



Heal the Bay

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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:

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization with over 30 years of experience and 15,000 members dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of Greater LA safe, healthy and clean. On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit this letter of support for AB 65 (Petrie-Norris), which would invest in multi-benefit projects, utilizing natural infrastructure to revitalize the coast of California.

With recent wildfires, extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels, it is clear that the impacts of climate change are immediate and severe. Recently released climate reports, including the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report as well as the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment, disclose the disastrous social, economic and environmental consequences we will face by the end of the century. California continues to recognize the threat of climate change on our economy, natural resources, ecosystems, and underserved communities with the recent passing of AB 3012 (Gallagher), AB 733 (Berman), SB 1072 (Levy) and SB 30 (Lara). 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. Our coastline supports a multibillion-dollar recreation and tourism industry that is threatened by climate change and sea-level rise. The funds allocated by AB 65 would provide increased tidal marshes, reefs and other land conservation that would protect our coastline and our coastal economy and communities. Additionally, California cities are currently losing billions of gallons of fresh water in rainfall every year. This urban runoff carries pollution and debris to the Pacific Ocean, threatening public health and local ecosystems. Increased green infrastructure and permeable surfaces would capture and conserve rainfall, both preserving much needed fresh water and keeping harmful pollution out of our waterways and oceans.

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. The projects funded under AB 65 would not only fortify our coastlines to protect against rising sea levels, but would also create new and healthy natural habitat to support thriving ecosystems, conserve local freshwater for dependent communities, reduce pollution from urban runoff, and help to sequester greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere.

For these reasons, Heal the Bay strongly supports AB 65. Thank you for the opportunity to provide commentary.

Sincerely,

Emily Parker and Annelisa Moe
Science and Policy Team
Heal the Bay