



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA  
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800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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April 17, 2012

Board of Supervisors  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Support of SB 1066 (Lieu), authorization for State Coastal Conservancy to address climate change in its programs and grants.

Dear Board Members:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that our Board:

1. Support legislative enactment of SB 1066 (Lieu) that will authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake projects to address climate change, giving priority to projects that maximize public benefits.
2. Authorize the County Executive Office to coordinate with our State lobbyist to send appropriate letters of support on behalf of the Board of Supervisors related to SB 1066.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**DISCUSSION:**

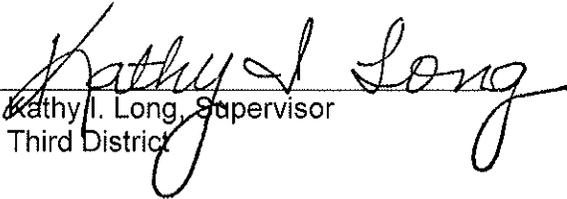
Ventura County benefits from projects of the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) including that of the Santa Clara River Parkway and the Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Project. In regards to the Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Project, Ventura County has the unique ability to witness and be a leader in one of the most important wetland restoration opportunities in Southern California that will improve quality of life, enhance economic growth and accommodate for impacts of climate change. The investment of the SCC improves the quality of wetlands, streams and watersheds in our County for the benefit of all our residents and visitors.

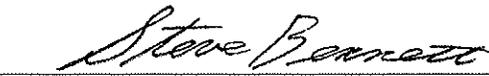
Authorized by the legislature in 1976, the SCC exists to protect and enhance coastal resources and urban waterfronts through grants and other non-regulatory means. As a non-regulatory agency, the SCC contributes \$46 billion annually to enhance California's coastal communities, resources and the economy. Existing law does not expressly authorize the Conservancy to help address the adverse effects of climate change on coastal resources.

SB 1066 clarifies existing ambiguity regarding SCC's ability to address impacts of climate change in its programs; and improves its ability to protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources and urban waterfronts. There are two major components of the legislation: first, to make clear that the SCC may fund and undertake projects to address climate change and may award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these purposes; and secondly, require that the SCC prioritize projects that maximize public benefits.

As we approach Earth Day, it is appropriate that our Board recognize the effects of climate change in California and that by investing in solutions for our coastal resources and urban waterfronts we can save billions of dollars in our state. Please join us in support of this legislation that will help the SCC more effectively achieve its purpose and help reduce the impacts of climate change to people and natural resources along our coast.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy I. Long, Supervisor  
Third District

  
Steve Bennett, Supervisor  
First District

ATTACHMENT: Legislation-SB 1066 (Lieu) as amended dated April 9, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2012  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1066**

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**Introduced by Senator Lieu**

February 13, 2012

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An act to add Section 31113 to the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1066, as amended, Lieu. Coastal resources: climate change.

Existing law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy, which serves as a repository for coastal lands. Existing law authorizes the conservancy to, among other things, undertake projects and award grants for the purposes of restoration of areas of the coastal zone that are adversely affecting the coastal environment or are ~~impending~~ *impeding* orderly development.

This bill would require the conservancy to fund and undertake projects to address climate change, giving priority to projects that maximize public benefits.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 2 (a) California's coastal waters, waterfronts, wetlands, harbors,
- 3 estuaries, bays, ports, marinas, riparian areas, beaches, and
- 4 agricultural resources are important environmental and economic
- 5 resources to the state.

1 (b) The coastal economy contributes \$46 billion ~~dollars~~ annually  
2 to the State of California.

3 (c) Eighty percent of California's 38 million residents live within  
4 30 miles of the coast.

5 (d) Sea level rise, combined with storm-driven waves, poses a  
6 direct risk to the state's coastal resources, including public and  
7 private real property and infrastructure. Rising marine waters  
8 threaten sensitive coastal areas, habitats, the survival of threatened  
9 and endangered species, beaches and other recreation areas, and  
10 urban waterfronts.

