



## City of Encinitas City Council's Office

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July 17, 2024

*Tony Kranz*  
Mayor

Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: AB 1992 (Boerner) Blue Carbon Demonstration Projects – As Amended May 16, 2024 – SUPPORT**

*Allison Blackwell*  
Deputy Mayor

Dear Chair Caballero:

The City of Encinitas is writing in support of AB 1992, which would protect and conserve blue carbon ecosystems, such as coastal wetlands, in the coastal permitting process.

*Bruce Ehlers*  
Council Member

Blue carbon is carbon removed from the atmosphere through photosynthesizing plants and algae in coastal and marine ecosystems, which is then buried in the soil or sediment. Since the soil in blue carbon ecosystems is almost continually wet, when buried, plants in blue carbon ecosystems decompose at a much slower rate than terrestrial ecosystems. This slow rate of decomposition results in the carbon they have sequestered being stored for hundreds or even thousands of years.

*Kellie Shay Hinze*  
Council Member

Studies suggest that blue carbon ecosystems can sequester up to ten times more carbon and store up to five times more carbon than terrestrial forests. However, when degraded by events like sea level rise or development, the carbon that has been stored is released back into the atmosphere, becoming a carbon source rather than carbon sink. Only 10% of California's historic wetlands remain. Conserving the remaining wetlands and restoring degraded wetlands should be of high importance.

*Joy Lyndes*  
Council Member

AB 1992 will work to ensure that blue carbon ecosystems are preserved by authorizing the California Coastal Commission (Commission) to require an applicant with a project that impacts coastal wetlands, subtidal, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems to build or contribute to a blue carbon demonstration project. Put simply, those wishing to develop a blue carbon ecosystem could be required to mitigate those losses through restoration projects.

*Pamela Antil*  
City Manager

The passage of AB 1992 is the next step in ensuring long-term conservation of these ecologically valuable resources. With the ability to require blue carbon demonstration projects, the Commission can be a proactive partner in reversing damage to coastal ecosystems, ensuring they remain a carbon storing resource rather than a carbon emitting problem.

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We thank you for your consideration and urge your support for AB 1992 (Boerner) when it is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (760) 633-2618.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. J. Kranz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Kranz  
Mayor  
City of Encinitas

CC: Assemblymember Tasha Boerner  
Senator Catherine Blakespear