

APRIL 4, 2019

Coastal Adaptation

PRESENTED TO:

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review,
Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental
Protection, Energy and Transportation
Hon. Bob Wiecekowsi, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Rising Seas Along California Coast Will Require Response

► California's Coast Faces Threat of Rising Seas and Tides

- Compared to 2000, sea levels projected to rise between 1.5 inches and 1 foot by 2030, between 5 inches and 2 feet by 2050, and between 1.4 feet and 5.5 feet by 2100.
- Flooding and erosion will impact both human and natural resources. More frequent and extreme storms will exacerbate flood risk.

► Multiple State Departments Charged With Helping Protect Coastal Resources

- **California Coastal Commission.** Regulates use of land and water in the coastal zone, including by reviewing and approving Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) that guide coastal development.
- **San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).** Reviews and issues regulatory permits for projects that would fill or extract materials from the San Francisco Bay, works to preserve public bay shore access, and leads the Bay Area's multiagency regional sea-level rise (SLR) planning efforts.
- **State Coastal Conservancy.** Allocates grants for and undertakes projects to preserve, protect, and restore the resources of the California coast and the San Francisco Bay Area, including through its Climate Ready Program.
- **Ocean Protection Council.** Coordinates the activities of ocean-related state departments, conducts and distributes data and information, and allocates grants for climate adaptation projects and research.
- **State Lands Commission.** Stewards sovereign state lands, including those located between the ordinary high water mark of tidal waters and the boundary between state and federal waters three miles offshore.



Funding for Coastal Adaptation

▶ **State Has Provided Some Funding for Coastal Adaptation Planning**

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).
- Voter-approved bonds.
- General Fund.

▶ **Governor Proposes Two Ongoing GGRF Appropriations for 2019-20**

- **BCDC (\$1.8 Million).** Fund 16 positions (4 new and 12 existing) to support regional SLR planning efforts.
- **Coastal Commission (\$1.5 Million).** Provide grants to local governments to plan for and update policies related to SLR—including LCPs—and fund staff to support those local efforts.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds for Coastal Adaptation Activities

(In Millions)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 Proposed
Coastal Conservancy—Climate Ready Program	\$4.0	\$3.0	—
Coastal Commission—completing and updating LCPs	1.5	1.5	\$1.5
Bay Conservation and Development Commission—regional adaptation planning	0.5	0.5	1.8
Totals	\$6.0	\$5.0	\$3.3

LCP = Local Coastal Program.



Important Considerations

- ▶ **Most Planning and Response Responsibilities Lie With Local Governments . . .**
 - Land-use decisions, response plans, locally owned assets and infrastructure, primary fiscal responsibility.

- ▶ **. . . However, State Has Vested Interest in Ensuring Coast Is Prepared for SLR.**
 - Health and safety concerns, potential economic impacts, state-owned infrastructure, public trust responsibilities.

- ▶ **Governor's 2019-20 Proposals Meet Important Needs**
 - Recommend adopting Governor's two proposals.

- ▶ **Additional State Assistance to Local Communities Likely Will Be Needed in Future Years**
 - Recommend Legislature explore additional ways to assist local communities in adapting to SLR.



Key Legislative Questions

- **State vs. Local Role.** Which activities are appropriate for the state to undertake, and which should be local responsibilities? Are there decisions that have traditionally been made at the local level in which the state should become involved to protect public safety and statewide interests?
- **Adaptation Progress.** What is the status and pace of local governments' progress in preparing for SLR? Are there certain high-risk regions that are not making sufficient progress? Are there steps the state should take to help facilitate, expedite, or compel additional progress?
- **Funding.** What are the most effective uses of state funding to address SLR? What fund sources are available and appropriate for state-level SLR efforts? Are there additional tools that the state or local governments could use to generate additional funding for these efforts, and does the Legislature need to take steps to authorize such tools?
- **Research and Data.** Is there additional information the state should collect and provide to assist local governments in their SLR planning? How are scientific understandings and projections of SLR evolving, and how should this change the guidance the state is providing to local governments?
- **State Assets.** What steps should the state take to protect assets for which the state has primary responsibility—such as highways and state-owned buildings—from the effects of SLR? Does the state have a long-term adaptation plan—including time lines, cost estimates, and identified funding—for these assets? Has a state entity been identified to help coordinate and oversee these actions?
- **Current LCP Process.** Why are certain jurisdictions opting not to update their LCPs (or, in some cases, not to have an LCP certified in the first place)? Do particular barriers exist within the LCP process that the Legislature can help address? Are there ways the state should modify the LCP process to better regulate planning, development, and decision-making in the coastal zone?

