



April 17, 2019

The Honorable Mark McGuire
 Senate Governance and Finance, Chair
 State Capitol, Room 408
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT - SB 45 (Allen) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our support of SB 45 (Allen), the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020. Due to increasingly powerful effects of climate change, California has seen more natural disasters in recent years than ever before. Through SB 45, we believe that California can take steps towards making local communities and our environment more resilient by investing in programs that help the state adapt to and withstand the impacts of climate change.

Over the past several years, California has been severely affected by devastating wildfires, drought, sea-level rise, and flooding, which are only expected to increase in intensity and frequency. Investing in preventative measures that promote resiliency and increase the state’s ability to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change will not only protect livelihoods and vital natural resources, but also save the state billions of dollars in avoided damage costs from climate-impacted infrastructure and working lands. FEMA estimates that \$4 can be saved for every \$1 invested in pre-disaster mitigation, but despite recent legislation and budget proposals from the Governor to increase fire risk reduction activities, we are still billions of dollars short of meeting the forest management goals identified in the Forest Carbon Plan. Even as the state budget has nearly doubled over the past decade, natural resources funding has flattened, with natural resources investments falling from over 4.6% of the budget to 3% of the budget over the past decade.

The recent amendments to this bill expand its potential to serve as the financing mechanism California needs to more substantively jumpstart an aggressive resiliency response to climate change. The efforts California is making to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions are critically important, but they must be accompanied by a similarly vigorous effort to respond and prepare for the inevitable impacts that are arriving in more force each year.

For the reasons stated above, we are writing to express our support for SB 45 which will prepare our communities, economy, and environment for the impacts of climate change. Delaying these actions will come at considerable cost.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue and respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Joseph Edmiston
Executive Director
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Bill Keene
General Manager
Sonoma Ag + Open Space

Doug Johnson
Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council

Walter Moore
President
Peninsula Open Space Trust

Sean Bothwell
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Howard Penn
Executive Director
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Grant Davis
General Manager
Sonoma Water

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Steve Rothert
California Regional Director
American Rivers

David Myers
Executive Director
Wildlands Conservancy

Dan Jacobson
California State Director
Environment California

Paul Towers
Organizing Director and Policy Advocate
Pesticide Action Network