



January 29, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Member of the California State Senate
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 689 (Blakespear): Local Coastal Programs

Dear Senator Blakespear:

I write in support of SB 689 (Blakespear), which will reduce unnecessary delays in developing bike lanes along California's coastline. To accomplish this, SB 689 will streamline coastal permitting to convert a travel lane to a bike lane by providing that these changes qualify to be processed as 'de minimis' LCP amendments.

Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) are critical coastal planning documents that allow California's 76 coastal zone cities and counties to implement the Coastal Act at the local level. The standard LCP amendment process can be costly and time consuming, as thorough studies and public hearing testimony may be required. 'De minimis' amendments have no individual or cumulative impact on coastal resources; therefore, their review requires minimal noticing and no public hearings if authorized by the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

In Carlsbad, injury collisions involving bikes and e-bikes increased over 200% from 2019 to 2022. The City of Carlsbad proclaimed a local emergency on traffic safety Aug. 23, 2022, and the City Council approved emergency funding of \$2 million to immediately launch a range of education, engineering and enforcement actions to enhance traffic safety throughout the city. Although the emergency proclamation has ended, the city continues to prioritize traffic safety initiatives, including several coastal road improvement and bike lane enhancement projects.

The City of Carlsbad supports legislation that provides for safe, effective and efficient transportation alternatives for all travel modes, and which promotes the enhancement of coastal access and coastal public infrastructure. For these reasons, the city supports SB 689 (Blakespear) and your efforts to allow for a 'de minimis' LCP amendment process for establishing new bike lanes in the coastal zone. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn'.

Keith Blackburn, Mayor
City of Carlsbad

City of Carlsbad City Council

City Hall 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive | Carlsbad, CA 92008 | 442-339-2820 t

CC: The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38
The Honorable Jasmeet Bains, Assembly District 35
The Honorable Carlos Villapudua, Assembly District 13
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs