

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
ACR 149 (Hart, et al.)
As Introduced February 25, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Acknowledges and celebrates 50 years of coastal protection through the California Coastal Act.

Major Provisions

- 1) Resolves by the Assembly of the State of California that the Legislature proudly acknowledges and celebrates 50 years of coastal protection.
- 2) Affirms the state of California's longstanding commitment to protecting its coastal waters and recognizes the importance of carefully evaluating activities, including offshore oil and gas drilling and coastal development, to ensure consistency with the state's coastal protection laws, climate goals, and the public trust in a clean and healthy coast.
- 3) Acknowledges the value of ecologically sound coastal protection combined with carefully planned development as essential to the economic and social well-being of the state for the next 50 years and beyond, and reaffirms the findings of our predecessors from 1976 that the permanent protection of the state's natural and scenic coastal resources is a paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation.

COMMENTS

In 1972, the people of California approved Proposition 20, the California Coastal Zone Conservation Act, establishing that protection of the California coast and ocean is a paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation.

In 1976, the Legislature enacted the California Coastal Act and the State Coastal Conservancy Act, based on findings that the California coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest to all the people.

Since 1976, California's population has nearly doubled, growing from approximately 22 million to almost 40 million people. But despite ongoing pressure to privatize some of the world's most valuable real estate, the coast is demonstrably cleaner, healthier and more accessible than it was when the Coastal Act was signed into law.

The enduring legacy of the Coastal Act is evidenced in the coastal wetlands not filled, the sensitive habitats not destroyed, the access trails not blocked, the farms and ranches not converted to urban uses, the freeways and gated communities and industrial facilities not built.

According to the Author

The California Coastal Act stands as a landmark commitment to protecting and preserving California's coastline. Enacted at the urging of millions of Californians, the Act reflects a clear and enduring responsibility to safeguard our coastal and marine resources for present and future generations. It establishes the framework to protect marine life, ocean ecosystems, public access, and surrounding coastal areas as shared public treasures to be enjoyed. For 50 years, the Coastal Act has served as the foundation of California's coastal stewardship, consistently prioritizing

environmental health, sustainability, and responsible use of our invaluable coastal resources. ACR 149 celebrates this legacy and reaffirms the State's commitment to upholding the Coastal Act's protections for decades to come.

Arguments in Support

A group of environmental organizations write, "The California Coastal Commission—mandated to uphold the Coastal Act's core protections for the environment and the public—continues to demonstrate both the profound importance of the law, and its power to address emerging issues over time. The Coastal Act and Coastal Commission were instrumental in the desegregation of the Jonathan Club in Santa Monica, the first time race and gender-based discrimination was addressed through the lens of access to and use of coastal resources. In 2016, the Coastal Act was amended to include a section requiring the Coastal Commission to evaluate projects through the lens of environmental justice, which has been powerfully applied to prevent polluting industrial projects and expand equitable access to the coast. It truly is the People's Law.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

Nonfiscal

VOTES

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 10-2-2

YES: Bryan, Connolly, Garcia, Haney, Kalra, Boerner, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

NO: Ellis, Macedo

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Hoover

UPDATED

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