
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2051 (Wicks) - Public resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group

Version: July 6, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would require the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group (Working Group) for the purpose of developing a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap (Roadmap) to accelerate coastal resilience projects.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- One-time costs, likely in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars spread over 2-3 years (General Fund) for CNRA to facilitate interagency collaboration, public workshops, development of the Roadmap, and other deliverables required by the bill.
- One-time costs, likely in the low millions of dollars spread over 2-3 years (General Fund) for the California Coastal Commission estimates to help develop relevant components of the Roadmap, including recommendations across 10 topic areas, new state agency mitigation processes, proposed legislative reforms, alternatives analyses, evaluation of the efficacy of offshore wind project permitting practices, and more.
- Unknown but significant ongoing costs, possibly in the millions of dollars annually (General Fund, Waste Discharge Permit Fund, or other fund) for the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards to support state and regional board participation in the creation of Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap, including expansive subject matter expertise, developing recommendations, participating in statewide public workshops, providing legal consultation, and ensuring the necessary internal operational support to carry out the bill's provisions. In addition, the State Water Board anticipates that the scale of the required implementable solutions required by this bill's provisions would have significant costs ongoing, with significant information technology resources required to develop unified applications on a statewide or regional scale.
- Ongoing costs, likely around \$1 million annually (General Fund), for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.(BCDC) to assist with development of the Roadmap and implement reforms identified by the Working Group. BCDC notes that without additional positions and contracting resources, BCDC may need to utilize its existing permitting staff and its regulatory improvements team to implement this bill, thereby increasing permitting timelines

and delaying implementation of BCDC's preexisting efforts to improve permitting processes.

- One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to organize input from the department's coastal regions (specifically, regions one, three, four, five, and seven); participate in the Working Group, Advisory Group, and public workshops; and assist with the development and review of the Roadmap.
- One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to consult with the members of the Working Group to collaborate on the drafting and recommendations to be included in the Roadmap.
- One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to consultant services to participate in the Advisory Group, participate in public workshops, and assist with the development and review of the Roadmap and legislative reforms resulting from recommendations made in the Roadmap.

Author Amendments: Author amendments would revise the composition of the Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group, the Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group, and the public workshops to include the State Water Resources Control Board and representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards in place of the specified regional water boards, and to extend the deadline for submitting the Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap to the Governor and the Legislature from January 1, 2028, to July 1, 2028, among other things. Specifically, these amendments would:

1. Replace, in the Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group membership list, the entry naming the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards for San Francisco Bay, North Coast, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Diego with an entry naming the State Water Resources Control Board and representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
2. Strike the standalone State Water Resources Control Board entry from the Working Group membership list, now carried in the combined entry.
3. Extend the deadline for the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to submit the Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap to the Governor and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature from January 1, 2028, to July 1, 2028.
4. Replace, among the entities with which the Secretary convenes the Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group, the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards with jurisdiction over the California coast and San Francisco Bay with the State Water Resources Control Board and representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
5. Provide that Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group membership may, rather than shall, include the listed representatives.

6. Narrow the wastewater treatment agencies in the Advisory Group membership list to agencies that serve jurisdictions subject to Division 20.6.9 (commencing with § 30985).
7. Make the same water boards substitution in the provision requiring the Secretary to conduct public workshops with the Advisory Group.

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