Preparing for Rising Seas: How the State Can Help Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts

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About the LAO

- Provide independent, nonpartisan fiscal and policy advice to the California Legislature.
- About 45 analytical staff including five in the Resources and Environmental Protection unit.
- Core activities include:
  - Producing analyses and recommendations related to the state budget.
  - Developing special reports (both statutorily required and self-generated).
  - Providing general analytical support for the Legislature.
  - Summarizing the fiscal effects of initiatives and ballot measures.
About This Report

- Undertaken in Response to Increasing Legislative Interest in Climate Adaptation
- Focuses on How State Can Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts
- Has a Statewide Perspective
- Findings and Recommendations Informed by Extensive Interviews and Research
Sea-Level Rise (SLR) could affect:

- Public infrastructure.
- Natural resources.
- Vulnerable communities.
- Private property.
- State and local economies.
Most Responsibility for SLR Preparation Lies With Local Governments

The State, However, Has a Vested Interest in Ensuring the Coast Is Prepared

Taking Early Action Could Yield Many Benefits

Many—But Not All—Coastal Jurisdictions Across the State Have Begun Planning for SLR

Few Communities Have Progressed to Implementing Projects
Key Challenges for Local Adaptation Efforts
Six Key Challenges Facing Local Adaptation Efforts

- Funding Constraints Hinder Both Planning and Projects
- Limited Local Government Capacity Restricts Their Ability to Take Action
- Adaptation Activities Are Constrained by a Lack of Key Information
Six Key Challenges Facing Local Adaptation Efforts

- A Lack of Forums for Shared Planning and Decision-Making Impedes Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration
- Responding to SLR Is Not Yet a Priority for Many Local Residents or Elected Officials
- The Protracted Process for Attaining Project Permits Delays Adaptation Progress
Recommendations for Legislative Steps
Foster Regional-Scale Adaptation

- Establish and Assist Regional Climate Adaptation Collaborative Groups
- Encourage Development of Regional Coastal Adaptation Plans
- Support Implementation of Regional Adaptation Efforts
Support Local Planning and Adaptation Projects

- Increase Assistance for Cities and Counties to Plan for SLR
- Support Coastal Adaptation Projects With Widespread Benefits
- Facilitate Monitoring of State-Funded Demonstration Projects
Provide Information, Assistance, and Support

- Establish the CA Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network
- Develop a Standard Methodology for Economic Analyses of SLR Risks and Responses
- Require a Review of How Regulatory Permitting Processes Can Be Made More Efficient
Enhance Public Awareness of SLR Risks and Impacts

- Require Coastal Flooding Disclosures for Real Estate Transactions
- Require That State-Funded Adaptation Plans and Projects Include Robust Public Engagement
- Direct State Departments to Conduct a Public Awareness Campaign About SLR
Concluding Thoughts
Latest Developments

➢ Various Climate Bond Proposals
  • Governor: $4.8 billion
  • Senate Bill 45: $5.5 billion
  • Assembly: in development

➢ Budget Proposals
  • Proposed $25 million for climate research and technical assistance.

➢ Various Legislative Proposals

➢ Oversight Hearings
Additional Issues Will Need Legislative Attention in Future

- Clarifying Uncertain Legal Questions
- Defining Statewide Priorities and Responsibilities
- Rethinking How and Where We Build
- Responding to Changes in Insurance Markets
- Addressing Additional Climate-Related Risks and Challenges
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