

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1256**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Harman**

February 23, 2001

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An act relating to parks and recreation, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1256, as amended, Harman. Parks and recreation: Orange County: Bolsa Chica: appropriation.

Existing law vests with the Department of Parks and Recreation control of the state park system.

This bill would appropriate ~~an unspecified sum~~ \$25,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation to be used, together with an equivalent amount of ~~local~~ matching funds, for the purchase of unincorporated area in Orange County known as "Bolsa Chica."

The bill would declare findings of the Legislature relating to this bill.

Vote: <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 2 (a) In 1997, the state acquired 880 acres of wetlands in Orange
- 3 County surrounding Bolsa Chica Mesa immediately adjacent to
- 4 the City of Huntington Beach. The purchase brought the public

1 ownership of the Bolsa Chica lowlands and wetlands to nearly 90  
2 percent of the total.

3 (b) At least four species of endangered birds can be seen in the  
4 Bolsa Chica wetlands and more than 200 species of birds have  
5 been sighted in the Bolsa Chica lowlands and wetlands. This area  
6 is one of the prime birding areas in Southern California.

7 (c) Published reports have estimated the Bolsa Chica Mesa has  
8 an approximate value of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000). The  
9 present owner is a private developer.

10 (d) Purchase of Bolsa Chica Mesa by the state will preserve an  
11 additional 212 acres of this invaluable prime habitat for migratory  
12 and resident birds, preserving a site for wildlife in that evermore  
13 developed coastal area of Southern California.

14 SEC. 2. The sum of ~~\_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_)~~ *twenty-five million*  
15 *dollars (\$25,000,000)* is hereby appropriated from the General  
16 Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation to be used,  
17 together with an equivalent amount of ~~local~~ matching funds, for  
18 the purchase of an unincorporated area in Orange County known  
19 as "Bolsa Chica."

