

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 96**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen**

**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Rendon)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Buchanan, Donnelly, Hagman, Hall, Melendez, Quirk-Silva, and RodriguezRodriguez, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Ridley-Thomas, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Gaines and Jackson)**

February 12, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as amended, Olsen. The 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

This measure would recognize the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of our state park system.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The first state park was conceived in California in  
2 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California's United States  
3 Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at  
4 Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and  
5 public enjoyment. At Raymond's request, Senator Conness  
6 introduced a bill that quickly passed through both Congressional  
7 houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed The Yosemite Grant  
8 Act on June 30, 1864, which granted the Yosemite Valley, and the  
9 Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor  
10 Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year; and

11 WHEREAS, The first state historic monument was a statute of  
12 James Marshall erected in 1890 near his gold discovery site in  
13 Coloma, and other historic sites have since been preserved,  
14 including Fort Ross, Sonoma Mission, Pio Pico's home, and  
15 Sutter's Fort; and

16 WHEREAS, In recent years, the state park system has expanded  
17 to include off-highway vehicle parks and underwater parks; and

18 WHEREAS, California state parks maintain not only the natural  
19 beauty of the state, but provide valuable spaces for recreation,  
20 escape, history, and a special place for contemplation; and

21 WHEREAS, The Department of Parks and Recreation currently  
22 manages 280 park units, which contain the finest and most diverse  
23 collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be  
24 found within California. These treasures are as diverse as California  
25 and include: (1) the last stands of primeval redwood forests and  
26 vast expanses of fragile desert; (2) the lofty Sierra Nevada and the  
27 broad sandy beaches of our southern coast; and (3) the opulence  
28 of Hearst Castle and the vestiges of colonial Russia; and

29 WHEREAS, California's state parks contain the largest and  
30 most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state  
31 agency in the nation. State park units include underwater preserves,  
32 reserves, and parks; redwood, rhododendron, and wildlife reserves;  
33 state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and reservoirs;  
34 state historic parks, historic homes, Spanish era adobe buildings,  
35 including museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves, and preserves;

1 as well as lighthouses, ghost towns, waterslides, conference centers,  
 2 and off-highway vehicle parks. These parks protect and preserve  
 3 an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally  
 4 sensitive structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal  
 5 species, ancient Native American sites, historic structures and  
 6 artifacts, and demonstrate the best of California’s natural and  
 7 cultural history; and

8 WHEREAS, The California state park system is responsible for  
 9 almost one-third of California’s scenic coastline, which includes  
 10 nearly 300 parks, beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces,  
 11 off-highway vehicle areas, and historic sites. It consists of  
 12 approximately 1.59 million acres, including over 339 miles of  
 13 coastline, 974 miles of lake, reservoir and river frontage,  
 14 approximately 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities,  
 15 and 4,456 miles of nonmotorized trails; and

16 WHEREAS, Since 1864, grassroots activism and legislation  
 17 have made it possible for all Californians to take pride and  
 18 ownership of their unique and diverse landscapes. Parks maintain  
 19 not only the natural beauty of California, but provide recreation,  
 20 escape, history, and a special place for contemplation and  
 21 reflection; and

22 WHEREAS, The California state park system continues as a  
 23 national and world leader in conservation and today, and into the  
 24 future, our state parks preserve land, biosystems, and historic sites  
 25 for public use; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
 27 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the 150th  
 28 anniversary of the California state park system and urges all  
 29 Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of  
 30 our state park system; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
 32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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35 **CORRECTIONS:**

36 **Heading—Coauthors—Page 1.**

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