

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 04/09/2012
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: The Nature Conservancy

BILL NUMBER: SB 1066
AUTHOR: Lieu, Ted

BILL SUMMARY: Coastal resources: climate change.

This bill would explicitly authorize the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) to engage in projects that address climate change impacts.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have no fiscal effect that can be estimated at this time. The bill does not include additional funding for the Conservancy to implement climate change projects. The majority of the Conservancy's projects are bond funded, and most of the Conservancy's bond funds are already appropriated. According to the Conservancy, the bill may make it easier to obtain funds from the federal government and private sources for climate change projects. However the resulting fiscal effect, if any, is unknown.

COMMENTS

We are neutral on this bill because it authorizes the Conservancy to engage in climate change-related projects, consistent with the Conservancy's current practice.

Existing law creates the Conservancy to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and provide public access to the shore. Although the statute does not explicitly authorize the Conservancy to participate in climate change activities, it already engages in such activities in connection with its basic mission. The Conservancy is a member of the state's Coastal and Ocean Resources Working Group, which was established to ensure the state's ability to adapt to climate change impacts on ocean and coastal resources while supporting implementation of global warming emission reduction programs.

In November 2011, the Coastal Conservancy Board updated its climate change policy and project selection criteria to address climate change impacts. These policies use a risk analysis approach to evaluate the ability of proposed projects to adapt to projected sea level rise and extreme events over time. Projects also are evaluated for their ability to withstand impacts from climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Conservancy has provided funding to address climate change-related projects, such as a pilot project to assess the potential future impacts from sea level rise for the Monterey Region, through its authority on improving and protecting coastal and marine water quality and habitats.

According to the Conservancy, the bill would likely make it easier for it to compete for and obtain funds from federal government and private sources for climate change projects because it could eliminate the ambiguity in the law authorizing the Conservancy to implement climate change and its impacts as part of its broader mission. However, since the Conservancy already engages in climate change-related activities, it is not clear that this bill would have a substantial effect on future funding.

Analyst/Principal (0633) K.Gmeinder	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

BILL NUMBER

Lieu, Ted

04/09/2012

SB 1066

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014 Code	
3760/Coast Consvr	CO	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----	0565
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0565	Coastal Conservancy Fund, State						