

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 24

Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chesbro)
(Coauthors: Senators Gaines and Nielsen)

June 3, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 24—Relative to forest protection and restoration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 24, as introduced, Dahle. Forest protection and restoration.

This measure would encourage state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over forest resource management to collaborate across jurisdictions with regard to landscape-scale efforts to maintain and restore California's forests to protect the state's natural resources and water supply for future generations.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One of the greatest ongoing challenges for
2 California is to ensure an adequate supply of water for myriad
3 human uses and other environmental needs while also addressing
4 the increasing and negative impacts of climate change on our
5 watersheds; and
6 WHEREAS, The large majority of the water used by California
7 originates in the 10 million-acre forested area of northern California
8 feeding the Sacramento River, with the Sacramento River providing
9 60 percent of the water for the Central Valley and state water
10 projects, drinking water for 25 million Californians, and over 80
11 percent of the freshwater to San Francisco Bay; and

1 WHEREAS, California’s forests represent our largest, safest,
2 and most expandable opportunity to actively remove carbon dioxide
3 from the atmosphere; and

4 WHEREAS, The forests and watersheds of California face
5 multiple challenges and pressures, including the loss and
6 degradation of forests by the subdivision, fragmentation, and
7 development of lands, the planting of unnaturally dense forests as
8 a result of fire suppression, and stresses from a changing climate;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, California’s forests provide an essential natural
11 infrastructure that collects, stores, filters, and transports water in
12 a materially more cost-effective manner than any built
13 infrastructure; and

14 WHEREAS, Managing these forested watersheds to restore and
15 enhance their sustained water provision services will also create
16 rural jobs and enhance the state’s ability to address climate change,
17 including by reducing fire-fighting costs; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to supplying the majority of the state’s
19 water and sequestering vast amounts of carbon, forests clean our
20 air and provide habitat for wildlife, all while supporting rural
21 economies through outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing,
22 hiking, and camping, as well as through the forest products
23 industry; and

24 WHEREAS, Preventing further loss of California’s forests,
25 restoring degraded forest areas, and improving management are
26 critical parts of ensuring that our watersheds continue to store
27 carbon and produce high-quality clean water in the future; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of California recognizes
31 the value of forests in providing critical ecosystem services,
32 including water supply and climate stabilization services; and be
33 it further

34 *Resolved,* That the state and federal governmental agencies with
35 jurisdiction over forest resource management are encouraged to
36 collaborate across jurisdictions with regard to landscape-scale
37 efforts to maintain and restore California’s forests to protect the
38 state’s natural resources and water supply for future generations;
39 and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
4 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority
5 Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to
6 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
7 of the United States.

O