

## **Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (AB 1243/ SB 684) [Bill factsheet](#)**

### **Bill Summary**

- Direct CalEPA to complete a climate cost study: to quantify total damages to the state (through 2045), caused by fossil fuel emissions.
- Direct CalEPA to identify responsible parties and assess compensatory fees: on the largest fossil fuel polluters, proportional to their fossil fuel emissions 1990 through 2024, to address damages quantified in the cost study.
- Fund California's future: Fees collected will fund projects and programs to mitigate, remedy, or prevent climate change costs and harms. The aim of this bill is to prioritize strong labor and job standards and dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution. It will protect Californians and lower costs by funding critical climate solutions.

### **Contra Costa County Impacts**

Sea-level rise adaptation is estimated to cost Contra Costa County over \$900 million by 2040.<sup>1</sup> At present, tax-payers and homeowners are on the hook for 100% of climate adaptation costs. The Climate Superfund Bill could directly impact Contra Costa County's operations by providing it with funding to address climate-related costs. The county could receive state funds to invest in local projects, such as investments in a clean energy transition, sea-level rise adaptation, water-management, home hardening, sustainable infrastructure, and disaster response.

### **Alignment with Contra Costa County's Legislative Platform**

The purpose of the Climate Superfund is to fund programs and projects to adapt to and reduce climate harm and impacts—projects that both respond to and prevent climate-driven harms. Forty percent of funds must go to the communities disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution. The Contra Costa County 2025-2026 State Legislative Platform designates climate change as a priority for legislative advocacy.

Qualifying expenditures for the bill include expenditures for projects and programs to mitigate, adapt, or respond to the damages and costs caused to the state from climate change.<sup>2</sup>

Qualifying expenditures shall include, but are not limited to, expenditures for projects and programs that do any of the following:

- (A) Mitigate climate change and its impacts to state, local, and tribal governments and California residents, such as through energy efficiency, natural systems climate resilience, accelerating the transition to clean energy sources, building and infrastructure decarbonization, distributed energy generation and storage, or zero-emission transportation and infrastructure, including public transit.
- (B) Adapt to climate change and its impacts to state, local, and tribal governments and California residents, such as through sustainable community infrastructure, green workforce development, sustainable agricultural practices, or financial support programs

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.climatecosts2040.org/costs/california-contra-costa-county>

<sup>2</sup> <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1243/id/3136931>

for workers whose livelihoods are impacted by climate change, or job training and support for workers who provide essential services during climate disaster.

(C) Address climate-fueled disaster response and climate-resilient recovery.

Accordingly, Superfund funds can be used to fund initiatives that promote the following principles and policies listed in the County's legislative platform<sup>3</sup>:

#### Climate Change

Item 37. SUPPORT technologies and clean energy solutions; energy efficiency programs; preparation of the Resilient Shoreline Plan; community solar implementation; job training for careers in clean energy.

Item 38. SUPPORT hardening public facilities to the impacts of climate change.

Item 40. SUPPORT actions addressing climate change impacts; climate change adaptation and resilience; and the Green Business program.

Item 41. SUPPORT actions addressing the impacts on some communities of pollution and/or their vulnerability to climate change.

Item 50. SUPPORT development of local renewable energy resources and energy efficiency programs.

Item 54. SUPPORT resources for local governments to address impacts of climate change.

#### Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response

Item 74. SUPPORT legislation that will improve forest management and emergency communications systems

Item 75. SUPPORT increased funding for defensible space inspections, community wildfire risk mitigation, and for hardening of existing homes from wildfire exposure.

Item 79. SUPPORT increased funding for services associated with disaster response, including mutual aid provided for wildfires, floods, or other such incidents

Item 92. SUPPORT legislation that provides funding and resources to enhance local emergency management organizations.

#### **Support for the Bill:**

- a. [List of Contra Costa County elected officials signed on in support](#)
- b. [135 Elected Officials across the state sign on in support](#)
- c. Local Cities in Support:
  - i. [Albany City](#)
  - ii. [Richmond City](#)
  - iii. [Berkeley City](#)
  - iv. [Oakland City](#)
  - v. [San Francisco City](#)
  - vi. [San Francisco County](#)
- d. [AFSCME Support Letter](#)
- e. [Business Support Letter](#)

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/85518/Adopted-2025-26-State-Legislative-Platform-250121?bidId=>

- f. [American Academy of Pediatrics Support Letter](#)
- g. 200+ Groups Assembly Judiciary [Support Letter](#)