



March 17, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, California
via Email

Dear Governor Newsom –

We are writing you as the newly formed Legislative Central Coastal Caucus to ask that you fully fund coastal resiliency, coastal erosion, and sea level rise programs for the State of California in the 2023-24 state budget. As California’s coast is battered by unprecedented wave action and precipitation, we are seeing in real time the acceleration of the impacts of climate change on our treasured coastline. To make matters worse, long-range weather forecasts suggest the return of El Nino weather patterns for next year, which historically bring larger waves and significant precipitation.

As you know from the most recent storms on the Central Coast, this type of weather pattern has a disproportional impact on underserved communities, and the resulting flooding we’ve seen continues to put important infrastructure at risk.

Full restoration of the Ocean Protection Council and State Coastal Conservancy budgets is vital, as their programs support coastal resiliency for natural solutions, infrastructure, local planning, and other crucial programs. The over \$1 billion in cuts to these efforts we feel does not reflect the urgent needs our coasts face, and even in lean budget times is shortsighted.

We are deeply appreciative of your fully funding the Department of Parks & Recreation to implement sea level rise planning and demonstration projects, as the lands under their purview encompass a significant portion of coastal California.

As we in the legislature work to return a fully realized state budget document to you for consideration, please appreciate just how important these programs are to our fragile coastal areas. At stake are incredible natural wonders that once lost, can never be restored. California relies on the natural wonders and infrastructure of the Central Coast as an important contributor to our state’s economy, as people travel from all around the globe to experience the wonders we and millions our of constituents call home.

If you or your staff have any questions about these issues, please do not hesitate to reach out to Richard Stapler

in Senator Laird's office at Richard.Stapler@sen.ca.gov.

Thank you,



Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay)



Assemblymember Steve Bennett (D-Ventura)



Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz)



Speaker Designate Robert Rivas (D-Salinas)



State Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz)



State Senator Monique Limon (D-Santa Barbara)



State Senator Henry Stern (D-Calabasas)