



#### **Our Mission**

We're working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale, starting in California.

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March 13, 2024

The Honorable Tasha Boerner  
Assemblymember, 77th District  
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Boerner,

The Climate Center is pleased to write in support of AB 1992 which will protect and conserve blue carbon ecosystems, such as coastal wetlands, in the coastal permitting process.

The Climate Center is a climate and energy policy nonprofit working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale. We are a think tank, do tank working collaboratively for accelerated, equitable climate policy in California. We know that as goes California, so goes the world. With the climate crisis rapidly worsening, we engage in cross-sector coalitions to enact bold, science-based policy that sparks innovation and channels market forces for speed and scale greenhouse gas reductions to benefit everyone.

Blue carbon is carbon removed from the atmosphere through photosynthesizing plants in coastal and marine ecosystems, which is then buried in the soil or sediment. When buried, plants in blue carbon ecosystems decompose at a much slower rate than terrestrial ecosystems, resulting in the carbon they have sequestered being stored for thousands of years.

Studies suggest that blue carbon ecosystems can sequester up to 10x more carbon and store up to 5x more carbon than terrestrial forests. However, when degraded by events like sea level rise or development, the carbon they have been storing is released back into the atmosphere. One of the most important carbon sinks can become a carbon source.

Only 10% of California's historic wetlands remain. Conserving the remaining wetlands and restoring degraded wetlands should be of high importance.

AB 1992 will work to ensure that blue carbon ecosystems are preserved by authorizing the California Coastal Commission to require contribution to a blue carbon demonstration project with any coastal development permit that will impact coastal wetlands, subtidal, intertidal, or marine habitat.

Additionally, AB 1992 will add to the rapidly growing research in the field of blue carbon. Projects will be monitored with data collection to understand how demonstration projects of blue carbon ecosystems are improving ecosystem carbon sequestration and storage potential over a long term scale.

Without the ability to require demonstration projects, development of our coastlines will continue to degrade blue carbon ecosystems, turning them from a valuable carbon storing resource into a carbon emitting problem. We strongly support AB 1992 because it ensures that coastal wetlands will continue to be a natural climate solution for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer  
The Climate Center