



**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

According to the EPA, green infrastructure costs less than conventional gray infrastructure; making it a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing natural weather patterns and maintaining an ecosystem where all life is able to thrive, which is crucial in our planet's health.

Examples of green infrastructure include 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 our pristine coastlines. Our beaches attract millions of tourists 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, California's

very own Fourth Climate Change Assessment of 2018 found sea-levels are likely to rise nearly 4.5 feet by the end of the century if we significantly reduce GHG emissions. If we fail to act at all, sea-levels are expected to rise 8 feet, which is nearly 30-40 times faster than the rate we experienced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Our coastal community continues to grow. California is expected to reach more than 44 million residents by 2030 – with nearly 70% of them living in coastal cities and counties. With a more dense coastal population, higher sea-levels will result in destructive storm surges and push farther inland than they once did, endangering nearly our entire population.

### **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 in protecting our communities. We must prioritize solutions that are proven to work, and AB 65 does just that.

### **SUPPORT**

Audubon California  
Azul  
California CoastKeeper Alliance  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
California League of Conservation Voters  
California Native Plant Society  
California State PTA  
California Trout  
California Voices for Progress  
California Waterfowl Association  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Ceres  
City of Costa Mesa  
City of Laguna Beach  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks  
Heal the Bay

Laguna Bluebelt Coalition  
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.  
Midpeninsula Regional OpenSpace  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Orange County Business Council  
Sierra Club  
Surfrider Foundation  
TreePeople  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Wholly H<sub>2</sub>O

**OPPOSITION**

None on file

**CONTACT**

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