

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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State of California | Gavin Newsom – Governor | info@bcdc.ca.gov | www.bcdc.ca.gov

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento CA, 95814
Via Email: <COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov>

SUBJECT: Support for Agenda Item 5: Consideration and Approval of SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation to Support Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning

Dear Secretary Crowfoot:

I am writing in support of the Ocean Protection Council's SB1 grant program solicitation to support sea level rise adaptation planning and implementation. Rising sea level poses an unprecedented threat to California. Unless we prepare now, rising sea level will flood communities, impose huge economic costs, disproportionately impact low-income communities of color, and drown wetlands and beaches. The SB1 grant program has the laudable goal of developing SLR adaptation plans and implementation projects to build resilience along the entire coast of California and San Francisco Bay. With this winter's historic floods and growing demand for action, this grant program could not be more timely or urgent.

San Francisco Bay comprises one-third of the California coastline, but the Bay Area expects to experience two-thirds of the economic impacts due to rising sea level. To be most effective, planning needs to be coordinated across jurisdictions, consistent and equitable. For over a decade, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has led regional preparedness and supported Bay Area communities as they begin to adapt to rising sea level, flooding and storm surge due to climate change. Despite progress and a growing awareness of the threat, BCDC continues to find that local and sub-regional planning remains uneven, inconsistent, and underfunded. OPC's SB1 grant program will fill this critical gap by providing necessary funding to local, regional, and tribal governments to develop adaptation plans and projects within a framework that bolsters regional and statewide goals and promotes equity and environmental justice.

BCDC staff have appreciated the opportunity to provide input in developing the initial SLR Adaptation Criteria as minimum requirements to ensure that the criteria are aligned with the San Francisco Bay Plan, Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, the [Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#), and other regional plans. Over the next year, BCDC will be developing San Francisco Bay-specific planning guidelines, a critical component of the Bay Adapt Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan, thanks to generous funding provided by OPC. We look forward to continuing to align the SB1 Grant criteria with BCDC's guidelines for future grant rounds, as well as assisting OPC with outreach for the grant program and participate in proposal review.



California Ocean Protection Council
Letter of Support for SB1 Grant Program

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Again, thank you and the members of the Ocean Protection Council for your critical leadership and partnership on this important issue. If you have any questions about our interest or support, please do not hesitate to contact BCDC's Planning Director, Jessica Fain, at Jessica.Fain@bcdcc.ca.gov or at 415-352-3642.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Larry Goldzband
FD166E908010417...

LAWRENCE J. GOLDZBAND
Executive Director



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2421
VOICE (415) 904-5200
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August 8, 2023

Ocean Protection Council
(Submitted electronically)

Re: Support for the SB 1 Grant Program for Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning, Item 5 of the August 15, 2023 OPC meeting

To the Ocean Protection Council,

California Coastal Commission staff is pleased to write in support of Item 5, the SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation to Support Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning.

Similar to the Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan, sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning is a central priority in the Coastal Commission's Strategic Plan and has been the focus of many Coastal Commission initiatives and programs, particularly over the past decade. Commission staff have built a robust program for addressing SLR in its regulatory and planning functions, which has been supported by the development and adoption of the Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance in 2015, its update in 2018, and the creation of the Coastal Commission's LCP Local Assistance Grant Program in 2013.

Since 2013, the Coastal Commission has awarded \$18.3 million to more than 40 local jurisdictions to certify new and update existing Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) that govern development within California's coastal zone. Most recently, the Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$31 million to the Coastal Commission in additional support for its LCP Local Assistance Grant Program, approximately \$12 million of which is remaining to be awarded to local governments by 2026 to fund climate and SLR resiliency planning. Most funded projects have included a combination of SLR vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, other technical or economic studies, outreach and coordination efforts, and activities related to LCP adoption and submittal. Coastal Commission staff coordinate closely with local governments in each stage of this work to ensure that grant-funded research will effectively inform the LCP.

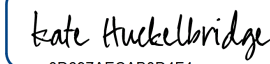
Additionally, in 2019, the Coastal Commission and local government partners from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the League of California Cities created the Local Government Sea Level Rise Working Group to identify and address challenges in SLR adaptation planning and implementing adaptation measures. Comprised of two Coastal Commissioners, CCC staff, and representatives from both local government organizations, this partnership has resulted in significant progress in strengthening working relationships and tackling issues related to phased LCP development and SLR adaptation, regional approaches to adaptation, and the process for LCP policy development, all in the service of moving SLR adaptation planning within the context of LCPs forward.

Thus, the Coastal Commission and its staff are actively working with and supporting local governments statewide through guidance, grants, and direct, high-level policy coordination with

local government representatives. In developing the SB 1 Grant Program for Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning, OPC staff coordinated with Commission staff (and other agency partners) to ensure that the proposed Grant Program would support state SLR planning goals and would align with and supplement the Commission's LCP Grant Program and related efforts. For example, because the Coastal Commission LCP Local Assistance Grant Program is especially targeted at LCP policy development, this piece has been left out of the OPC SB 1 Program Guidelines and the program instead focuses on elements of the SLR adaptation planning process that are necessary and complementary to the LCP work. Commission staff appreciates OPC staff's coordination on this effort and is pleased to support the proposed SB 1 Grant Program Guidelines.

