



January 23, 2019

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly, AD 74
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074

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

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of Audubon California and our 300,000 members and supporters, we write in strong support of your AB 65, which would heavily invest in use of natural, or “green,” infrastructure along the coasts of California.

Audubon has been an advocate California’s conservation and environmental protection for decades. Audubon California is dynamic field program of the National Audubon Society. Audubon's mission is to restore and conserve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

We understand the need to act on climate. Shorebird populations in the Pacific Flyway show long-term declines due to habitat conversion and degradation and sea-level rise and other climate-related changes will only continue to intensify current stresses to shorebirds and living shorelines.

AB 65 will continue to broaden California’s diverse approach in mitigating climate change, as there is no one solution to this imminent threat. Our great State continues to demonstrate a thriving economy can coexist with bold environmental policies. We boast the world’s 5th largest economy, alongside global leadership on climate change.

The recent Fourth National Climate Assessment of 2018 found disastrous consequences for economies totaling hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century. Furthermore, the report revealed that the average sea-level rose about 7-8 inches since 1900, with almost half this rise occurring since 1993. Without substantial change in our climate policy, sea-level is likely to rise 1-4 feet by the end of the century.

Legislation, such as this bill, is critical in shaping the future and health of our pristine coastline, which attract millions of tourists and provide Californians a high quality of life. We must invest in Green Infrastructure along the coast to improve climate change adaptation and combat sea-level rise if we wish to preserve not only our coasts, but our planet.

For these reasons, Audubon California is proud to stand in strong support of AB 65.

Sincerely,
Juan Altamirano
Associate Director of Policy