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February 11, 2019

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Capitol
Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of Ocean Conservancy, I write in support of AB 65 (Petrie-Norris), which would heavily invest in the use of natural, or “green,” infrastructure along the coasts of California.

Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit organization that values science-based solutions for healthy ocean ecosystems. Ocean Conservancy supports climate change mitigation strategies and works to invest in technologies that respond to this complex issue.

AB 65 will continue to broaden California’s diverse approach to mitigating climate change, as there is no single 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.

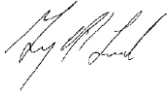
The recent Fourth National Climate Assessment of 2018 predicts disastrous consequences for economies totaling hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century, particularly without urgent action. Furthermore, the report revealed that the average sea level rose about seven to eight inches since 1900, with almost half this rise occurring since 1993. Without substantial change in our climate policy, sea level is likely to rise one to four feet by the end of the century.

Green infrastructure is a vital part of addressing climate change impacts on our state and provides multiple co-benefits in addition to helping address sea level rise and storm surge that can damage coastal infrastructure and negatively affect coastal communities. For example, green infrastructure such as wetlands can also provide benefits such as habitat creation and increased recreational opportunities, as well as pollution mitigation benefits that can help offset increasing ocean acidification. In addition, unlike gray, or hard, infrastructure, which can cause changes to hydrology or coastal erosion patterns, green infrastructure is less likely to have negative impacts on neighboring jurisdictions or communities. For these reasons, Ocean Conservancy strongly supports promoting and prioritizing green infrastructure solutions whenever viable.

Legislation such as this bill is critical in shaping the future and health of our beautiful and productive coastline, which attracts millions of tourists and provides Californians a high quality of life. We must invest in green infrastructure along the coast to improve climate change adaptation, increase resilience, and combat the effects of climate change if we wish to preserve not only our coast, but our planet.

For these reasons, Ocean Conservancy is proud to stand in support of AB 65.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George H. Leonard, PhD
Chief Scientist
Ocean Conservancy