



Assembly Bill 67: Sea Level Rise Preparedness Act of 2021

SUMMARY

Sea-level rise is a critical threat to California's coastal communities and economy. In order to safeguard the California coast, this bill will expedite and support sea-level rise preparedness efforts across the state by ensuring all state agencies conduct a consistent, robust sea-level rise analysis before approving public funds for new or expanded infrastructure projects along the coast.

BACKGROUND

California's coastal communities and critical infrastructure is increasingly at risk from sea-level rise. It is projected that if greenhouse gas emissions stay on their current course, California will see a foot increase along our coast by 2030, nearly a 3-foot increase by 2050, and over a 7-foot increase by the end of this century.

In California's coastal communities, millions of people and billions of dollars are at risk.

Many coastal communities – and the state – are in the early stages of preparing for sea-level rise. We must increase both the extent and the pace of sea-level rise preparation. The coming decade represents a pivotal time for the state and our coastal communities to act and prepare for sea-level rise.

NEED FOR THE BILL

State and local governments understand the threat of sea-level rise and the need to address such threats through a coordinated, systematic effort. Without a coordinated and systematic approach to sea-level rise, public dollars will

continue to fund new and expanded infrastructure projects that are increasingly at risk.

Though it is well known that sea-level rise is a looming threat, not all state agencies explicitly conduct sea-level rise analyses when planning, designing, building, operating, maintaining and funding new and expanded infrastructure. This presents a significant risk that the state is funding infrastructure projects that will *quite literally* be under water, and diverting public funds that could otherwise support local planning and adaptation efforts.

Delaying sea-level rise preparations and continuing to build in sea-level inundation zones without a long-term economic analysis will result in lost opportunities and higher costs. California must act now and ensure responsible use of public funds for its future.

SOLUTION

California's climate change response requires both mitigation and adaptation.

This bill will:

- Coordinate a multi-agency working group to develop a standard methodology of sea-level rise analysis, which will provide all state agencies the tools needed to assess sea-level risks, including the risk of no action, consistent with the state's infrastructure resilience plan.
- Ensure that all state agencies use this standard methodology of conducting sea-

level rise analyses when funding new or expanded state infrastructure projects along the coast.

SUPPORT

California Coastkeeper Alliance (Sponsor)
California Coastal Protection Network
California State Parks Foundation
California Watershed Network
Defenders of Wildlife
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Greenbelt Alliance
Humboldt Baykeeper
Inland Empire Waterkeeper
League of Women Voters of California
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Monterey Coastkeeper
Orange County Coastkeeper
Russian Riverkeeper
San Diego Coastkeeper
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
Sierra Club California
Surfrider Foundation
The Trust for Public Land
Union of Concerned Scientists
Yuba River Waterkeeper

CONTACT

Shannon Swanson | Legislative Aide
Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris
Shannon.Swanson@asm.ca.gov | (916) 319-2074