



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Kevin Mullin

DISTRICT 22



AB 839: CA Climate Adaptation & Infrastructure Act

PURPOSE

AB 839 outlines actions for California's state agencies and departments to develop and implement comprehensive climate adaptation strategies by establishing:

- Government guidance, oversight, and accountability to ensure the state meets its adaptation goals; and
- Innovative finance programs to spur public and private funding for priority investments.

EXISTING LAW

Requires the Natural Resources Agency to update the state's climate adaptation strategy every three years to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors.

BACKGROUND

Rising average temperatures, destructive fires, higher sea levels, and more severe drought and floods put Californians at risk. Already many lives, and even whole communities, have been lost or destroyed. Important species, iconic trees, agriculture, and entire ecosystems on which Californians depend for vital resources are on the brink of collapse. Critical infrastructure is at risk.

According to California's Fourth Climate Assessment, emerging findings for California show that costs associated with direct climate impacts by 2050 are dominated by human mortality, damages to coastal properties, and the potential for droughts and mega-floods.ⁱ The economic cost to California for these losses by 2050 is estimated over \$100 billion – *each year*.

The state has taken bold thought leadership to create the *Safeguarding California Plan*ⁱⁱ and other adaptation frameworks that offer policy principles and recommendations. However, California still lacks statutory guidance on critical priority actions and timelines, and the accompanying funding and accountability to achieve those protections.

Given the breadth, complexity, pervasiveness, persistence and danger of climate change, it is important to have a clear framework in place to guide the state over the coming decades to ensure we have a thoughtful set of goals, coordinated government actions, and innovative funding mechanisms in place.

SOLUTION

AB 839 requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to develop, adopt, and implement a coordinated and proactive strategy for the state to adapt to climate change impacts by July 1, 2021.

The bill directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate with the Office of Planning and Research, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, and the Strategic Growth Council to develop and implement the strategy.

AB 839 further creates the Adaptation through Resiliency, Economic Vitality, and Equity Account in the State Treasury. Future appropriations to the account would be allocated to provide financial assistance in the form of grants and financing for climate adaptation projects.

SUPPORT

Ocean Conservancy

STAFF CONTACT

Andrew Zingale
andrew.zingale@asm.ca.gov
916.319.2022

ⁱ [CA's Fourth Climate Change Assessment; Statewide Summary Report, January 16, 2019](#)

ⁱⁱ [Safeguarding CA Plan: 2018 Update. CA Natural Resources Agency, January 2018](#)