

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5

Adopted in Assembly September 13, 2001

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Adopted in Senate September 10, 2001

Secretary of the Senate

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock __M.

Deputy Secretary of State



RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Relative to sudden oak death.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 5, Nation. Sudden oak death.

This measure would urge state agencies that are involved with the response to sudden oak death to coordinate with federal agencies to seek funding to address prescribed problems caused by sudden oak death.

WHEREAS, Coast live oak, tanoak, and black oak trees are a treasured part of California's landscape and history, and play an integral role in California's ecology; and

WHEREAS, Tanoaks were first reported dying of a disease known as sudden oak death in large numbers in Marin County in 1995, and this disease also has now affected unusually large numbers of coast live oaks and black oaks in Marin County, causing widespread death; and

WHEREAS, The estimated number of coast live oak, tanoak, and black oak trees, including seedlings and saplings, affected by sudden oak death are in the hundreds of thousands, and sudden oak death appears to be spreading, with confirmed reports of coast live oak, tanoak, and black oak trees dying or dead in other coastal counties of California, including Sonoma, Napa, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, San Mateo, and Monterey Counties; and

WHEREAS, These oak trees are generally capable of withstanding wildfires, but when they are impacted by sudden oak death, there is an increased risk of crown fires and accelerated accumulation of fuels on the ground; and

WHEREAS, Many individual homes and communities are built within, around, and adjacent to these trees, and are now increasingly at risk for wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Many species of wildlife, such as deer, birds, rodents, and fish, and endangered species such as spotted owl and salmon, depend upon coast live oaks, black oaks, and tanoaks for food and shelter, and may be at risk if this disease continues to spread; and



WHEREAS, Pathologists at the University of California have isolated a previously unknown species of *Phytophthora* from infected species found in most areas where sudden oak death has been reported, and this fungus is considered to be the prime candidate for the underlying cause of sudden oak death ; and

WHEREAS, Sudden oak death has been found in buckeye, madrone, bay, huckleberry, and rhododendron; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no known cure for sudden oak death, and more research is critically needed to determine all of the interacting factors associated with sudden oak death, the geographic extent and distribution of this epidemic within California, and the movement of the disease over the landscape; and

WHEREAS, Management options must be developed to mitigate the impacts of sudden oak death, including the increased risk of wildfires, the ecological impacts of changing species compositions of forests, and the resulting impacts on birds, fish, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Treatment or control of this epidemic must be found before it spreads to other parts of California and other states; and

WHEREAS, The California Oak Mortality Task Force was established to bring together concerned state and federal public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private interests to implement a comprehensive and unified approach for research, management, education, and public policy focused on sudden oak death ; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the California Oak Mortality Task Force are to minimize the impacts of sudden oak death on oak forests and individual trees and to coordinate an integrated response by all interested parties to sudden oak death ; and

WHEREAS, Funding is critically needed for the California Oak Mortality Task Force to achieve all of the following objectives:

- (1) Assisting communities affected and threatened by sudden oak death to maintain a safe and healthy environment.
- (2) Developing and maintaining an adaptive integrated pest management program for sudden oak death.
- (3) Providing information and education to interested parties regarding causes, treatments, and consequences of sudden oak death.



(4) Coordinating efforts to prevent the spread of pathogens and insects associated with sudden oak death.

(5) Identifying additional funding avenues, staffing, and resource needs to address sudden oak death ; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced S997 in the United States Senate and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey has introduced H214 in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Each federal bill would provide more than \$70,000,000 in funding over the next five years to local, state, and federal agencies, and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct research, monitoring, management, treatment, and public outreach on sudden oak death, and authorize the establishment of a sudden oak death committee and funding for projects and research ; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That concerned state agencies act with all deliberate speed to coordinate with federal agencies to seek all necessary and immediate state and federal funds for research, public education, increased emergency wildfire response capability in affected counties, and the creation of a revolving loan program, grants, or other means to aid homeowners and local governments with the significant costs of tree removal, final disposition of trees, and replanting of affected areas; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Director of Fish and Game, the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.



Attest:

Secretary of State

