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to maintaining coastal ecosystems, and can include usage of tidal marshes, seagrass, land conservation, rain gardens, permeable pavement, urban tree canopy and much more. Natural infrastructure restoration projects not only protect the coast – they restore ecosystems, improve recreation and access opportunities, and support coastal economies.

For the above reasons, The Nature Conservancy is pleased to support AB 65. We thank Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris for her thoughtfulness on this issue and request your support when it is heard in Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,



Lucas Frerichs
Associate Director of State Policy

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74th District