11 (e) Commercial fisheries and fishing harbors, ports, production  
12 of seafood, and related jobs will suffer adverse impacts if steps  
13 are not taken to protect them.

14 (f) The desirability of natural areas, riparian areas, beaches,  
15 parks, and urban areas as tourist destinations, and their concomitant  
16 economic benefit to the state, depends on protection of their scenic  
17 and recreational qualities.

18 (g) The economic and environmental health of human and  
19 natural coastal communities depends on their resilience—their  
20 ability to survive and rebound from adverse effects.

21 (h) Improving the health of coastal rivers, wetlands, beaches,  
22 harbors, ports, urban waterfronts, fisheries, and agricultural  
23 resources in advance of threats can contribute to their resiliency.

24 (i) Extensive cooperation between governmental and private  
25 entities is needed to respond adequately to the effects of climate  
26 change.

27 (j) For well over 30 years, the State Coastal Conservancy, a  
28 nonregulatory agency established under Division 21 (commencing  
29 with Section 31000) of the Public Resources Code, has worked  
30 with public and private entities to protect, restore, and enhance  
31 coastal and marine resources and habitats, has addressed  
32 deteriorating urban waterfronts and poorly designed coastal  
33 development, and has provided public recreation facilities and  
34 access to the coast and urban waterfront areas.

35 (k) The conservancy can further contribute to the improvement  
36 and management of the state's invaluable public and private coastal  
37 resources, and, in so doing, lessen the degradation and destruction  
38 from future effects of a changing climate on natural and built  
39 resources and related jobs.

1 (l) Projects that protect coastal resources from climate change  
2 impacts can provide additional valuable public benefits, including,  
3 but not limited to, flood protection, improved water quality, and  
4 increases in fish and wildlife for food and recreation.

5 (m) Existing law does not expressly authorize the State Coastal  
6 Conservancy to address climate change or its impacts, despite the  
7 anticipated adverse effects on the coast.

8 (n) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in implementing  
9 Division 21 (commencing with Section 31000) of the *Public*  
10 *Resources Code*, the conservancy ~~has~~ have adequate authority to  
11 work with local governments and private entities to address the  
12 effects of climate change on coastal resources, public and private,  
13 natural and built, including, but not limited to, coastal beaches,  
14 ports, urban waterfronts, infrastructure, the ocean, riparian areas  
15 and watersheds, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and public and private  
16 real property.

17 (o) The conservancy's participation in addressing adverse effects  
18 on coastal resources can help to maintain property values for  
19 individuals and businesses, aid the tourist industry, and promote  
20 business and jobs by facilitating the development and protection  
21 of visitor-serving commercial facilities and amenities attractive to  
22 skilled and educated workers.

23 (p) The conservancy's participation in addressing climate change  
24 can help to produce construction and other jobs for Californians,  
25 both directly, through conservation and development activities,  
26 and indirectly, through increased recreational, business, and tourist  
27 use.

28 (q) The conservancy's participation can contribute to the  
29 resiliency of the natural and built environments, including habitat,  
30 beaches, ports, and urban waterfronts, and can facilitate assisted  
31 migration of plant and animal species that lack adequate ability to  
32 adapt.

33 (r) To the extent that this act assists the conservancy in obtaining  
34 federal and other funds, it may help reduce demand on the General  
35 Fund for coastal improvement and resilience activities.

36 SEC. 2. Section 31113 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
37 to read:

38 31113. In implementing this division, the conservancy shall  
39 fund and undertake projects to address climate change, including;  
40 ~~but not limited to, planning, adaptation, and mitigation projects~~

1 *that address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge,*  
2 *beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other*  
3 *coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure,*  
4 *and natural resources, and may award grants to public agencies*  
5 *and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. The conservancy*  
6 *shall prioritize projects that maximize public benefits, including,*  
7 *but not limited to, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases,*  
8 *reducing hazards to harbors and ports, and related jobs, preserving*  
9 *and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving*  
10 *biodiversity, including fish, and related jobs, and providing*  
11 *recreational opportunities.*

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