



Cottie Petrie-Norris
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 65

Sea-Level Rise
Investing in Green Infrastructure

SUMMARY

Proposition 68, approved by California voters on June 5, 2018, authorized \$40 million to assist coastal communities with adaptation to climate change. AB 65 will prioritize projects that utilize green-natural infrastructure for coastal adaptation to address sea-level rise.

BACKGROUND

In California, we continue to demonstrate that a thriving economy can coexist with bold environmental policies; we boast the world's 5th largest economy alongside global leadership on climate change. There are a multitude of strategies for the state to pursue in order to mitigate climate change, including the investment in green infrastructure, also commonly referred to as natural infrastructure.

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing natural weather patterns and maintaining an ecosystem where all life is able to thrive, which is crucial to fighting climate change.

Green infrastructure includes tidal marshes, reefs, seagrass, land conservation, rain gardens, permeable pavements, urban tree canopy and much more. Natural restoration projects not only protect the coast – they restore ecosystems, improve recreation and access opportunities, and support coastal economies.

NEED FOR THE BILL

California is known for many things, including its pristine coastlines. Our beaches attract millions of tourists each and every year, which stimulate local economies and contribute to the overall economic health of California. However, rising sea-levels are a direct threat to these coastal areas.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment of 2018 found disastrous consequences for economies due to climate change 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.

Higher sea-levels result in destructive storm surges pushing farther inland than they once did, endangering nearly 40% of the population who live along coastal communities in the U.S.

SOLUTION

Prioritize projects that utilize green infrastructure and provide multiple public benefits along the coast to improve climate change adaptation and combat sea-level rise.

Increased vegetation along the coasts can protect eroding marsh edges and mitigate sea-level rise, which is crucial to protect our communities. We must prioritize solutions that are proven to work, and AB 65 does just that.

SUPPORT

Azul
Audubon California
California CoastKeeper Alliance
California Interfaith Power & Light
California League of Conservation Voters
California Native Plant Society
California Trout
California Wilderness Coalition
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Heal the Bay
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club
Surfrider Foundation
TreePeople
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Union of Concerned Scientists
Wholly H₂O

OPPOSITION

None on file

CONTACT

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