

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Hall, Nazarian, and Rendon)
(Coauthors: Senators Padilla and Pavley)

January 17, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to ~~the Los Angeles River~~.
National Cancer Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 5, as amended, Gomez. ~~Los Angeles River: ARBOR study alternative 20: National Cancer Awareness Week.~~

This measure would designate the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, inclusive, as National Cancer Awareness Week, encourage the promotion of policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all Californians, and urge the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize National Cancer Awareness Week.

~~This measure would urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to select ARBOR study alternative 20, which would serve to revitalize communities and create a more functional and interconnected watershed that will provide a more diverse regional ecological system and restore the functionality of the Los Angeles River as a critical natural and cultural heritage and community resource.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

1 *WHEREAS, National Cancer Awareness Week has been*
2 *observed across the country each year since 1987 in an effort to*
3 *bring attention to the disparities of cancer among medically*
4 *underserved populations; and*

5 *WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is participating in*
6 *National Cancer Awareness Week to highlight the disparities in*
7 *cancer burdens and to encourage public and private sector*
8 *commitments in helping eliminate these disparities; and*

9 *WHEREAS, California is the most populous and ethnically and*
10 *culturally diverse state in the country, and thus, is in a position to*
11 *provide leadership for the nation to address the reduction of the*
12 *incidence of cancer among all races, ethnicities, and genders; and*

13 *WHEREAS, In California, disparities exist in knowledge about*
14 *cancer, cancer survival, and access to early detection, high-quality*
15 *treatment, health care coverage, and health care. Social inequities*
16 *also exist, including differences in occupational hazards,*
17 *environmental exposures to pollution and other toxins, access to*
18 *education, nutrition, physical activity, safe neighborhoods, healthy*
19 *food options, and other factors that contribute to an increased or*
20 *reduced risk of cancer; and*

21 *WHEREAS, The risk of developing and dying from cancer varies*
22 *considerably among different cultural populations in California.*
23 *The medically underserved are often diagnosed at later stages,*
24 *and with a higher incidence of cancers with higher mortality, such*
25 *as lung cancer, and are more likely to receive delayed health care;*
26 *and*

27 *WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of death among Latinos,*
28 *Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and is the second leading*
29 *cause of death for most other Californians; and*

30 *WHEREAS, In California, African American males have the*
31 *highest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. African*
32 *American women are more likely to die of breast cancer, although*
33 *non-Hispanic white women are the most likely to be diagnosed*
34 *with the disease. African Americans have substantially higher*
35 *rates of cancers of the stomach, small intestine, liver, and larynx,*
36 *myeloma, and Kaposi's sarcoma than non-Hispanic whites. African*
37 *American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer, more*
38 *than any other racial and ethnic group; and*

1 *WHEREAS, In California, lung cancer is the most common cancer*
2 *among Laotian and Vietnamese men, while prostate cancer is the*
3 *most common cancer for men in most other ethnic groups.*
4 *Colorectal cancer is the most common cancer among Kampuchean*
5 *and Korean men. Despite an overall statewide decline in colorectal*
6 *cancer rates from 1988–2008, incidence sharply increased among*
7 *Koreans and Vietnamese. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and*
8 *Latinos have substantially higher rates of liver and stomach cancer*
9 *than other groups. Vietnamese women have much higher rates of*
10 *cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Asian Americans*
11 *have among the lowest rates of screening for breast, cervical, and*
12 *colorectal cancers. There remains a lack of data about factors*
13 *related to cancer, cancer control, and effective interventions among*
14 *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and*

15 *WHEREAS, In California, Latinos have substantially higher*
16 *rates of stomach and liver cancers than other Californians. Latinos*
17 *have higher rates of acute lymphocytic leukemia and cervical*
18 *cancer than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos have the highest*
19 *likelihood of being medically uninsured, which can create serious*
20 *barriers to screenings, early detection, and treatment. Latino*
21 *women have the highest risk of developing cervical cancer,*
22 *significantly higher, than non-Hispanic white women, African*
23 *American women, Asian American women, and Pacific Islander*
24 *women; and*

25 *WHEREAS, Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and*
26 *transgender community are at greater risk for cancer, face specific*
27 *challenges accessing quality health care because of insurance*
28 *policies that fail to cover same-sex partners, and may hesitate to*
29 *access health care because of previous discrimination in health*
30 *care settings. Lesbians have fewer mammograms, pelvic*
31 *examinations, and Pap smear tests than heterosexual women.*
32 *There remains a lack of data about factors related to cancer,*
33 *cancer control, and effective interventions in the lesbian, gay,*
34 *bisexual, and transgender community; now, therefore, be it*

35 **RESOLVED, BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE OF**
36 **THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, JOINTLY, That the Legislature**
37 **urges the President and the Congress of the United States to**
38 **recognize “National Cancer Awareness Week”; and be it further**

39 **RESOLVED, That the Legislature declares the week of April**
40 **20 to 26, 2014, inclusive, as “National Cancer Awareness Week,”**

1 *within the State of California, and encourages the promotion of*
2 *policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and,*
3 *as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and*
4 *followup care for all Californians; and be it further*

5 *RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit*
6 *copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the*
7 *United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to*
8 *the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and*
9 *Representative from California in the Congress of the United*
10 *States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.*

11 ~~WHEREAS, The Los Angeles River flows roughly 51 miles~~
12 ~~from its origin in the San Fernando Valley to the Long Beach~~
13 ~~Harbor and is 32 miles long within the City of Los Angeles; and~~

