

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2051 (Wicks)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (NRA) 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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Replace, in the 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) Modify the Roadmap recommendations.
- 3) Extend the deadline for the Secretary of NRA to submit the 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 (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 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.
- 7) Make the same water boards substitution in the provision requiring the Secretary to conduct public workshops with the Advisory Group.
- 8) Authorize, for good cause, the California Coastal Commission to retroactively extend, for a period not to exceed five years, any time limitation established for a local government to act on the Commission's suggested modifications to a land use plan amendment that would authorize approval of a 100% affordable housing development.
- 9) Modify the findings and declarations.

COMMENTS

In 2024, the Select Committee on Permit Reform met to discuss permit challenges and permit process reform for infill housing, clean energy, transit, and climate resiliency projects. The resultant *California Assembly Select Committee on Permitting Reform Final Report* (March 2025) notes that despite permit reforms already undertaken, many stakeholders expressed

concern that further permitting reform is necessary for the state to achieve its housing production goals, such as eliminating uncertainty in the application process; minimizing uncertainty in the entitlement process; creating more consistency across permitting entities; focusing on the California Environmental Quality Act and environmental issues; and, minimizing uncertainty for post-entitlement permits.

The report identified best practices for permitting reform, including prioritizing agency objectives and workload, providing a clear and straightforward permit application process, and establishing specific timeframes for reviewing permits.

AB 2051 requires NRA to convene a Working Group to develop a Roadmap for coastal resilience projects proposed along the California coast and in the San Francisco Bay, and make recommendations on myriad administrative reforms and alignment of agency requirements to streamline permitting processes and timeframes.

Numerous recent reports completed by agencies participating in the Working Group and/or Advisory Group have been published with recommendations to streamline the permitting process for coastal development projects. These reports can both inform the Roadmap and eliminate unnecessary redundancies in the Working Group's efforts.

According to the Author

The communities most at risk from climate change are disproportionately low-income and communities of color, located in low-lying areas adjacent to San Francisco Bay and the Pacific coast, with limited resources to self-finance adaptation. Every year of permitting delay is a year these communities remain exposed to harm they did not cause and cannot afford to absorb. AB 2051 would outline a process that could help accelerate the delivery of flood protection, wetland restoration, and shoreline adaptation infrastructure to the people who need it most... The bill's Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group is specifically charged with ensuring that streamlining efforts do not weaken protections for fish and wildlife habitat, tribal cultural resources, or public access.

Arguments in Support

California State Association of Counties writes that delivering needed climate 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.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) One-time costs, likely in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars spread over two to three years (General Fund) for NRA to facilitate interagency collaboration, public workshops, development of the Roadmap, and other deliverables required by the bill.

- 2) One-time costs, likely in the low millions of dollars spread over two to three 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over three to four 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.
- 6) One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over three to four 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.
- 7) One-time costs, likely less than \$1 million spread over three to four 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.

VOTES:**ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 12-1-1**

YES: Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

NO: Macedo

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ellis

ASM WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: 12-0-1

YES: Papan, Jeff Gonzalez, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Caloza, Hart, Muratsuchi, Rogers

ABS, ABST OR NV: Gallagher

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-2-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-6-9

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio, Dixon, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Castillo, Ellis, Flora, Hadwick, Lackey, Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

CONSULTANT: Paige Brokaw / NAT. RES. / (916) 319-2092

FN: 0004360