

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 114

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning
(Coauthor: Senator Alquist)

February 23, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to California
Tsunami Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 114, as introduced, Monning. California Tsunami Awareness
Week.

This measure would designate March 25 through March 31, 2012, as
California Tsunami Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2011, an earthquake and subsequent
2 tsunami in the Pacific devastated parts of Japan resulting in the
3 loss of over 15,000 lives and billions of dollars in damage. The
4 effects of this earthquake reached coastal communities throughout
5 the world and impacted many of California's coastal communities;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, Tsunamis are generated by any large, impulsive
8 displacement of the sea level. The most common cause of a tsunami
9 is sea floor uplift associated with an earthquake. Tsunamis are also
10 triggered by landslides into or under the water surface, and can be
11 generated by volcanic activity and meteorite impact; and
12 WHEREAS, On average, two tsunamis occur per year
13 throughout the world, inflicting damage near the source; and

1 WHEREAS, Tsunamis range in size from inches to over a
2 hundred feet. In deep water (greater than 600 feet), tsunamis are
3 rarely over 3 feet and are not normally noticed by ships due to
4 their long period (time between crests); and

5 WHEREAS, As tsunamis propagate into shallow water, the
6 wave height can increase by over 10 times; and

7 WHEREAS, Tsunami heights vary greatly along a coast, and a
8 large tsunami can flood low-lying coastal land over a mile from
9 the coast; and

10 WHEREAS, Earthquakes and landslides on the coasts of
11 California, Oregon, and Washington pose the greatest threat of
12 tsunamis that can reach California's coastline in less than 60
13 minutes; and

14 WHEREAS, An earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone,
15 off the coast of northern California, could trigger a tsunami that
16 could reach land within minutes; and

17 WHEREAS, A tsunami caused by a very large earthquake
18 elsewhere on the Pacific Rim could reach the California coast
19 many hours after the earthquake; and

20 WHEREAS, The most devastating tsunami to affect California
21 in recent history was from the magnitude 9.2 Alaskan earthquake
22 of 1964. Areas of northern California experienced a six-meter
23 (20-foot) tsunami wave that flooded low-lying communities, such
24 as Crescent City, and river valleys, killing 11 people; and

25 WHEREAS, The March 11, 2011, tsunami that reached
26 California caused an estimated \$48 million of damage along the
27 California coastline, with almost \$25 million of damage to the
28 Santa Cruz Harbor, and \$16 million of damage to the Crescent
29 City Harbor; and

30 WHEREAS, The lack of warning for seismic events and
31 potential speed with which a tsunami can strike demonstrates the
32 importance for the millions of Californians who enjoy the
33 California coastline to have a plan and prepare themselves and
34 their families for such a disaster; and

35 WHEREAS, It is important for citizens to know evacuation
36 routes and potential hazard zones for their communities; and

37 WHEREAS, Most coastal communities have an evacuation plan
38 and designated safe areas; and

39 WHEREAS, In light of the tragic events on March 11, 2011,
40 the California Emergency Management Agency, along with the

1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National
2 Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, have designated March 25
3 through March 31, 2012, as “Tsunami Awareness Week”; and

4 WHEREAS, “Tsunami Awareness Week” is a nationally
5 coordinated effort that the California Seismic Safety Commission
6 and the California Emergency Management Agency are promoting
7 here in California through continued outreach and education; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the week of March 25 through March 31,
11 2012, be designated as “California Tsunami Awareness Week” to
12 create public awareness of the necessity for residents of California
13 coastline communities to actively prepare and plan for the
14 possibility of tsunamis; and be it further

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