

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Firebaugh)

June 27, 2002

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to sister state status.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 95, as introduced, Torlakson. Sister states.

This measure would invite the State of Baja California Sur, Mexico, to join California in a sister state relationship.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The people of California and the State of Baja
2 California Sur share a mutual history, ancestry, culture, art, and
3 architecture of Spanish and Native American civilizations; and

4 WHEREAS, The States of California and Baja California Sur
5 share many geographical, agricultural, and economic similarities,
6 including beautiful coastlines on the Pacific Rim, significant
7 agricultural areas, and a strong level of tourism; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of California and the Mexican State of
9 Baja California Sur share a mutually beneficial economic
10 relationship that includes trade, investments, and commerce in the
11 areas of fishing, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, ecotourism,
12 and other important industries; and

13 WHEREAS, The North American Free Trade Agreement
14 (NAFTA) has expanded trade between the State of California and
15 the State of Baja California Sur, providing additional impetus and
16 reason for cooperation; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Baja California Sur has an annual
18 gross state product of more than 23 billion pesos per year, a 10-year



1 growth rate of more than 400 percent, and per capita incomes that
2 rank it number eight among the United States of Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of California and the State of Baja
4 California Sur have supported cooperative research by universities
5 in California and Baja California Sur to promote bilateral
6 economic development, thereby providing mutual benefit to the
7 people of the State of California and the State of Baja California
8 Sur; and

9 WHEREAS, The number and diversity of university campuses
10 in Baja California Sur provide ample and untapped opportunities
11 for cooperative research and for student and faculty exchanges
12 with California colleges and universities; and

13 WHEREAS, The States of California and Baja California Sur,
14 in affirmation of the common goal of strengthened cultural ties
15 among the Californias, as agreed to and ratified by the
16 Commission of the Californias and the California Arts Council,
17 duly signed the Memorandum of Understanding, which seeks to
18 establish a joint cultural program to promote the exchange of arts
19 and culture; and

20 WHEREAS, Gaspar de Portola, former Governor of the
21 territory of Baja California and Baja California Sur, made
22 significant contributions in the exploration of California and the
23 establishment of the state's first presidio in 1769; and

24 WHEREAS, Generations of people from the State of Baja
25 California Sur reside in the State of California, and a growing
26 number of Californians reside in the State of Baja California Sur,
27 particularly after retirement; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California,
30 on behalf of the people of the State of California, extends to the
31 people of the State of Baja California Sur in Mexico an invitation
32 to join with the State of California in a sister state relationship
33 (relación de hermandad con el Estado de Baja California Sur,
34 México) in order to encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial
35 educational, economic, and cultural exchanges; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That it is the intent of the Legislature through a sister
37 state relationship with the State of Baja California Sur to do the
38 following:

39 (1) Promote the economic growth and well-being of small,
40 medium, and large companies in both California and Baja



1 California Sur by increasing their potential for trade and
2 investment.

3 (2) Provide a forum for sustained goodwill and cooperation
4 between the elected leaders of the State of California and the State
5 of Baja California Sur.

6 (3) Promote bilateral ties that lead to a more indelible and
7 lasting relationship between the citizens of California and the
8 citizens of Baja California Sur; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the Governor of California, to the Governor of
11 Baja California Sur, to the State Congress of Baja California Sur,
12 and to each Senator and Representative from California in the
13 Congress of the United States.

