



City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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September 10, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Laird,

The City of Imperial Beach 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 City of Imperial Beach is the southwestern-most City in the continental United States and surrounded by coastal habitats on three sides (Tijuana Estuary to the south, San Diego Bay to the north, and ocean to the west). The residents of Imperial Beach are acutely aware of the impacts of sea level rise and challenges that face our City in adapting to a changing climate. The coastal habitats that surround Imperial Beach are also an equally precious resource for California that we need to protect and enhance for future generations.

The results of the recent study, *Conserving California Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and a Future with Sea Level Rise* (“Coastal Assessment”) conducted by the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, identifies over 55% of the state’s coastal habitats are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, with estuarine marshes at nearly 60%. The Coastal Assessment also asserts, however, 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.

As such, the City of Imperial Beach hereby resolves to support the **Hope for the Coast Vision** for the protection of coastal habitats: *In science-guided, collective action, we will maintain and enhance California’s coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise, other climate change-induced challenges, and development, ensuring 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. Use the Coastal Assessment and Vision to help prioritize opportunities to advance coastal resource protection and adaptation within our regions.
2. Work with our local and regional partners to ensure coastal habitat resilience is considered in adaptation of our communities, resources and infrastructure.

3. Provide learning and education opportunities in our local communities about the important benefits of coastal habitats, their vulnerability to sea level rise and other stressors, and the strategies for conservation.
4. Provide leadership and a forum to coordinate local agencies, NGOs, and the public to advance adaptation planning throughout the region and encourage partners to also adopt the coastal vision and identify ways to achieve it.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Serge Dedina', with a stylized, cursive script.

Serge Dedina
City of Imperial Beach