

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C96**

A Statewide

08/14/12

S Statewide

S. Pemberton

**CONSIDER SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE  
STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY TO FUND AND UNDERTAKE PROJECTS  
RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, GIVING PRIORITY TO PROJECTS THAT  
MAXIMIZE PUBLIC BENEFITS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

State Lands Commission staff has been reviewing various legislative proposals introduced in the 2011-12 legislative session that involve lands under the Commission's jurisdiction. This report describes proposed legislation (SB 1066 – Lieu) that would authorize the California Coastal Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for this purpose. This report further proposes that the Commission consider adopting a support position on this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL:**

**SB 1066 (Lieu): Coastal Resources: climate change**

**SUMMARY:**

SB 1066 would authorize the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) to address the impacts of climate change on coastal resources by allowing the Conservancy to undertake coastal projects within its jurisdiction and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for climate change projects. In awarding grants, the Conservancy would be required to prioritize projects that maximize public benefits, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing hazards to harbors and ports, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving biodiversity, and providing recreational opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Conservancy is a state agency that purchases, protects, restores, and enhances coastal resources, and provides public access to the shore. The Conservancy works in partnership with local governments, public agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners. Since their inception in 1976, the Conservancy has invested over \$1.5

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billion in more than 1,800 projects along the California coast and around San Francisco Bay. Last year, the Conservancy supported 79 projects with an average project cost of approximately \$810,000. The Conservancy is funded primarily by state general obligation bonds approved by California voters.

SB 1066 would authorize the Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on coastal resources. Pursuant to this authorization, SB 1066 would allow the Conservancy to undertake coastal projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. SB 1066 would also allow the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these activities.

In awarding grants, the Conservancy would be required to prioritize projects that maximize public benefits, including, but not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing hazards to harbors and ports, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving biodiversity, and providing recreational opportunities.

The provisions of SB 1066 are beneficial to the public trust lands and waterways entrusted to the Commission's care because they promote sea level rise planning, which better protects coastal public trust resources from climate change impacts. Additionally, the provisions of this bill may assist the Conservancy in obtaining federal and other funds to address sea level rise, reducing demand on the General Fund for coastal improvements to address climate change impacts.

### **OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

SB 1066 was approved by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on June 18, 2012, on a 6-3 vote and is awaiting consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. It is supported by a long list of organizations, including Audubon California, Bay Area Open Space Council, Big Sur Land Trust, California Coastkeeper Alliance, California Coastal Commission, the cities of Culver City, Laguna Beach and Long Beach, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Environmental Defense Fund, Heal the Bay, Marin County, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey County, Mountains Restoration Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ocean Conservancy, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, Save the Bay, Sonoma Land Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Ventura County and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. It has received no opposition.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. Adopt a support position on SB 1066 (Lieu).