14 ~~WHEREAS, Within the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles~~
15 ~~River flows through three United States congressional districts,~~
16 ~~eight city council districts for the City of Los Angeles,~~
17 ~~approximately 20 neighborhood councils, 12 community plan~~
18 ~~areas, the second largest urban region in the United States, and~~
19 ~~one of the world's busiest port regions, and flows into the Pacific~~
20 ~~Ocean, the world's largest body of water; and~~

21 ~~WHEREAS, The Los Angeles River corridor is home to more~~
22 ~~than one million people, more than 390,000 housing units, more~~
23 ~~than 480,000 workers, more than 35,000 businesses, and more~~
24 ~~than 80 schools; and~~

25 ~~WHEREAS, The Los Angeles River flows through historically~~
26 ~~disadvantaged communities and underserved neighborhoods of~~
27 ~~Los Angeles that lack open-space resources and have high~~
28 ~~unemployment rates; and~~

29 ~~WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles, the State of California,~~
30 ~~the federal government, and an incredible number of nonprofit~~
31 ~~groups and organizations have been invaluable partners in the~~
32 ~~process of developing and now implementing the Los Angeles~~
33 ~~River Revitalization Master Plan; and~~

34 ~~WHEREAS, The goals of the Los Angeles River Revitalization~~
35 ~~Master Plan include improving environmental quality, improving~~
36 ~~public access to the Los Angeles River, increasing recreation and~~
37 ~~open spaces, enhancing flood control, encouraging community~~
38 ~~reinvestment, and increasing awareness and pride in the Los~~
39 ~~Angeles River; and~~

1 WHEREAS, In 2006, recognizing the environmental degradation
2 occurring in and along the Los Angeles River within the boundaries
3 of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles City Council
4 authorized the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles
5 to execute an agreement with the United States Army Corps of
6 Engineers for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration
7 Feasibility Study, also known as the ARBOR study, committing
8 the City of Los Angeles to a 50-percent share of the cost as local
9 sponsor. In 2009, the cost increased when the total ARBOR study
10 cost was raised to \$9,710,000; and

11 WHEREAS, The ARBOR study is consistent with the goals of
12 President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, which
13 includes direction to reconnect Americans, especially children, to
14 America’s rivers and waterways and to build upon state, local,
15 private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water,
16 wildlife, and historic and cultural resources, creating corridors and
17 connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing
18 neighborhood parks. In the President’s America’s Great Outdoors
19 Initiative, federal agencies are asked to determine how the federal
20 government can best advance these priorities through public-private
21 partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies; and

22 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles River watershed was selected as
23 one of only seven nationwide first-phase pilots of the Urban Waters
24 Federal Partnership, an implementation piece of President Obama’s
25 America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, which aims to stimulate
26 regional and local economies, create local jobs, improve quality
27 of life, and protect Americans’ health by revitalizing urban
28 waterways in underserved communities across the country and the
29 ARBOR study was selected as the top priority of the Urban Waters
30 Federal Partnership in Los Angeles; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Army Corps of
32 Engineers developed a final array of the four best buy alternatives
33 for the ARBOR study and only one of those alternatives includes
34 both significant restoration at the Los Angeles River’s confluence
35 with the Verdugo Wash near the City of Los Angeles’s border
36 with the City of Glendale and the only substantial western bank
37 connection, providing a profound hydrological link between the
38 Los Angeles State Historic Park (Cornfields site) and the Los
39 Angeles River, leveraging a significant investment made by the

1 ~~State of California toward restoration of the Los Angeles River;~~
2 ~~and~~

3 ~~WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles endorses the ARBOR~~
4 ~~study alternative 20 that results in the most expansive ecosystem~~
5 ~~restoration, specifically that which includes the following priorities~~
6 ~~for the City of Los Angeles:~~

7 ~~(a) Verdugo Wash Confluence.~~

8 ~~(b) Taylor Yard/Bowtie.~~

9 ~~(c) Taylor Yard/G-2.~~

10 ~~(d) Arroyo Seco Confluence.~~

11 ~~(e) Cornfields Los Angeles State Historic Park.~~

12 ~~(f) Piggyback Yard (Union Pacific Railroad); and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, Once completed, the ARBOR study will~~
14 ~~recommend a project that will be cost-shared by the United States~~
15 ~~Army Corps of Engineers and local sponsors to modify the river's~~
16 ~~concrete channel significantly for the first time since the river was~~
17 ~~channelized by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the~~
18 ~~early to mid 1900s. The project will be one of the largest examples~~
19 ~~of urban ecosystem restoration in the nation's second most~~
20 ~~populous city; now, therefore, be it~~

21 ~~*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*~~
22 ~~*California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the United States*~~
23 ~~*Army Corps of Engineers to select the ARBOR study alternative*~~
24 ~~*20, which would serve to revitalize communities and create a more*~~
25 ~~*functional and interconnected watershed that will provide a more*~~
26 ~~*diverse regional ecological system and restore the functionality of*~~
27 ~~*the Los Angeles River as a critical natural and cultural heritage*~~
28 ~~*and community resource; and be it further*~~

29 ~~*Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*~~
30 ~~*of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United*~~
31 ~~*States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the*~~
32 ~~*Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative*~~
33 ~~*from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the*~~
34 ~~*Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the United States*~~
35 ~~*Army Corps of Engineers.*~~

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