

# BILL SPONSOR FACT SHEET

## AB 2051 (Wicks): Public resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group

### Summary

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This bill directs the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in consultation with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), to convene an interagency Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group to identify administrative actions and legislative recommendations to streamline and accelerate permitting for coastal resilience and sea level rise adaptation projects.

### The Problem

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California faces an urgent and escalating need to deliver coastal adaptation and flood resilience projects in response to sea level rise, storm surge, and king tide flooding. The Ocean Protection Council estimates sea levels could rise as much as 3.1 feet by 2100 under likely scenarios, with extreme cases exceeding 6 feet. In the San Francisco Bay Area alone, regional agencies estimate approximately \$110 billion will be needed by 2050 to protect communities, ecosystems, and critical infrastructure.

Recent policy and funding actions will significantly increase demand for coastal resilience project delivery.

Despite this urgency and investment, California's current coastal permitting system presents substantial barriers to timely and cost-effective project delivery. These barriers reduce the effectiveness of public funding, increase costs for publicly funded and private projects alike, and slow the delivery of urgently needed resilience improvements. Without targeted reforms, permitting bottlenecks threaten California's ability to implement climate adaptation at the scale and pace required.

### The Solution

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This bill establishes a structured, collaborative process to improve coastal resilience permitting through administrative reform, interagency coordination, and identifying future legislative action. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require CNRA and CalEPA to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group, including relevant agencies and commissions.
- Direct the Working Group to develop a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap that:
  - Identifies administrative reforms that agencies can implement under existing authority.
  - Recommends standardized and predictable permitting processes.
  - Assesses agency workforce needs & funding strategies to recruit and retain qualified permitting staff.
  - Identifies potential areas for legislative reform to accelerate permitting.
- Establish coastal and Bay advisory groups composed of state agencies, local governments, special districts, and coastal interest groups to advise the Roadmap process and recommend permitting strategies.

### Support

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- Bay Area Council
- Bay Planning Coalition
- Port of San Francisco
- Valley Water