



March 13, 2018

Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris  
State Capitol, Room 4144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 65 – Coastal Protection: climate adaptation: project prioritization - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

Sierra Club California supports your bill, AB 65, which would direct investment in the use of natural infrastructure along the coasts of California.

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment of 2018 found that the state will continue to experience climate change impacts in the future. This includes economic and environmental impacts to California's coastal regions caused by such events as coastal flooding and sea level rise. AB 65 correctly recognizes that in order to protect California's coastal ecosystems and communities from these impacts, adaptation efforts must be given a priority.

The prioritization of projects using natural infrastructure methods for adaptation to sea-level rise, such as the use of vegetated dunes, tidal marshes, and sea grass, is essential to protecting California's shoreline without changing it. Natural infrastructure can enhance coastal adaptation while also providing other benefits and help coastal communities become more resilient to climate change impacts. By specifically referring to the use of "natural infrastructure", this bill seeks to protect the future and health of our pristine coastline while taking into consideration the natural processes and ecosystems that are present along the coast.

California's iconic shoreline is integral to the state's identity. We commend you for recognizing the importance of our coastline and advancing the use of natural infrastructure to protect it. We support AB 65 and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Cullum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lauren Cullum  
Policy Advocate

cc: Committee on Natural Resources