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June 28, 2021

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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California Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

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State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

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State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

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RE: County of Marin Support for Climate Resilience Package

Dear Pro-Tem Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf on the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support of the Legislature's \$3.7 billion dollar Climate Resilience package. I further urge that you allocate at least \$1 Billion of that amount to support local and regional climate adaptation planning and implementation.

This funding will essentially support California's 482 cities, 58 counties and 109 tribal entities. It is these local and regional leaders who must perform the critical land use and adaptation policies to achieve a bold California climate agenda.

There is a strong consensus among California and federal leaders that the unprecedented challenge of climate change requires a massive response, equal to the challenge. An effective climate strategy must address both mitigation and adaptation. Most state and federal policies focus on mitigation. However, climate adaptation policies and programs are both long overdue and largely unfunded even though the avoided costs and return on adaptation investment are substantial. A major investment now can energize and empower Californians to make dramatic progress on adaptation planning and implementation.

As local and regional climate adaptation leaders, we write to urge you to take an historic action to make California an international model for climate adaptation planning and implementation. We ask that you make a one time investment of \$1 billion dollars to enable every city and county in California to engage their communities and to collaborate with adjacent jurisdictions to both plan and begin to implement local and regional climate adaptation strategies.

The OPR 2020 Annual Planning Survey assessed the General Plan status in a majority of California's cities and counties. It documents how most jurisdictions are years behind in implanting their various plan elements. The Governor and legislature can make California an international leader on climate adaptation by offering guidance, funding, science, and technical support to accelerate both individual city and county general plans as well as regional partnerships that produce regional adaptation plans.

You have each stepped up to help deal with the twin threats of drought and fire. The investment we propose will enable every city, county and region of California to collaborate with civic leaders and state agencies to address these hazards. Our proposed funding will also support local and regional adaptation planning and the updating of general plans. These adaptation plans and updates will enable solutions to immediate hazards while also addressing the longer term challenges of heat, sea level rise and lowland flooding from extreme storms.

Many climate adaptation challenges depend upon land use decisions and public policies that are decided and implemented at the local (city and county) level. By helping them rapidly update general plan elements, you will also empower these communities to begin to address the major challenges of housing and environmental justice per the general plan requirements.

Your support of this bold adaptation strategy will advance:

- SB 379, passed in 2015 to require vulnerability assessments, adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives, and feasible implementation measures in their general plans.
- AB 897, directing OPR to set criteria for to align state and regional adaptation plans, and a framework for essential collaborations to create and implement regional adaptation plans,

Without funding, these well intended policies are unlikely to be implemented anytime soon.

Your leadership will make it possible to align local and regional adaptation policies and actions with statewide efforts. It will support the engagement of disadvantaged communities. It can provide essential, locally relevant scientific and technical support. It will implement the advice of the 2019 [LAO Report](#) on how the state can support coastal efforts to address sea level rise. It will directly support local and regional efforts to achieve California's '30 by '30' goal.

The proposed budget amendment offers a once in a generation investment to dramatically advance climate adaptation in every major California community. We respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,



Dennis Rodoni, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Marin County Board of Supervisors
Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Marc Levine