



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 996 (Pellerin)—Public Resources: California Coastal Act of 1976: California Coastal Planning Fund: sea level rise plans *(As Amended April 21, 2025)*

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is in strong support AB 996 (Pellerin), which would support the local governments who are required to develop sea level rise plans by facilitating an early consultation process with the California Coastal Commission and establishing the California Coastal Planning Fund to support these efforts.

In 2023, SB 272 (Laird) was chaptered into law, which requires certain local governments to develop sea level rise plans by 2034. AB 996 would provide three supportive tools for local governments in the development of a sea level rise plan. First, the bill would establish the California Coastal Planning Fund in the State Treasury to provide future state funding to local governments to develop these robust sea level rise plans. A portion of the funds would be set aside for the state to review and approve these plans. AB 996 would also create an early consultation process for local governments to engage and consult with the Commission about the preparation of new or amended Local Coastal Plan's to ensure formal submission of sea level rise plan materials are sufficient for a complete review.

AB 996 would additionally allow existing sea level rise information or plans that a local government has previously prepared to satisfy one or all of the components of the sea level rise plans. Many coastal cities, including Long Beach, have done extensive work to assess sea level rise vulnerability. This provision would clarify that a local government does not need to do duplicative planning, if the existing materials can satisfy the sea level rise plan requirements. For these reasons, the City strongly supports AB 996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson".

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District