



8/24/2023

Governor Gavin Newsom

1021 O Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via email

***RE: SB 272 Sea Level Rise: Planning and Adaptation – SUPPORT***

Dear Governor Newsom,

Our organizations support SB 272 because we recognize the need to create stronger governance tools to protect communities along the San Francisco Bay and California coast from the impacts of sea level rise. The “governance gap” on sea level rise has been a particular challenge for the San Francisco Bay region, and we are grateful for the opportunity this bill provides to introduce accountability and consistency in this process.

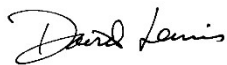
The San Francisco Bay Area is estimated to bear ⅔’s of the state’s socioeconomic risk from sea level rise. Our region has a long history of working on these issues, but also unique challenges related to our heavily urbanized and politically fragmented governance structure. Our core challenge as a region is to find ways to adapt to sea level rise in a manner that ensures resilience for both our communities and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. Meeting this challenge requires new governance structures with clear guidance from the State of California to reinforce these coequal goals.

The San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) has begun creating advisory guidance for local government sea level rise plans. Under SB 272, BCDC would have new authority to ensure that local governments put this guidance into practice and develop resilience plans using the best available science. It is crucial that BCDC is empowered to provide oversight and accountability to accelerate consistent, equitable, and effective shoreline resilience plans that protect vulnerable communities.

As the guidelines and local plans are developed, we remain committed to working with the administration and BCDC to ensure the formalization of clear requirements emphasizing the need to incorporate nature-based shoreline protections and a strong public engagement process that prioritizes the needs of front-line at-risk communities from the outset.

As this winter's storms have made clear, the impacts of climate change are increasing annually, and we do not have time to wait to plan for the rising tides that will occur in our region. The approach taken by SB 272 provides an important step toward our shared goal of protecting Bay Area communities and building a more resilient shoreline.

Sincerely,



**David Lewis**  
Executive Director  
Save the Bay



**Zoe Siegel**  
Sr Director of Climate Resilience  
Greenbelt Alliance



**Laura Feinstein**  
Sustainability and Resilience Policy  
Director, SPUR