

SENATE BILL SB-46

Introduced by Senator John Laird (D-17)

An act relating to Pacific Ocean and Coastal Waters Pollution Reduction Act..

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-46, John Laird (D-17). Pacific Ocean and Coastal Waters Pollution Reduction Act..

This bill would establish the Statewide Marine Sanctuary and Coastal Runoff Mitigation Program, administered by the Ocean Protection Council in coordination with regional water quality control boards and coastal municipalities. The program would provide competitive grants to local governments, harbor districts, flood control districts, and marine research institutions across California's coastal zones for the installation of advanced stormwater capture systems, river mouth trash interceptors, and microplastic filtration technologies before runoff enters the Pacific Ocean and state-designated marine protected areas.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations regarding the statewide economic and ecological necessity of clean coastal waters and would appropriate \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the Ocean Protection Council for the purposes of implementing the statewide program.

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

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SECTION 1. Section 8530 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:
8530.

(a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the Pacific Ocean and Coastal Waters Pollution Reduction Act.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) The Pacific Ocean and California's 840-mile coastline are vital ecological and economic drivers, supporting multi-billion-dollar tourism, commercial fishing, shipping, and recreation industries that sustain the entire state economy.

(2) Land-based urban runoff, stormwater pollution, and persistent plastic debris pose a severe statewide threat to marine biodiversity, coastal water quality, public health, and local economies.

(3) Protecting iconic coastal ecosystems and meeting state water quality mandates requires targeted, statewide investments in advanced interception technology, watershed management, and microplastic mitigation.

8530.1.

(a) The Statewide Marine Sanctuary and Coastal Runoff Mitigation Program is hereby established under the administration of the Ocean Protection Council.

(b) The council shall award competitive grants to eligible local public agencies, joint powers authorities, flood control districts, and recognized marine research institutions throughout California for projects that:

(1) Construct and deploy advanced trash capture devices, hydrodynamic separators, and stormwater diversion systems at high-flow urban outfalls emptying into the Pacific Ocean or state bays and estuaries.

(2) Implement microplastic filtration pilot programs at wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities influencing coastal waters.

(3) Fund regional marine debris cleanup, water quality monitoring, and habitat restoration operations within state waters and designated coastal zones.

8530.2.

The council shall establish transparent criteria for grant evaluation, ensuring geographic equity across California's coastal regions while prioritizing projects that demonstrate high impact in reducing macro- and microplastic loads entering National Marine Sanctuaries and state protected areas.

SECTION 2.

The sum of \$15,000,000 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Ocean Protection Council for the administration and statewide grant allocation of the Statewide Marine Sanctuary and Coastal Runoff Mitigation Program created by this act.