



736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager (707) 822-5953	Police 822-2428	Recreation 822-7091
Community Development 822-5955	Finance 822-5951	Transportation 822-3775
Environmental Services Streets/Utilities 822-5957	Environmental Services Community Services 822-8184	Engineering & Building 825-2128

August 12, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1078, Innovative Financing for Communities Threatened by Sea-Level Rise (Allen)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Arcata in support of SB 1078, Innovative Financing for Communities Threatened by Sea-Level Rise. This bill would establish the Sea-Level Rise Revolving Loan Pilot Program.

The Humboldt Bay region, in the northwestern corner of the state, is experiencing the fastest rate of relative sea level rise on the West Coast, according to California's 4th Climate Change Assessment. Arcata's southern border is adjacent to Humboldt Bay and is home to the City's wastewater treatment plant, corporation yard, commercial buildings, and numerous residences, including a sizable portion of low-income rentals. These properties are all anticipated to be affected by sea level rise.

SB 1078 would provide local governments, such as the City of Arcata, with an innovative financing option to alleviate the risks of the rising ocean and affected bay areas while protecting both property owners and taxpayers. Its innovative program would allow homeowners to voluntarily opt-in to sell at-risk properties while they still have value and stay in their homes until the home is no longer habitable. This provides time for planning California's housing need. By opting into the program, the City could collect rental income to repay the loan and potentially earn additional revenue. SB 1078 also safeguards our coastline for generations to come and reduce fiscal liability for California taxpayers. SB 1078 is a multi-benefit solution for all parties involved.

The City of Arcata, along with Humboldt County, is a prime candidate for this program due to our proximity to Humboldt Bay and disadvantaged community. Low-lying areas in the City

limits already experience regular flooding with King Tides, and this is expected to worsen with future sea-level rise. According to a recent Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Report, property values are low within Humboldt's most vulnerable communities due to flooding and sea-level impacts. Many of our residents in these low-lying areas have limited to no resources to adapt.

SB 1078 is a crucial tool in the sea-level rise preparedness toolbox for local jurisdictions and can address the inequitable impacts of climate change. We urge you to support this measure. Should you have any questions regarding the City's support, please do not hesitate to contact City Manager Karen Diemer at 707-822-5953 or kdiemer@cityofarcata.org.

Respectfully,



Stacy Atkins-Salazar, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

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Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov, Ciara.Emery@mail.house.gov

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