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Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

March 7, 2011

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to California Safe Digging Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 20, as introduced, DeSaulnier. California Safe Digging Month. This measure would proclaim April 2011 as California Safe Digging Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Excavators, homeowners, and professional  
2 contractors can save time and money while making California’s  
3 communities a safer place to live and work by dialing 811 in  
4 advance of all digging projects; and  
5 WHEREAS, The 811 “Call Before You Dig” program is a vital  
6 public education and awareness program dealing with the safety  
7 of subsurface excavation, and education is the key to promoting  
8 safe digging practices; and  
9 WHEREAS, The five steps to a safe excavation are: survey and  
10 mark, call before you dig, wait the required time, respect the marks,  
11 and dig with care; and  
12 WHEREAS, Utility lines are often buried only a few inches  
13 underground, making them easy to strike and cause damage and  
14 harm even during shallow excavation projects; and  
15 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 underground utility lines are  
16 struck each year in the United States and approximately 37 percent  
17 of all United States digging damages result from not calling 811  
18 before digging; and

1 WHEREAS, Undesired consequences, such as service  
2 interruption, outages, damage to the environment, personal injury,  
3 and death, are risked by failing to call 811 before digging or safely  
4 mark utility lines; and

5 WHEREAS, Calling 811 to be connected to a “One Call Center”  
6 before digging, respecting the color-coded lines that demarcate  
7 underground utilities, and digging with care around the marked  
8 lines will help keep Californians safe and prevent damages and  
9 destruction; and

10 WHEREAS, As California’s economy recovers from the recent  
11 recession and the state’s economic recovery stimulates new  
12 construction, new construction requires supporting infrastructure,  
13 and California’s underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized  
14 by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before  
15 digging; and

16 WHEREAS, California has two “One Call Centers” that provide  
17 a free and effective damage prevention service for Californians:  
18 Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada  
19 and Underground Service Alert of Southern California; and

20 WHEREAS, Underground Service Alert of Northern California  
21 and Nevada and Underground Service Alert of Southern California,  
22 in cooperation with California’s public and private utilities, provide  
23 an effective damage prevention service that protects California’s  
24 citizens, communities, public services, environment, and  
25 underground facilities at no cost to the caller; and

26 WHEREAS, The free notification service provided by  
27 Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada  
28 and Underground Service Alert of Southern California has  
29 dramatically reduced the number of accidents causing property  
30 damage, personal injury, and interruption of vital services; now,  
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims April 2011 as  
34 California Safe Digging Month; and be it further

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