

# California Coastal Commission SB 272 Frequently Asked Questions



## What is SB 272?

SB 272 is a state law that requires local governments to develop sea level rise adaptation plans as part of new or updated Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) by **January 1, 2034**.

This sea level rise plan must include:

1. Use of best available science
2. A vulnerability assessment that includes efforts to ensure equity for at-risk communities
3. SLR adaptation strategies and recommended projects
4. Identification of lead planning and implementation agencies
5. An economic impact analysis of, at a minimum, costs to critical public infrastructure
6. A timeline for updates



Once certified by the Commission, projects and strategies contained within approved plans will be prioritized for implementation funding.

## Is there any guidance on how to comply with SB 272?

The Coastal Commission's 2024 [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance](#) provides best practices and recommendations for complying with SB 272. Specific requirements and guidance for meeting each of the six sea level rise plan components are highlighted in Chapter 5.

For jurisdictions in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)'s [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan](#) provides guidelines on how to comply with SB 272 along the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

## What if my jurisdiction has little to no shoreline?

Consider the extent to which sea level rise could impact any areas or assets even without a shoreline, such as where sea level rise combined with inland flooding from tidally influenced rivers, estuaries, or hydraulically connected wetlands could cause impacts. This may be done through a screening-level analysis or more detailed vulnerability assessment (see Chapter 5 of the [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance](#) for additional information). If there are truly no sea level rise impacts, there would be no need for sea level rise planning or priority adaptation funding.

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### **What if some or all of the shoreline in my jurisdiction is owned or managed by another entity—who is responsible for SB 272 compliance?**

Each coastal city and county is responsible for compliance with SB 272. If a local jurisdiction has shoreline that is owned or managed by another entity (e.g., State Parks), that should be addressed through SB 272's requirement to identify the lead planning and implementation agencies responsible for carrying out various adaptation projects. Those entities should also be involved as stakeholders throughout the local jurisdiction's efforts to comply with SB 272.

### **What if my jurisdiction does not have a certified LCP, or has multiple LCP planning segments?**

Being compliant with SB 272 requires having a certified LCP. Local jurisdictions without a certified LCP would not be consistent with SB 272 and would not get prioritized funding for adaptation projects until their LCP is effectively certified. This applies on an LCP segment-by-segment basis—local jurisdictions can get priority funding for adaptation projects within LCP segments that are SB 272 compliant with a certified LCP, but not within uncertified LCP segments.

### **How do we know what our next steps should be?**

We strongly encourage early consultation with Commission staff to discuss your jurisdiction's path forward to SB 272 compliance. Local jurisdictions can leverage any existing sea level rise planning work and can take a phased approach to completing SB 272 requirements and associated LCP updates—this work does not have to be completed anew or all at once. We invite you to schedule a consultation meeting with us by completing this [Consultation Request Form](#) or by emailing Kelsey Ducklow, Coastal Resilience Coordinator directly at [Kesley.Ducklow@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Kesley.Ducklow@coastal.ca.gov).

### **Is there funding available to support this work?**

Funding is available to support local governments in developing sea level rise adaptation plans. Visit the [Ocean Protection Council's SB 1 Grant Program](#) website to learn more. Technical assistance is also available to help applicants prepare and submit competitive funding applications, with a focus on environmental justice communities, federally recognized tribes, and other communities facing barriers to sea level rise planning.

To access additional resources for sea level rise planning, visit the Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise webpage at [www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr)