

August 24, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814
Submitted via email

Re: Senate Bill 272 Sea Level Rise Planning & Adaptation - Support

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your continued leadership to ensure California is resilient in the face of climate change. We write to you today as local leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area, home to more than seven million residents, hundreds of thousands of whom will be in harm's way due to sea level rise if immediate action is not taken. We respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 272, introduced by Senator Laird, to establish urgency, accountability, and consistency in sea level rise planning for our region.

The San Francisco Bay Area is estimated to bear $\frac{2}{3}$'s of the state's socioeconomic risk from sea level rise. Major storms like the atmospheric rivers we experienced this year will exacerbate the problem. An estimated 355,000 Bay Area residents live in a 100-year floodplain that also includes \$46.2 billion in structures; 800 miles of roads and highways; 70 miles of critical rail lines; 46 wastewater plants; 35 schools; and 15 hospitals. Some of the Bay Area's biggest companies — including Google, Facebook and Cisco Systems — are also at risk.

Our region has a long history of collaborating to address sea level rise, but we also have unique challenges coordinating among 101 cities, 9 counties, and several regional agencies. Our core challenge as a region is to find ways to adapt to sea level rise in a manner that ensures consistency, equity, and accountability. Meeting this challenge requires new governance structures with clear guidance from the State of California.

While the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission's (BCDC) has undertaken some coordinated sea level rise planning, its authority remains limited, and its approach has focused on voluntary, consensus-driven actions. Indeed, BCDC has begun creating advisory guidance for local government sea level rise plans. Under SB 272, BCDC would have new authority to ensure that this guidance is put into practice in a coordinated and consistent manner, using the best available science.

We recognize that last year you vetoed an earlier version of this bill (SB 867 – 2022) because of concern about costs for implementing the bill. We share concerns about adding unfunded mandates onto local governments. However, we believe that existing state sea level rise planning funds should support the actions mandated in SB 272, and the bill is made contingent upon appropriation by the legislature. If additional funding is needed, we hope that you and the legislature will include such funding in the proposed natural resources bond.

Our region will benefit from the oversight and accountability provided by SB 272 to accelerate consistent, equitable, and effective shoreline resilience plans, ensuring that there are no gaps in sea level rise planning. On behalf of our communities, we urge you to support SB 272 to protect our communities from sea level rise.

Signed,

Matt Mahan
Mayor
City of San Jose

Jesse Arreguín
Mayor
City of Berkeley

Cecilia Taylor
Vice Mayor
City of Menlo Park

Aaron Peskin
Supervisor
City and County of San Francisco

David Canepa
Supervisor
County of San Mateo

Lena Tam
Supervisor
County of Alameda

Elisa Marquez
Supervisor
County of Alameda

Dan Kalb
Councilmember
City of Oakland

Gabe Quinto
Councilmember
City of El Cerrito

Debbie Ruddock
Councilmember
City of Half Moon Bay

Sheng Thao
Mayor
City of Oakland

Lisa Gauthier
Mayor
City of East Palo Alto

Lisa Diaz Nash
Deputy Mayor
City of San Mateo

Dave Pine
Supervisor
County of San Mateo

John Gioia
Supervisor
County of Contra Costa

Diane Burgis
Supervisor
County of Contra Costa

Carol Fife
Councilmember
City of Oakland

David Cohen
Councilmember
City of San Jose

Peter Ortiz
Councilmember
City of San Jose