

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 48

Adopted in Assembly May 17, 2007

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Adopted in Senate June 6, 2007

Secretary of the Senate

This resolution was received by the Secretary of State this
____ day of _____, 2007, at _____
o'clock ____M.

Deputy Secretary of State

RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 48—Relative to the Fort Tejon earthquake of 1857.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 48, Blakeslee. Fort Tejon earthquake of 1857.

This measure would memorialize the 150th anniversary of the Fort Tejon earthquake of 1857, and declare the intent of the Legislature with respect to future actions to directly affect the state's abilities to withstand and respond to major earthquakes generally.

WHEREAS, The Fort Tejon earthquake of January 9, 1857, was one of the greatest earthquakes ever recorded in the United States, and is the largest earthquake ever recorded in California history with a magnitude estimated between 7.9 and 8.0; and

WHEREAS, January 9, 2007, was the 150th anniversary of that historic and catastrophic event; and

WHEREAS, Strong shaking lasting from one to two minutes was felt from San Diego to Marysville, and as far east as Las Vegas, causing the surface of the earth to shift along the San Andreas Fault about 30 feet, leaving a visible scar on the surface of the earth that can still be traced to this day, extending from near Parkfield, to near San Bernardino, a distance of roughly 225 miles; and

WHEREAS, The Fort Tejon earthquake uprooted trees in the San Bernardino Mountains, caused the Kern River to flow backwards for a period of time, stranded fish far from the banks of the now vanished Tulare Lake, and sloshed water out of the Mokelumne and Los Angeles Rivers. It caused some artesian wells in the Santa Clara Valley to go dry and formed new springs near Santa Barbara and San Fernando; and

WHEREAS, Because of its unique geological and seismic character, California remains one of the most seismically active regions on earth with massive and potentially destructive fault systems such as the San Andreas Fault and the Hayward Fault capable of generating a major earthquake; and

WHEREAS, The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the 1994 Northridge earthquake are vivid and sobering reminders of the ongoing and unpredictable risk that earthquakes continue to pose to the residents and the vital infrastructure of California, including dams, levees, bridges, power facilities, and essential services buildings; and

WHEREAS, California still has more numerous, large scale, and poorly understood fault systems which require further research and monitoring for future preparation against earthquake devastation; and

WHEREAS, The majority of California's 36 million residents live and work in areas subject to earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, An increasing population will put more Californians at risk from earthquakes in the future; and

WHEREAS, Scientists are using the 150th anniversary of the 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake to better characterize the severe ground shaking caused by earthquakes and understand the impact on modern structures were another magnitude 7.9 earthquake to occur in a large urban population in Southern California today, and to inform people of the great risks involving earthquakes in California and the need to prepare for the next "Big One"; and

WHEREAS, Risk Management Solutions, Inc. estimates that an earthquake the magnitude of the 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake in the Southern California region could result in projected losses of up to \$100 billion in residential damage and \$50 billion in commercial damage. Additional estimates include up to 18,000 casualties, three quarters of a million displaced households, and disruptions to water supply, transportation, and local and state economies and services; and

WHEREAS, The Earthquake Country Alliance is a public-private partnership of leading earthquake professionals, emergency managers, government officials, business and community leaders whose aim it is to provide further research and inform the public on the effects of earthquakes. Those involved include the United States Geological Survey, the City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department, the Southern California Earthquake Center, USC, UCLA, CalTech, the County of Los Angeles, the California Geological Survey, FEMA, the Office of Emergency Services, and the California Earthquake Authority, among others; and

WHEREAS, The Earthquake Country Alliance has kicked off the yearlong educational “Dare to Prepare” campaign that will culminate in 2008 with what officials say will be the biggest earthquake disaster drill in United States history; and

WHEREAS, It is indisputable that California must assume an active role to protect its residents from the threat of destruction of future damaging earthquakes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California intends to continue to study, plan, prepare, support, and fund future actions that will strengthen the state’s ability to withstand, and respond to, the next major earthquakes, which inevitably will occur, and that the Legislature hereby states its intent that the lessons learned from past earthquakes be applied to California’s preparedness and emergency response efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Attest:

Secretary of State