

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2014
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Stone)
(Coauthor: Senator DeSaulnier)

June 24, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, as amended, Alejo. State highways: *special* designations.

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

This measure would also designate the interchange at Interstate 680 and Highway 24 in Contra Costa County as the CHP Officer Kenyon Youngstrom Memorial Interchange.

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, John Ernst Steinbeck, Jr., was born on February
2 27, 1902, in Salinas, California, and is one of the most influential
3 and memorable American authors of the 20th century; and

4 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's work has attracted people from
5 around the world to visit the central coast of California, the
6 Monterey Bay, and the Salinas Valley in which many of his works
7 are set; and

8 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck has brought fame and honor to the
9 United States as a distinguished writer whose fiction is
10 representative of the vitality and unique qualities of the American
11 people; and

12 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's writing is known for its keen
13 perception of the times, which has helped shed light on some of
14 the economic and social problems of migrant workers in rural
15 America; and

16 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in
17 1940, the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962, and the United States
18 Medal of Freedom in 1964 for his cultural contributions as a
19 novelist, journalist, historian, and social commentator; and

20 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's widely celebrated literary works
21 include 16 novels, a collection of short stories, four screenplays,
22 various journalistic essays, three travel narratives, a translation,
23 and two published journals; and

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

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

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

37 WHEREAS, Henry Mello quickly rose to leadership positions
38 by his appointment to the Senate Rules Committee and his election
39 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 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 he became a founding member
35 of the Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities; and

36 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios worked to build a successful partnership
37 with Watsonville's local school district, resulting in the creation
38 of more parks and playgrounds, and also worked with
39 Watsonville's business community to create hundreds of new jobs;
40 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 *WHEREAS, California Highway Patrol Officer Kenyon Marc*
26 *Youngstrom made the ultimate sacrifice while performing his*
27 *sworn duty, and in recognition thereof, we pay special tribute to*
28 *his bravery and dedication; and*

29 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom was born on October 8, 1974,*
30 *in Pasadena, California; and*

31 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom graduated from Arlington High*
32 *School in Riverside in 1993, and attended California Baptist*
33 *University in Riverside, California as well as Napa Valley College*
34 *in Napa, California; and*

35 *WHEREAS, From a young age, Officer Youngstrom recognized*
36 *the importance of public service and was known as a hard worker*
37 *who always gave back to his community; and*

38 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom served as a member of the*
39 *United States Army Reserve for six years, achieving the rank of*
40 *an E-4 Specialist; and*

1 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom entered the California Highway*
2 *Patrol Academy in August of 2005 and graduated in February of*
3 *2006 (badge number 18063), and was initially assigned to the*
4 *Contra Costa County area; and*

5 *WHEREAS, After serving approximately three years in the*
6 *Contra Costa County area, Officer Youngstrom voluntarily*
7 *transferred to the Golden Gate Division as a member of the Field*
8 *Support Unit, where he served as a distinguished member of the*
9 *Protective Services Detail, responsible for providing protection*
10 *to various dignitaries, heads of state, legislators, and other VIP's*
11 *visiting the San Francisco Bay Area; and*

12 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom transferred back to the Contra*
13 *Costa County area in August of 2012, where he spent the remainder*
14 *of his career; and*

15 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom performed several duties over*
16 *the course of his career and, because of his exceptional skills as*
17 *an officer, he served as a mentor and recruiter for new officers,*
18 *as well as a RADAR and LIDAR instructor; and*

19 *WHEREAS, On September 4, 2012, Officer Youngstrom was*
20 *assisting a fellow officer with an enforcement stop on Interstate*
21 *680 and was critically shot by the driver of the stopped vehicle.*
22 *Unfortunately, he passed away the following day at the John Muir*
23 *Medical Center in Walnut Creek, California; and*

24 *WHEREAS, Upon his death, Officer Youngstrom gave the gift*
25 *of life through organ and tissue donation, helping to save the lives*
26 *of four individuals; and*

27 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom was a man of family and faith,*
28 *and was a member of the Community Bible Church in Vallejo,*
29 *California; and*

30 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom is survived by his wife, Karen,*
31 *four children, Alexander, Madison, Andrew, and Kennedy, his*
32 *parents, Gaylord and Jill Youngstrom, four brothers, and a sister;*
33 *and*

34 *WHEREAS, As a father, Officer Youngstrom leaves behind a*
35 *legacy, instilled in his children, of a sense of respect and dignity;*
36 *and*

37 *WHEREAS, Officer Youngstrom is admired for his*
38 *professionalism, dedication, honesty, loyalty, respect, and courage;*
39 *and*

1 *WHEREAS, Through adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution*
2 *43 (Resolution Chapter 98 of the Statutes of 2013), the Legislature*
3 *designated the State Highway Route 680 undercrossing at Livorna*
4 *Road below Bridge No. 28-191 in Contra Costa County in Officer*
5 *Youngstrom’s memory; and*

6 *WHEREAS, The Legislature desires, instead, to designate the*
7 *Interstate 680 and Highway 24 Interchange in Contra Costa*
8 *County in Officer Youngstrom’s memory; now, therefore, be it*

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the*
11 *portion of State Highway Route 1 from the Pajaro River to Struve*
12 *Road, including the new Salinas Road overcrossing, in the County*
13 *of Monterey, as the Senator Henry J. Mello Highway; and be it*
14 *further*

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

19 *Resolved, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of*
20 *State Highway Route 101 from ~~Sala Road~~ the Espinosa*
21 *Road/Russell Road undercrossing to John Street in the City of*
22 *Salinas as the John Steinbeck Highway; and be it further*

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

27 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby designates the*
28 *interchange at Interstate 680 and Highway 24 in Contra Costa*
29 *County as the CHP Officer Kenyon Youngstrom Memorial*
30 *Interchange; and be it further*

31 *RESOLVED, That the designation made by Senate Concurrent*
32 *Resolution 43 (Resolution Chapter 98 of the Statutes of 2013) is*
33 *hereby rescinded; and be it further*

34 *Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested*
35 *to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the*
36 *signing requirements for the state highway system for each of these*
37 *special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate*
38 *sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which the*
39 *donations were made, to erect those signs; and be it further*

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
- 3 for appropriate distribution.

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