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Assembly Committee on Local Government  
Room 157, 1020 N Street (Lob)  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Attention: Dixie Petty  
VIA e-mail to: [alcl.committee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:alcl.committee@assembly.ca.gov)

April 4, 2018

**Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 2578 Seawall Improvements**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry and Committee Members:

Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) writes to provide a letter of support for Assembly Bill 2578 (AB 2578) Seawall Improvements (Assemblymember Chiu; co-sponsors Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Ting).

BPC is a nonprofit, member organization that advocates for sustainable commerce, industry, infrastructure, recreation and the natural environment connected to the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. Together with our nearly 150 member organizations, we work diligently to ensure, among other things, that land on the Bay is used wisely and developed in economically and environmentally sound ways.

The Embarcadero Seawall was built over 100 years ago by the State of California to promote the economic interests of the State. The Seawall is a critical piece of infrastructure that demonstrates how public infrastructure investment can support economic development. In fact, it underpins the Embarcadero Promenade which welcomes over 24 million people and produces over \$100 billion in economic activity each year.

In addition to the Embarcadero Promenade, the Seawall plays a critical role in the San Francisco's working waterfront. The industrial and economic value of the Port of San Francisco, in which the Seawall is a part of, cannot be overstated. The Port hosts over 80 cruise ship calls and 300,000 passengers annually. In calendar year 2017, the Port called over three dozen cargo vessels and processed more than 1.4 million metric tons in imports and exports. Cargo shipping continues to grow rapidly at the Port with the two main commodities being automobiles and dry bulk cargoes. These commodities go on to drive the region's automobile industry and contribute to many of the Bay Area's large-scale construction projects.

The Seawall was built before engineers understood how to design infrastructure to withstand strong earthquakes. Port analysis of the Seawall indicates that in a major earthquake, the Seawall is likely to slide and settle into the Bay bayward by up to 5 feet, resulting in significant life-safety risk and major damage to buildings and infrastructure.

The Seawall also provides flood protection to downtown San Francisco neighborhoods and critical City and regional infrastructure, including BART and Muni. A 100 year flood today could cause flood damage to the Embarcadero Muni tunnel. It is vital that we reinvest in the Seawall to protect and to preserve the San Francisco waterfront as an important regional and statewide asset for our future generations.

In November 2018, San Francisco voters will vote on a \$350 million General Obligation Bond, which will not raise tax rates, to improve the Seawall to withstand seismic and flood risks. AB 2578 provides a creative mechanism for the State of California to contribute an estimated \$250 million for the life of the Seawall Program.

Protecting the San Francisco waterfront is critical to California's industrial and economic interests. AB 2578 will help provide the improvements necessary to keep this historic waterfront a working and vibrant space for the region's movement of goods industry and for the future enjoyment of residents and visitors. Please support AB 2578. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JAC" followed by a horizontal flourish.

John A. Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bay Planning Coalition