

AB 1548 – Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority Update to the Greater Monterey County IRWM June 17, 2026



Introductions & Presentation for Today

- Who we are:
 - Moisés Moreno-Rivera, Government Affairs – Climate Resilience, Trust for Public Land
 - Donna Meyers, Conservation Collaborative, consultant to Trust for Public Land
- Update on AB 1548 – Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority

**Goal: Let's
Build a Model
for Addressing
Long Term
Stewardship &
Conservation
Investment**

Something that...

- Assists with accomplishing local priority projects and smooths the peaks and valleys of state and federal funding. Demonstrates to the state that the three counties are a proactive stewardship collective
- Purpose is to “raise and allocate public and private funds for the restoration, enhancement, protection, long term stewardship, and improved access for the enjoyment of open space, watersheds, and natural and working lands, in the Monterey Bay Region and along its shoreline”
- Benefits – advocates for designated funding; facilitates block grant models; distribute funds quickly; addresses pressing needs (i.e., water quality)

Legislative Outcomes

January – May
2026

- Bill intent language was introduced January 7, 2026 and full language was introduced March 9
- Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee in April 13 with a 10-3 vote; Assemblymember Addis signed on as a co-author
- Passed Assembly Local Government Committee on April 22 with an 8-2 and amendments were made to accommodate what was heard from agriculture and local government
- San Benito County Supervisors unanimously supported AB 1548 on April 14, 2026
- Passed Appropriations Committee on May 14 and moved to Assembly Floor and passed on May 28
- AB 1548 was a priority bill for the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus

Some local governments struggled with the concept of MBASA and asked for additional time to engage. Assemblymember Pellerin is leading on that engagement.

Primary areas of need for further clarification include: governance, bonded indebtedness, equitable outdoor access, taxing ability, conflicts with housing mandates and affordability

Agriculture engaged productively and amendments were under development



Next Steps

July – December 2026

- Ongoing engagement and education with local government and elected leaders on existing issues
- Communications assistance
- “Green Leadership” Committee
- Field trips and tours to expand understanding of the work of conservation organizations – increasing awareness of projects that will be supported by MBASA