

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 40**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Conway**

February 26, 2009

---

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 40, as introduced, Conway. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 20 through April 26, 2009, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that  
2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and  
3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2008, West Nile virus resulted in 15 deaths in  
5 California and sickened over 438 others; and

6 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West Nile virus  
8 will again pose a grave public health threat in California in 2009;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,  
11 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs are the best  
12 ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases  
13 borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

14 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not  
15 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,

1 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, death, and a  
2 public nuisance in California and around the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors  
4 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private  
5 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,  
6 and reduce livestock productivity; and

7 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based on  
8 scientific research has made great advances in reducing mosquito  
9 and vector populations and the diseases they transmit; and

10 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases  
11 such as plague, Lyme disease, and encephalitis, and new and  
12 emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, arenavirus,  
13 babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death  
14 every year in California; and

15 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout  
16 the State of California work closely with the United States  
17 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of  
18 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and  
19 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-  
20 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

21 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits  
22 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector  
23 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the  
24 public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding sites on private  
25 property; and

26 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to  
27 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government  
28 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about  
29 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology  
30 and control; and

31 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production  
32 of mosquitoes and other vectors on private, commercial, and public  
33 lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of mosquitoes  
34 and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and other disease  
35 transmission is high, detection of human cases of mosquito- and  
36 vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be misdiagnosed for lack  
37 of appropriate laboratory testing, and the formation of mosquito  
38 or vector control agencies where needed; and

39 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide  
40 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies

1 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing  
2 controls; and

3 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
4 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat  
5 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the  
6 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working  
7 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight  
8 the educational programs currently available; and

9 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of  
10 California has designated the week of April 20 through April 26,  
11 2009, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
12 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the  
15 week of April 20 through April 26, 2009, be designated as West  
16 Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;  
17 and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
19 of this resolution to the Governor, State Public Health Officer, and  
20 the author for appropriate distribution.

O