

State Coastal Conservancy

September 28, 2017 Legislative Report

Chaptered Legislation

AB 109 (Ting, D): Budget Act of 2017, Chapter 249 Statutes of 2017

This budget trailer bill appropriates \$4 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (“GGRF”) to the Conservancy for the agency’s *Climate Ready Program*. This is the Conservancy’s first appropriation of GGRF funds.

The Coastal Conservancy’s Climate Ready Program is an existing program, established in 2013, to help communities along California’s coast and San Francisco Bay adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, erosion, flooding, increasing heat and wildfire, changing rainfall, and drought. The Conservancy is also working to increase greenhouse gases sequestration through the conservation of natural and working lands. The Conservancy is supporting dozens of Climate Ready Projects that:

- Assess the vulnerability to sea level rise and create adaptation plans to increase resilience.
- Plan, design, and implement living shorelines throughout the state that use oyster beds, wetlands, dunes, and other natural habitats to buffer the impacts of rising seas and increased storm events while providing multiple benefits.
- Support urban greening projects that create shady retreats from extreme heat, conserve rainwater, and capture stormwater.
- Conserve natural and working lands that remove and capture these greenhouse gases.

The most recent grants awarded under this program provide technical assistance to local government to address climate change impacts that will exacerbate existing inequities and disproportionately impact already vulnerable communities. The Climate Ready grant program has not awarded financial assistance since 2015 due to lack of resources.

Enrolled Bills awaiting action by the Governor as of September 25, 2017

SB 5 (De Leon D): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

SB 5 would authorize the issuance of \$4 billion of GO bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program if approved by voters in June 2018. SB 5 allocates a total of \$226 million to the Conservancy and its programs. This amount includes:

- \$63.75 million for Division 21 purposes
- \$55.25 million for the San Francisco Bay Program, including \$20m for a matching grant program for the SF Bay Restoration Authority
- \$30 million for lower cost overnight accommodations projects
- \$16 million for the Santa Ana Conservancy Program
- \$10 million for river parkway projects along the Santa Margarita River
- \$20 million for the protection, restoration, and improvement of coastal forest lands

- \$5 million for restoration and protection of estuarine habitats
- \$4.8 million for projects in the West Coyote Hills of Orange County
- \$21.2 million for Conservancy climate change and sea level rise adaptation projects

AB 250 (Gonzalez Fletcher D): State Coastal Conservancy: Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations Program.

AB 250 would add Chapter 10 to Division 21 of the Public Resources Code establishing the Lower Coast Coastal Accommodations Program. The bill would require the Conservancy to undertake the following actions:

- Develop and implement a Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations Program (“Program”) within 1/1/2 miles of the coast.
- Prepare and update a lower cost coastal accommodations assessment.
- Consult and collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation (“Department”), the Coastal Commission (“Commission”), and other interested agencies and organizations to develop and implement the Program.

The bill would authorize but does not require the Conservancy to develop and implement a pilot program for projects involving for-profit private entities as well as non-profit organizations. The bill neither makes nor requires an appropriation of funds for the program. However, SB 5 allocates \$30 million to the Conservancy for lower cost coastal accommodation grants to local public agencies and non-profit organizations.

Two-Year Bills

SB 714 (Newman, D – Quirk-Silva, D): State Coastal Conservancy: West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program

This bill would establish the West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program in the Coastal Conservancy. The bill would authorize the Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants for projects in the West Coyote Hills area of northern Orange County to protect and restore habitat, connecting corridors, and other open space resources of regional significance, as well as promote projects that provide nearby populations with recreational and educational opportunities. It would also require the Conservancy to develop a plan for the program and consider adopting the plan.

SB 5, the Senate parks and water bond bill, allocates \$9.6 million to Coastal Conservancy for a program of conservation in the West Coyote Hills. The Budget Act of 2017 includes an appropriation of \$15 million to the Conservancy for projects in the West Coyote Hills contingent on SB 714 becoming law.

AB 388 (Mullin D): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: wetland restoration projects

This bill would authorize use of the moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the use of dredged material for wetland restoration projects, including projects that provide flood protection and carbon sequestration, if the investment furthers the regulatory purposes of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).