

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 7, 2014  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2014  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2014

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1217**

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**Introduced by Senator Leno**  
*(Coauthors: Senators Jackson and Pavley)*

February 20, 2014

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An act to add Section 12805.4 to the Government Code, relating to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1217, as amended, Leno. Climate change: preparedness.

Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency and requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to develop a strategic vision for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission that includes reforms necessary to take on the challenges of the 21st century, including, among other things, climate change and adaptation. Existing law establishes the Strategic Growth Council and requires the council to, among other things, identify and review activities and funding programs of its member state agencies that may be coordinated to, among other things, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

This bill would require the agency, in consultation with other appropriate state agencies and departments, on or before January 1, 2017, and every 5 years thereafter, to prepare a climate risk assessment and strategy evaluation of the state's vulnerability and risk for climate change impacts, *including a description of any mitigation measures or climate change resiliency methods*. The bill would require the council,

on or before January 1, 2018, and every 5 years thereafter, in consultation with the agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate state agencies and departments, to take specified actions with regard to reviewing the impacts of climate change and identifying capital outlay and public infrastructure projects. The bill would require the council to report its findings and provide a description of major projects relating to climate change to the appropriate state agencies, departments, commissions, and boards that make decisions related to capital funding. The bill would also require the council to report to the Legislature on those findings so that the Legislature may consider further action that may be necessary to address climate change in the state.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) California’s climate is changing, posing an escalated threat  
4 to public health, the environment, and public and private property  
5 in the state. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events,  
6 rising sea levels, and changes in hydrology, including diminishing  
7 snowpack, among other climate change impacts, will touch every  
8 part of Californians’ lives in the next century, and planning  
9 appropriately for these impacts will help us be better prepared for  
10 the future.

11 (b) The impacts of climate change, including longer droughts,  
12 extended floods, prolonged fire seasons with larger and more  
13 intense fires, heat waves, and sea level rise are already creating  
14 challenges for public health and causing destructive property  
15 damage.

16 (c) Climate changes pose a threat not just to the lives and health  
17 of the state’s residents, but to the financial health of our state and  
18 local governments.

19 (d) According to the Natural Resources Agency’s draft report,  
20 entitled “Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk,”  
21 state-of-the-art modeling shows that a single extreme weather  
22 event in California could cost approximately \$725 billion dollars,  
23 with total direct property losses of nearly \$400 billion dollars, the

1 effects of which could cause devastating impacts on the state’s  
2 residents, economy, and natural resources.

3 (e) Reducing the impacts of climate change on California’s  
4 natural and agricultural resources is essential to building the state’s  
5 resiliency and ensuring its capacity to support its economy over  
6 time.

7 (f) Given the potential impacts and long-term nature of effective  
8 planning, California needs to consider and prepare for these climate  
9 change impacts now.

10 (g) Without appropriate planning to make the state more resilient  
11 to the identified impacts of climate change, in addition to  
12 addressing the human and social costs of the effects of climate  
13 change, California could face billions of dollars per year in direct  
14 costs, and expose trillions of dollars of assets in the state to  
15 collateral risk.

16 SEC. 2. Section 12805.4 is added to the Government Code, to  
17 read:

18 12805.4. (a) On or before January 1, 2017, and every five  
19 years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation  
20 with other appropriate state agencies and departments, shall prepare  
21 a climate risk assessment and strategy evaluating California’s  
22 vulnerability and risk for climate change impacts, including, but  
23 not limited to, sea level rise, drought and flooding, impacts on  
24 wildlife habitats, increasing temperatures, increased occurrence  
25 of extreme weather events, and increased wildland fire risk. *The*  
26 *risk assessment and strategy shall also describe any mitigation*  
27 *measures or climate change resiliency methods, as may be*  
28 *appropriate, to address identified vulnerabilities and risks.*

29 (b) (1) On or before January 1, 2018, and every five years  
30 thereafter, the Strategic Growth Council shall, in consultation with  
31 the Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental  
32 Protection Agency, and other appropriate state agencies and  
33 departments, do all of the following:

34 (A) Review the impacts of climate change in the state with  
35 regard to capital outlay and public infrastructure projects, including,  
36 but not limited to, the impacts described in subdivision (a).

37 (B) Identify and prioritize climate resiliency projects of major  
38 significance that would benefit essential public infrastructure and  
39 that would provide near-term and longer-term climate change  
40 resiliency to the state.

- 1 (C) Identify possible funding sources for the projects described
- 2 in subparagraph (B).
- 3 (2) (A) The Strategic Growth Council shall report its findings
- 4 and provide a description of major projects identified in paragraph
- 5 (1) to the appropriate state agencies, departments, commissions,
- 6 and boards that make decisions related to capital funding.
- 7 (B) (i) The Strategic Growth Council shall also report to the
- 8 Legislature on its findings regarding climate change under
- 9 paragraph (1) so that the Legislature may consider further action
- 10 that may be necessary to address climate change in the state.
- 11 (ii) A report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to this
- 12 subparagraph shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government
- 13 Code.