

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1066

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 13, 2012

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 impeding orderly development.

This bill would ~~require~~ *authorize* 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

1 agricultural resources are important environmental and economic
2 resources to the state.

3 (b) The coastal economy contributes \$46 billion annually to the
4 State of California.

5 (c) Eighty percent of California's 38 million residents live within
6 30 miles of the coast.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (k) The conservancy can further contribute to the improvement
38 and management of the state's invaluable public and private coastal
39 resources, and, in so doing, lessen the degradation and destruction

1 from future effects of a changing climate on natural and built
2 resources and related jobs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 SEC. 2. Section 31113 is added to the Public Resources Code,
39 to read:

1 31113. (a) In implementing this division, the conservancy
2 ~~shall fund and undertake projects to~~ *is authorized to address the*
3 *impacts and potential impacts of climate change, including on*
4 *coastal resources. Pursuant to this authorization, the conservancy*
5 *may undertake coastal projects, including, but not limited to, those*
6 *that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather*
7 *events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, salt*
8 *water intrusion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten*
9 *coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources, and.*
10 (b) *The conservancy may award grants to public agencies and*
11 *nonprofit organizations for these purposes. The activities*
12 *authorized pursuant to subdivision (a). In awarding the grants,*
13 *the conservancy shall, to the extent allowed, prioritize projects that*
14 *maximize public benefits, including, but not limited to, reducing*
15 *emissions of greenhouse gases, reducing hazards to harbors and*
16 *ports, and related jobs, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands*
17 *and natural lands, conserving biodiversity, including fish, and*
18 *related jobs, and providing recreational opportunities.*