



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Board of Supervisors - Third District

**Subject:** Support for Assembly Bill 996 - California Coastal Planning Fund: Sea Level Rise Plans.

**Meeting Date:** May 20, 2025

**Formal Title:** Direct the Chair of the Board to send a letter expressing support for Assembly Bill 996 to the bill's author, Assemblymember Pellerin, and to other members of our legislative delegation

### **Recommended Actions**

Direct the Chair of the Board to send a letter expressing support for Assembly Bill 996 to the bill's author, Assemblymember Pellerin, and to other members of our legislative delegation.

### **Executive Summary**

Assembly Bill 996 (Pellerin) would create the California Coastal Planning Fund to provide resources to the California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and local governments for coastal planning work, with a particular focus on preparing for sea level rise. Given the vulnerability of Santa Cruz County's coastline and the importance of forward-looking coastal resilience planning, it is important that the Board support this legislation.

### **Discussion**

Santa Cruz County's coastline is increasingly threatened by sea level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events. As a coastal jurisdiction, the County has a vested interest in legislation that facilitates comprehensive and coordinated coastal planning, especially efforts that align with state requirements and enhance local capacity.

Assembly Bill 996 (AB 996) would establish the California Coastal Planning Fund to support local and regional coastal planning efforts. Although the Fund would not have a dedicated source of revenue, it would be authorized to receive voluntary contributions from a variety of sources, thereby creating a flexible tool to support coastal planning work statewide. This includes critical efforts to integrate sea level rise adaptation into local coastal programs (LCPs), a priority for many coastal communities, including Santa Cruz County.

Recent amendments to AB 996 improve its utility for local governments by allowing past sea level rise planning work to count toward the mandates of SB 272. The amendments also create a voluntary consultation pathway with the Coastal Commission, which could help local governments like Santa Cruz County navigate the complex regulatory and scientific aspects of updating LCPs to address climate change impacts.

Supporting AB 996 aligns with the County's climate adaptation goals and enhances our ability to secure resources and guidance for local coastal planning. A letter of support from the Board would communicate the County's strong interest in seeing this bill enacted.

**Financial Impact**

The recommended action does not have a financial impact.

**Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment

**Submitted By:**

Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor

**Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

**Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.