California Central Coast Caucus

Assemblymembers
Dawn Addis (Co-Chair)
Gregg Hart (Co-Chair)
Robert Rivas (Speaker)
Steve Bennett
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OR THE COAST CAUCH

Senators
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Anna M. Caballero
John Laird
Henry I. Stern

August 29, 2025

Gail Pellerin

The Honorable Mike McGuire Senate President pro Tempore California State Senate

The Honorable Scott Wiener Chair, Senate Budget Committee California State Senate

The Honorable Ben Allen Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 California State Senate The Honorable Robert Rivas Speaker of the Assembly California State Assembly

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel Chair, Assembly Budget Committee California State Assembly

The Honorable Steve Bennett Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4 California State Assembly

SUBJECT: Allocate Proposition 4 Implementation in FY 2025-26

We, the co-chairs of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC), write to respectfully urge you to move forward with the distribution of Proposition 4 funds this year and to ensure equitable funding for the Central Coast region. These investments are essential in helping our communities prevent wildfires, protect natural lands, and advance critical climate resilience and water projects.

The Central Coast Caucus consists of ten legislative officials representing Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

The Central Coast is a major contributor to California's economy due to the region's natural resources and innovative local businesses. For example, total agricultural production across the Central Coast region exceeds \$10 billion. In just San Luis Obispo County, almost \$2 billion is generated annually from worldwide visitors who come specifically for the county's natural beauty.

Last year, the CLCCC played a pivotal role in securing the passage of California's Climate Bond Act, SB 867. The Caucus championed funding for key climate resiliency measures to protect coastal communities against sea level rise, wildfires, floods, and decreasing levels of safe drinking water. These investments are invaluable for the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors, while strengthening our local economies.

Proposition 4 funding for the Central Coast is especially crucial this year, as the Trump Administration makes significant cuts to the Natural Resources budget and continues to

deny the reality of climate change. These unprecedented attacks on our natural world and those who live in it cannot go unanswered.

Our constituents are looking to the State Legislature to fill the gap left by the federal government. With federal support no longer reliable, the responsibility falls to California to step up and provide the resources our communities urgently need.

In conclusion, we, the co-chairs of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus, call for a swift distribution of Proposition 4 funds and specific attention to the Central Coast with those funds this year. By investing in floodplain restoration, farmland protection, and coastal resilience, Proposition 4 can safeguard the future of our region.

Sincerely,

DAWN ADDIS

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus Assemblymember, 30th District **GREGG HART**

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus Assemblymember, 37th District