



June 13, 2023

The Honorable Luz Rivas
Chair of Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1021 O St, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 272 (Laird): Sea Level Rise Planning

Dear Chair Rivas,

The Surfrider Foundation and the undersigned organizations are writing to support SB 272 Sea Level Rise: Planning and Adaptation. Our organizations strongly support this action to advance sea level rise planning in the State of California.

Currently, sea level rise planning is stalled by local politics in many areas, resulting in coastal communities across the state that remain unprepared for the impacts that coastal flooding and storm surge is already having on life, property, infrastructure and resources. As the January 2023 atmospheric rivers made evident, this represents an enormously costly risk for the State of California and presents severe long-term vulnerabilities to local coastal communities in the long-term.

SB 272 promotes local government planning for the future and provides guidance from the State of California for achieving coastal resilience. This bill is vital to ensuring that robust planning for sea level rise takes place within the ever-narrowing window of time we have to ensure coastal resiliency. Every permitting and planning decision made today will have lasting impacts on the coast for decades to come and will determine whether our beaches, coastal habitats and waves are resilient to rising seas or drown as a result of the slow moving disaster that faces us.

Local Coastal Program Updates for sea level rise are key to ensuring that our public resources are protected as required by the California Coastal Act and that decisions are not based on economic assets and private property values alone, but also take into consideration equity,

ecosystems, coastal access and public resources. This bill will also ensure that the best available science is used in the completion of vulnerability assessments and subsequent resiliency plans.

Focusing on sea level rise planning now will save the state money - according to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in a recent publication, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that \$1 spent in various types of pre-disaster mitigation activities avoids public and private losses of \$6 total. Early action on sea level rise now may also provide for more time in the future to mount a more intensive response

Our organizations support sea level rise preparedness to protect our coastal communities and ecosystems. We support SB 272 as a vital measure to ensure that local governments uphold the letter and spirit of the Coastal Act as our climate and oceanic conditions change.

By planning and acting now, we can protect our coastline and those who depend on it.

Thank you,

Mike Lynes
Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

Tomas Valadez
California Policy Advocate
Azul

Adriana Guerrero
Executive Director
Brown Girl Surf

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Cody Phillips
Policy Analyst
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Daniel Glusenkamp
Executive Director
California Institute for Biodiversity

Ashley Eagle Gibbs
Legal and Policy Director
Environmental Action Committee of West
Marin

Pamela Heatherington
Director
Environmental Center San Diego

Linda Krop
Chief Counsel
Environmental Defense Center

Jennifer Kalt
Executive Director
Humboldt Baykeeper

Joshua Hugg
Governmental Affairs Program Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Garry Brown
Executive Director
Orange County Coastkeeper

Matthew Baker
Policy Director
Planning and Conservation League

Joshua Quigley
Policy Manager
Save the Bay

Laura Walsh
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Nina Atkind
Chair,
Surfrider Foundation, SF Chapter

Antony Tersol
Vice-chair
Monterey Chapter, Surfrider Foundation

Newara Brosnan-Faltas
Chair
Los Angeles Chapter, Surfrider Foundation

Mitch Silverstein
Policy Manager
San Diego Chapter, Surfrider Foundation

Scott Webb
Advocacy & Policy Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network