
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 136
Author: Laird (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/25/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: The California Coastal Act of 1976

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution acknowledges and celebrates 50 years of coastal protection and affirms the state's longstanding commitment to protecting its coastal waters, as specified.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) In 1972, the people of California passed 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.
- 2) In 1976, the Legislature passed 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.
- 3) The California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy were created to implement these respective statutes, including the shared mandate to maximize public access to and along the coast.
- 4) The California Coastal Act creates a unique partnership between coastal local governments and the state through a land use planning framework that respects local control while ensuring statewide coastal protection policies are effectively carried out.
- 5) The partnership between the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy through their complementary authority has been responsible for the conservation of over 500,000 acres of natural lands as open space, the creation of more than 2,500 public accessways and easements to and

along the coast, the restoration of more than 50,000 acres of coastal habitats, the designation and opening of 875 miles of the California Coastal Trail, and the investment of over \$2 billion in coastal conservation, restoration, public access, and climate resilience all while supporting a thriving \$51 billion coast and ocean economy.

- 6) The State Coastal Conservancy Act ensures that all Californians are able to enjoy our iconic coastline and benefit from public investment in the permanent protection, restoration, and climate resilience of the coast.

This resolution 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/3/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/3/26)

None received

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3/4/26 15:53:08

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