

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 79**

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**Introduced by Senator Lieu**

**(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Anderson, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Calderon, Cannella, Corbett, Correa, De León, DeSaulnier, Dutton, Emerson, Evans, Fuller, Gaines, Hancock, Hernandez, Huff, Kehoe, La Malfa, Leno, Liu, Lowenthal, Negrete McLeod, Padilla, Pavley, Price, Rubio, Runner, Steinberg, Vargas, Walters, Wolk, Wright, Wyland, and Yee)**

March 26, 2012

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79—Relative to the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 79, as amended, Lieu. Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway *Overcrossing*.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 1 in the County of Los Angeles as the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway *Overcrossing*. This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering those costs, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Jenny Oropeza was a lifelong public servant; and
- 2 WHEREAS, Jenny Oropeza was active in her community and
- 3 was elected to the Long Beach Unified School District Board of
- 4 Education, the Long Beach City Council, the California State
- 5 Assembly, and finally to the California State Senate; and

1 WHEREAS, During her time as a member of the California  
2 Legislature, Jenny Oropeza was a champion for public  
3 transportation, health care, education, clean air, equality, and  
4 prevention of cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, Former Senator Oropeza was so admired by her  
6 constituents and community that since her death she has been  
7 honored by the Democratic Women’s Study Club in Long Beach,  
8 which posthumously awarded her the Political Leadership Award.  
9 In future years the award will be called the Jenny Oropeza Political  
10 Leadership Award. Additionally, the Long Beach Community  
11 Hispanic Association (Centro CHA) posthumously awarded  
12 Senator Oropeza the Create Change Community Service Excellence  
13 Award, which will in future years be called the Create Change:  
14 Jenny Oropeza Community Service Excellence Award; and

15 WHEREAS, In recognition of former Senator Oropeza, the Long  
16 Beach Lambda Democratic Club created the Jenny Oropeza Ally  
17 of the Year Award, which was, similar to the two previously  
18 mentioned awards, first awarded in 2011; and

19 WHEREAS, As a tribute to former Senator Oropeza’s dedication  
20 to fostering protections for key state public health programs, the  
21 Los Angeles County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in  
22 joint collaboration with the six other California-based Komen  
23 affiliates, known as “the California Collaborative,” established the  
24 Senator Jenny Oropeza Public Policy Internship position; and

25 WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach named the community  
26 center in Cesar E. Chavez Park the Jenny Oropeza Community  
27 Center and the Los Angeles Unified School District dedicated the  
28 Jenny Oropeza Global Studies Academy at the Rancho Dominguez  
29 Preparatory School; and

30 WHEREAS, Shortly after taking office in 2000, then Assembly  
31 Member Oropeza, became aware that the Alameda Corridor would  
32 open in 2002 and all the planned bridges, designed to prevent cars  
33 from having to wait for trains to pass at street level, would be  
34 completed, except the bridge on State Highway Route 1 (Pacific  
35 Coast Highway) in the community of Wilmington, the busiest  
36 route along the Alameda Corridor; and

37 WHEREAS, At the time, State Highway Route 1 bisected the  
38 Equilon Refinery and was therefore the most complicated and  
39 expensive bridge to build. Furthermore, there was not enough

1 funding available to complete the bridge on State Highway Route  
2 1; and

3 WHEREAS, Former Assembly Member Oropeza brought  
4 together the interested parties, including the California Department  
5 of Transportation, the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority,  
6 the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Equilon Refinery,  
7 the Union Pacific Railroad, and the City of Los Angeles to solve  
8 this problem and was able to help facilitate \$107 million in funding  
9 from a combination of sources which included state transportation  
10 funds, state Proposition 116 bond funds, federal demonstration  
11 funds, Metropolitan Transportation Authority funds, and railroad  
12 funds; and

13 WHEREAS, Former Assembly Member Oropeza was also  
14 successful in her pursuit to have the long bridge built. This design  
15 not only eliminated the train and car conflicts on the Alameda  
16 Corridor, but also eliminated these same conflicts on Alameda  
17 Street and the San Pedro Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad;  
18 now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
21 portion of State Highway Route 1 that runs between Coil Street  
22 and the east side of the main entrance to the Tesoro Refinery, in  
23 the community of Wilmington in the County of Los Angeles, as  
24 the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial ~~Highway~~ *Overcrossing*;  
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
27 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the  
28 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this  
29 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
30 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
31 further

32 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
33 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
34 author for appropriate distribution.

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