



January 29, 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 Surfrider Foundation's 20 California chapters representing hundreds of thousands of members, activists and supporters, we submit the following comments regarding Assembly Bill 65, which would heavily invest in use of natural, or "green," infrastructure along the coasts of California.

As a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches, ensuring the public continues to have a coast to access is one of our top priorities; if we respond to sea level rise only by armoring our beaches, we will lose them, thereby sacrificing the recreational and economic benefits on which our state depends.

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 up to 4 feet by the end of the century. We must invest in green infrastructure along the coast as a means to proactively adapt to climate change and sea level rise if we wish to preserve not only our coast and our state, but our planet.

As the world's fifth largest economy and a global leader on climate change, California has long led the country in proving that a thriving economy not only can, but *must* coexist with bold environmental policies. With studies showing that by the year 2100, up to 67 percent of Southern California beaches may completely vanish due to sea level rise, we have no time to lose. We must engage in smart planning that will preserve our beaches for everyone to enjoy – if we avoid destructive hard armoring and work with nature instead. AB 65 will therefore be a great stride forward in diversifying California's approach to adapting to climate change.

This bill serves as an example for the type of legislation necessary to safeguard the future and health of our pristine coastline, which attracts millions of tourists and California residents

annually. The recreational opportunities our beaches afford, from surfing to picnicking on the sand, are an experience central to the California identity. Green infrastructure provides hope that the young Californians of the future will be able to dig their toes in the sand, play in the waves and enjoy the wonder our precious coast provides.

For these reasons, Surfrider Foundation is proud to stand in strong support of AB 65.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Savage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Jennifer Savage
Surfrider Foundation
California Policy Manager