

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 67**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**

June 24, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, as introduced, Alejo. State highways: designations.

This measure would designate portions of State Highway Routes 152, 1, 129, and 101 in the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz as the Dolores Huerta Highway, the Senator Henry J. Mello Highway, the Oscar Rios Highway, and the Gateway to the Pinnacles Highway, respectively.

The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing each of these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost of the signs for which the donations were made, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta, born April 10, 1930, is a labor  
2 leader and civil rights activist who, along with César Chávez,  
3 cofounded the National Farmworkers Association, which later  
4 became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), and gained  
5 national attention after Huerta led a boycott of table grapes in the  
6 1960s; and

7 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has received numerous awards for  
8 her community service and advocacy for workers', immigrants',  
9 and womens' rights, including the Eugene V. Debs Foundation

1 Outstanding American Award, the United States Presidential  
2 Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, and the Presidential  
3 Medal of Freedom; and

4 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta spent time in the City of  
5 Watsonville organizing farmworkers for fair treatment; and

6 WHEREAS, The 1960s boycott of table grapes led by Dolores  
7 Huerta was supported by an estimated 17 million Americans, and  
8 brought the plight of farmworkers into the public eye, leading to  
9 the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act,  
10 which allowed farmworkers the right to organize and bargain for  
11 better working conditions and higher wages; and

12 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta also helped lead a 10-year effort  
13 to gain amnesty for farmworkers who had lived, worked, and paid  
14 taxes in the United States, resulting in the Immigration Reform  
15 and Control Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to 1.4 million  
16 farmworkers; and

17 WHEREAS, After leaving the UFW in 2002, Dolores Huerta  
18 focused her attention on a host of other issues, including  
19 immigration, ensuring Latino children receive quality educations,  
20 feminism, equality for women, and reproductive freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, As the president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation,  
22 Dolores Huerta organizes forums and programs that focus on social  
23 justice and public policy issues, as well as encouraging people to  
24 participate in elections to help choose their representatives; and

25 WHEREAS, State Senator Henry J. Mello, born and raised in  
26 Watsonville, was the son of Portuguese immigrant parents, and  
27 attended Watsonville High School in Watsonville and Hartnell  
28 College in Salinas; and

29 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, Henry Mello helped start the Mello  
30 Packing Company, a family apple business, and became involved  
31 in public service as a member of the California Agricultural  
32 Advisory Board; and

33 WHEREAS, Henry Mello was elected as a Santa Cruz County  
34 supervisor in 1966, to the Assembly in 1976, and to the Senate in  
35 1980, and represented the Counties of Santa Cruz and San Benito,  
36 as well as parts of the Counties of Monterey and Santa Clara in  
37 the Legislature until 1996; and

38 WHEREAS, Henry Mello quickly rose to leadership positions  
39 by his appointment to the Senate Rules Committee and his election  
40 as Majority Whip and later as Majority Leader, and authored 726

1 bills, of which 456 were signed into law, with 120 of those bills  
2 focused on senior issues; and

3 WHEREAS, Henry Mello was proud of his creation of the  
4 California Senior Legislature and authorship of legislation dealing  
5 with Alzheimers, including bills on respite care, adult day health  
6 care, and prevention of senior abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, Henry Mello was known by his colleagues as a  
8 tough negotiator and for his dedication to his district and  
9 constituents; and

10 WHEREAS, After leaving the Senate, Henry Mello worked  
11 with the Department of Transportation to prioritize the construction  
12 of one of the most important projects within the state highway  
13 system, an overpass to improve traffic safety on the dangerous  
14 intersection of State Highway Route 1 and Salinas Road; and

15 WHEREAS, Henry Mello's legacy in the Pajaro Valley and  
16 California will forever be remembered; and

17 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios was born in El Salvador in 1950, and  
18 in 1960 his family emigrated to San Francisco, where he became  
19 a United States citizen, later moving to Watsonville in 1985; and

20 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios became the regional organizer for La  
21 Alianza, a nonprofit agency that provides advocacy referral and  
22 citizenship processing, and was an organizer during the Watsonville  
23 cannery strikes that lasted from 1985 to 1987, the longest cannery  
24 strikes in United States history, and that were led primarily by  
25 women cannery workers; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1989, Oscar Rios was elected to the Watsonville  
27 City Council just after the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals  
28 struck down Watsonville's discriminatory at-large election system  
29 and implemented district elections in the landmark federal voting  
30 rights case of Gomez v. City of Watsonville; and

31 WHEREAS, When Oscar Rios became Watsonville's mayor in  
32 1992, he also became the first mayor of any United States city of  
33 Salvadorean descent, and quickly earned a reputation as an  
34 energetic and accessible leader, and also became a founding  
35 member of the Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios worked to build a successful partnership  
38 with Watsonville's local school district, resulting in the creation  
39 of more parks and playgrounds, and also worked with

1 Watsonville’s business community to create hundreds of new jobs;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios also led voter registration drives through  
4 the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and worked  
5 on numerous campaigns to get other Latinos elected to political  
6 office, and continues to organize for Latino empowerment locally  
7 and statewide; and

8 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios served 17 years on the Watsonville  
9 City Council and is the longest serving Latino city councilmember  
10 in the history of the County of Santa Cruz, having retired from the  
11 council on December 11, 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios continues to be employed as a Teamster  
13 Union Business Agent for Local 890 in Salinas; and

14 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is the “Gateway to the  
15 Pinnacles,” located only five miles from Pinnacles National Park,  
16 which became the nation’s 59th National Park on January 10, 2013,  
17 by an act of Congress signed into law by President Barack Obama;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is also located near the Spanish  
20 Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad (the Mission of Our Lady  
21 of Solitude), founded on October 9, 1791, as the 13th of 21  
22 missions in California; and

23 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is a great destination for  
24 tourists, located in one of the primary wine grape growing regions  
25 of California, with over 20 vineyards and wineries within a 30-mile  
26 radius; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
29 portion of State Highway Route 152 from Carlton Road to the  
30 junction with State Highway Route 1 via Main Street, in the City  
31 of Watsonville, as the Dolores Huerta Highway; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of  
33 State Highway Route 1 from the Pajaro River to Struve Road,  
34 including the new Salinas Road overcrossing, in the County of  
35 Monterey, as the Senator Henry J. Mello Highway; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of  
37 State Highway Route 129 from Blackburn Street to the junction  
38 with State Highway Route 1 at Riverside Drive in the City of  
39 Watsonville as the Oscar Rios Highway; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of  
2 State Highway Route 101 from Exit 305 at Camphora Gloria Road  
3 to Exit 301 at Arroyo Seco Road in the County of Monterey as the  
4 Gateway to the Pinnacles Highway; and be it further

5     *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
6 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the  
7 signing requirements for the state highway system for each of these  
8 special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
9 sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which the  
10 donations were made, to erect those signs; and be it further

11     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
12 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
13 for appropriate distribution.