



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

Luis A. Alejo, District 1
Glenn Church, District 2
Chris M. Lopez, District 3
Wendy Root Askew, Chair, District 4
Kate Daniels, Vice Chair, District 5

Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Assemblymember Diane Papan
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2051 (Wicks) Public resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group. - Notice of Support

Dear Chair Papan,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write in support of AB 2051 (Wicks) which requires the California Natural Resources Agency to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group.

California's coast and bays are on the front lines of climate change. Sea level rise, storm surges, and increasingly frequent flooding threaten vulnerable communities, sensitive ecosystems, and critical infrastructure across the state. The Ocean Protection Council projects sea levels could rise by more than three feet by 2100 under likely scenarios, with even higher-end projections possible. In the San Francisco Bay Area alone, agencies estimate needing \$110 billion by 2050 for climate resilience projects to protect people, habitats, and public infrastructure.

Delivering these resilience projects quickly and responsibly is essential. Unfortunately, California's current coastal permitting system is often fragmented and unpredictable, slowing urgently needed adaptation efforts and increasing costs, as illustrated by the California State Assembly Select Committee on Permitting Reform's final report.

AB 2051 takes a thoughtful and collaborative approach to addressing these challenges. The bill directs the California Natural Resources Agency to convene an interagency Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group to identify administrative improvements and develop a clear roadmap for streamlining permitting for coastal resilience projects. Through stronger interagency coordination, standardized processes, workforce assessment, and recommendations for future legislative action, the bill seeks to accelerate resilience projects while upholding California's environmental protections.

AB 2051 will help ensure that critical climate adaptation projects move forward at the scale and speed required to protect communities and ecosystems. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of AB 2051. Should you have any questions, please contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker at 916-930-7780.



Sincerely,

DRAFT

Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors