

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



## Senate Bill 272 – Sea Level Rise Planning

### **SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 272 ensures coastal communities are prepared for and ready to mitigate the effects of sea level rise within the coastal zone by requiring local coastal programs & San Francisco Bay Shoreline Coastal Resiliency Plans are updated to reflect the best available science.

### **BACKGROUND**

Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), per the California Coastal Commission (CCC) are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone. LCPs contain the ground rules for future development and protection of coastal resources in the 76 coastal cities and counties. Under the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDCs) jurisdiction, San Francisco Bay Shoreline Coastal Resiliency Plans serve as an LCP equivalent.

The sea level along the state's coastline is currently predicted to rise by as much as one-half foot by 2030 and up to 7 feet by 2100. Just over 2/3s of the state's residents live in coastal counties, and the coastal economy generates billions of dollars annually. Sea level rise puts this at risk. Currently, coastal programs and resiliency plans are not required to address sea level rise, an often-overlooked aspect of climate change that has the potential to be one of the most damaging threats.

As climate change causes our oceans to warm and sea levels to rise, California's coastal communities,

particularly our most vulnerable communities, are faced with the growing challenge of safeguarding clean drinking water, housing, and the prolific agricultural regions of our state.

Proactive planning and action by local leaders to address the impending threat of sea level rise is necessary to protect the diverse coastal communities, habitat rich environments and economic prosperity that make California a global leader.

### **THIS BILL**

Senate Bill 272 enhances sea level rise planning and adaptation for local governments within the coastal zone and the jurisdiction of San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

This bill requires the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, in close coordination with the Ocean Protection Council and the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative, to establish guidelines for local government sea level rise planning and adaptation by December 31, 2024.

Local governments within the specified jurisdictions are required to address sea level rise planning and adaptation through either a local coastal program, or a San Francisco Bay shoreline coastal resiliency plan by 2034, and will be eligible for prioritized sea level rise funding upon approval of the plans.