

**Introduced by Senator Yee**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Leno)**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano and Ma)

August 17, 2010

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124—Relative to 34th Defense Match for the America’s Cup.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 124, as introduced, Yee. 34th the Defense Match for the America’s Cup.

This measure would recognize that Californians would benefit from the immense, positive economic impact of hosting the 34th Defense of the America’s Cup in San Francisco, California. The measure would petition the BMW ORACLE Racing Team representing the Golden Gate Yacht Club to designate San Francisco, California, to be the host of the 34th Defense of the America’s Cup in 2013 or 2014. The measure would urge the state to support San Francisco’s bid to host the 34th Defense of America’s Cup and to execute the formation of a single face of state government for securing state permits for the America’s cup in San Francisco or other state documents.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The BMW ORACLE Racing Team representing
- 2 the Golden Gate Yacht Club of San Francisco, California, won an
- 3 America’s Cup Deed of Gift Match Regatta in Valencia, Spain,
- 4 on February 14, 2010, and has returned the America’s Cup Trophy
- 5 to the United States; and
- 6 WHEREAS, On August 22, 1851, the United States-built
- 7 schooner America defeated a fleet of Britain’s finest ships in a

1 race around England's Isle of Wight. The ornate silver trophy won  
2 by the America was donated to the New York Yacht Club on  
3 condition that the cup trophy would forever be placed in  
4 international competition. Today, the America's Cup is the world's  
5 oldest continually contested sporting trophy and represents the  
6 pinnacle of international sailing yacht competition; and

7 WHEREAS, The 159-year history of the America's Cup makes  
8 it the oldest and most distinguished prize in the world of sports.  
9 The America's Cup is the Holy Grail of yacht racing. This cup, in  
10 competition for a period of 159 years, is the oldest and most  
11 distinguished trophy in all sport, predating the World Cup, Davis  
12 Cup, Stanley Cup, Walker Cup, and all others of significance; and

13 WHEREAS, The America's Cup, first contested in 1851,  
14 presently resides at the Golden Gate Yacht Club in San Francisco,  
15 the home club of BMW ORACLE Racing. Only two other  
16 American yacht clubs have held the trophy – New York Yacht  
17 Club and San Diego Yacht Club. On February 14, 2010, off  
18 Valencia, Spain, BMW ORACLE Racing defeated Team Alinghi  
19 2-0 to win the cup, and will defend the America's Cup in the 34th  
20 cup match expected in 2013 or 2014 at a venue to be determined  
21 by the American team; and

22 WHEREAS, Other United States cities that have hosted the  
23 America's Cup match, notably New York City, 1851 through 1930,  
24 Newport, Rhode Island, where cup racing was held from 1930  
25 through 1983, San Diego, California, which hosted cup defenses  
26 in 1988, 1992, and 1995, have been eliminated from consideration  
27 for hosting the 34th cup defense, leaving only San Francisco as  
28 the last possible United States host city; and

29 WHEREAS, The assessments of economic studies found that  
30 holding the next America's Cup here in either 2013 or 2014 would  
31 infuse \$1.4 billion into the San Francisco Bay area's economy, the  
32 vast majority of it in San Francisco, and generate 8,800 jobs; and

33 WHEREAS, A report by the Bay Area Council Economic  
34 Institute and Beacon Economics estimates that all told, including  
35 statewide and national impacts, including extended tourism, the  
36 series of yacht races in San Francisco Bay would generate \$1.9  
37 billion in economic activity and create about 12,000 jobs; and

38 WHEREAS, All the citizens of California would benefit from  
39 the proven immense, positive economic impact of hosting the 34th

1 Defense of the America's Cup in San Francisco; now, therefore,  
2 be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
4 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature petitions the BMW  
5 ORACLE Racing Team representing the Golden Gate Yacht Club  
6 to designate the City of San Francisco to be the host of the 34th  
7 Defense of the America's Cup; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the State of California to  
9 support San Francisco's bid to host the 34th Defense of the  
10 America's Cup in San Francisco California and urges the state to  
11 execute the formation of a single face of state government for the  
12 purpose of securing state permits for the America's Cup in San  
13 Francisco, or other state documents, such as driver's licenses for  
14 the international competitors and their families; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
16 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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