

SB 262 (Wieckowski)

California Council for Adaptation and Resiliency

SUMMARY

SB 262 takes an important next step in building a resilient California by formalizing the Technical Advisory Council created by SB 246 (Wieckowski, Chapter 606, Statutes of 2015) as the California Council for Adaptation and Resiliency (CCAR), and giving CCAR the responsibility to maintain the climate adaption clearinghouse, oversee the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), and handle various climate adaptation resiliency and financing documents—so that it will continue across future administrations.

BACKGROUND

California has been a leader in climate mitigation efforts. However, the state alone cannot prevent global climate change and must prepare for the inevitable impacts through planning and implementing adaptation strategies in addition to mitigation.

State agencies have developed numerous assessment and planning documents to better understand the risks from climate change to California and recommend principles for adaptation, as in the State’s Climate Adaptation Strategy (Safeguarding California) and the Adaptation Planning Guide. However, as noted in the 2014 independent report “Governing California Through Climate Change” by the Little Hoover Commission, based on hearings, meetings, and interviews with experts and stakeholders throughout the state, there is a need for a more unified approach to adaptation from the state government.

The necessity for improvements in implementing and coordinating adaptation efforts across the state was further highlighted over the course of several informational and oversight hearings conducted by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee in 2015.

This work culminated in Senate Bill 246, which established the ICARP within the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). SB 246 tasked OPR, through the ICARP, with aiding the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other state agencies in planning and coordinating regular updates to the Adaptation Planning Guide and also created a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information to be coordinate and managed by OPR. SB 246 further established an advisory council to assist the ICARP by providing scientific and technical support, as well as regional and local perspectives, from experts with a range of disciplines.

The work now being done at OPR as a result of SB 246 is critical to the state’s climate adaptation efforts. The work now being done at OPR as a result of SB 246 is critical to the state’s climate adaptation efforts. By building a permanent structure for state, local, and regional stakeholder participation and growing the resources for adaptation and resiliency action, SB 262 builds upon OPR’s efforts under SB 246.

THIS BILL

SB 262 builds on OPR’s work under SB 246 by formalizing the Technical Advisory Council as the California Council for Adaptation and Resiliency (CCAR), and giving CCAR the responsibility to maintain the climate adaption clearinghouse, oversee the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, and handle various climate adaptation resiliency and financing documents—so that it will continue across future administrations.

SUPPORT

East Bay Regional Park District
Union of Concerned Scientists

STATUS

Assembly Natural Resources Committee.