Coastal Commission staff look forward to coordinating with OPC staff on the SB 1 Grant Program as it is implemented to ensure that the agencies' respective grant programs deliver support to local governments in a complementary way that ensures efficient and effective use of state dollars to support SLR adaptation planning.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


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Kate Huckelbridge

Executive Director

California Coastal Commission

cc Madeline Cavalieri, Chief Deputy Executive Director, Coastal Commission
Erin Prahler, Statewide Planning Manager, Coastal Commission
Kelsey Ducklow, Statewide Coastal Resilience Coordinator, Coastal Commission



August 14, 2023

Mr. Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources
California Ocean Protection Council
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for proposed SB 1 Grant Program

Dear Secretary Crowfoot,

On behalf of the staff of the State Coastal Conservancy, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the proposed SB 1 Grant Program. This grant program will support sea level rise adaptation planning throughout the state. We know that California's coastal communities are already feeling the impacts of sea level rise and that those impacts will continue to worsen. Providing funding for adaptation planning is critical to help communities prepare.

The State Coastal Conservancy also has significant funding to support sea level rise adaptation projects. Our staff will continue to coordinate OPC staff and others in the state's Sea Level Rise Collaborative to help implement adaptation projects.

Sincerely,

Amy Hutzel

Amy Hutzel
Executive Officer

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
scc.ca.gov
510-286-1015

Agenda Item #5: Written Comments for SB 1 Grant Program for SLR Adaptation Planning

Karina Alvarez <karinaa9@usc.edu>

Thu 8/10/2023 2:18 PM

To:CNRA COPC Public <COPCPublic@resources.ca.gov>

Good afternoon,

I'm writing regarding agenda item #5 for OPC's upcoming meeting on August 15, 2023. USC Sea Grant fully supports the SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation to Support Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning.

Sea level rise presents myriad challenges to the California coast – from residences and businesses to infrastructure such as sanitation facilities, power plants and other vital facilities located in the coastal margin. Further, important roads such as Highway 1, which runs along most of the California coast, are threatened in many locations. In Los Angeles County alone, Highway 1 is a vital artery connecting Malibu, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and Ventura, and is heavily used both by residents and for transportation of goods. Literally millions of California residents use California's beaches and coasts for recreation, including those who come from inland counties and depend on the coast to escape the extreme heat found in the valleys and deserts. Without careful assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities and attention to the possibilities for adaptation to coastal change, Californians are threatened with impairments and possible loss of vital recreation, transportation, infrastructure, and residences.

Since 2011, the University of Southern California Sea Grant program has managed the Regional AdaptLA program, a community of practice linking the best available science with local governments to advance coastal adaptation planning. Today, it has grown to include a variety of local municipalities, agencies, and community-based organizations from Long Beach to Goleta, increasing collaboration among coalition partners. As part of this work, USC Sea Grant recently conducted a statewide survey of coastal practitioners, the fourth in a series since 2005. Preliminary results suggest that coastal and shoreline hazards are the most challenging issue faced by coastal practitioners, a trend that has continued since the last survey in 2016. Despite this, nearly two-thirds of survey respondents cited lack of funding as a barrier to implementing coastal adaptation measures. This funding opportunity directly addresses this barrier and can help advance adaptation planning in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, on behalf of USC Sea Grant,

Karina Alvarez (she/her/hers)
Science, Research, and Policy Specialist
University of Southern California Sea Grant Program
karinaa9@usc.edu | seagrant.usc.edu



**GREATER
FARALLONES
ASSOCIATION**

August 15, 2023

California Ocean Protection Council
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent Via Email: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

RE: Agenda Item 5. Action Item: Consideration and Approval of SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation to Support Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Greater Farallones Association (Association), the nonprofit partner of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (Sanctuaries), I am writing to comment on Agenda Item 5 and voice our strong support for the disbursement of up to \$95.9 million to local, regional, and tribal governments through the Senate Bill 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program.

We strongly support the Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives to *Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change* and *Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion and Flooding*. We also encourage equity-focused practices to achieve environmental justice benefits including meaningful community engagement, locally-driven adaptation priorities, improved coastal habitat, and safer coastal access.

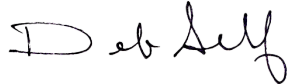
Funding for research, planning, and restoration is imperative to help communities and wildlife adapt to the impacts of climate change. We are happy to see the State's emphasis on safeguarding coastal and marine ecosystems in the face of climate change, and focus on making smart, well-informed investments in preparing for SLR; and encourage OPC to approve the SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation.

We appreciate the Council's emphasis on ensuring adaptation planning efforts across jurisdictions are consistent, standardized, and equitable. Our own adaptation projects center collaboration, community involvement, and advancing environmental equity. Some of our current projects include restoring and monitoring kelp forest habitat in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in collaboration with multiple agencies, academic and NGO partners, tribes, and community members; studying the capacity of kelp restoration toward reducing coastal erosion by attenuating storm

surges; and pursuing solutions like living shorelines as natural alternatives to sea walls to protect communities and wildlife.

I am pleased to voice strong support for the approval of OPC's SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation to Support Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning. We commend the State for this investment in building coastal resilience along California's coastline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Self". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" at the beginning.

Deb Self
Executive Director
Greater Farallones Association
www.Farallones.org