



September 10, 2018

Secretary John Laird  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Re: The State of California’s Adoption of Hope for the Coast Vision**

Dear Secretary Laird,

We would like to commend the State of California for their leadership in adopting the Hope for the Coast Vision (“Vision”) and making concrete commitments to ensure California conserves and enhances the statewide extent of our precious coastal habitats. The purpose of this letter is to express our own commitment to helping California achieve this bold Vision.

The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative (SDRCC) is a network of public agencies that advances comprehensive solutions to facilitate climate change planning across San Diego County. Our region’s 70 miles of coastline is a primary area of focus for SDRCC. We support adaptation solutions that seek to preserve the rich coastal habitats which are highly valued by our communities.

The recent study, *Conserving California Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and a Future with Sea Level Rise*, conducted by the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, delivers stark news – more than 55% of the state’s coastal habitats are highly vulnerable to sea level rise. The good news, as stated in the assessment, is that California can maintain as much or more coastal habitat with five feet of sea level rise as it has today if we all work collectively and invest in the adaptation and resilience of our coastal habitats and communities.

As such, SDRCC hereby resolves to adopt the Hope for the Coast Vision for the protection of coastal habitats: Through science-guided collective action, we will work to safeguard California’s coastal habitats and support responsible adaptation of the built environment in the face of sea level rise and other climate change-induced challenges. Our hope is to ensure a protected coast for future generations to enjoy, replete with as much or more habitat and wildlife, as well as social, economic, and recreational benefits, as we have today.

To further this Vision, we further resolve to:

1. Work with our local and regional partners to ensure coastal habitat resilience is considered in climate adaptation of our communities, resources and infrastructure.



2. Provide learning, educational, and networking opportunities in our local communities about the important benefits of coastal habitats, their vulnerability to sea level rise and other stressors, and strategies for conservation.
3. Provide leadership and coordinate with cities and partners to advance adaptation planning based on best science throughout the state.

Thank you for your important leadership and we look forward to working with the State of California to achieve this vision.

Sincerely,

Christiana DeBenedict

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Interim Director, San Diego Regional  
Climate Collaborative

Cody Hooven

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Chair, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative  
Chief Sustainability Officer, City of San Diego

Danielle Boudreau

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Vice Chair, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative  
Coastal Management Specialist, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve