

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 18**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon**

February 4, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 18, as introduced, Gordon. Parks Make Life Better! Month.

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2015 as “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, A 2009 public opinion research study, conducted  
2 by the California Park and Recreation Society, revealed that 98  
3 percent of California’s households visit a local park and 50 percent  
4 of California households participate in an organized recreation  
5 program annually; and  
6 WHEREAS, California’s residents value their local parks and  
7 recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and  
8 inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and  
9 exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation;  
10 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,  
11 the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth  
12 that help lower crime; and  
13 WHEREAS, The Outdoor Industry Association reports that  
14 outdoor recreation, both passive and active, generates more than

1 eighty-five billion dollars (\$85,000,000,000) in economic activity  
2 in California, supporting nearly 800,000 jobs and representing a  
3 business and economic sector that surpasses the aerospace and  
4 insurance industries in the state; and

5 WHEREAS, The 2010 California Obesity Prevention Plan states  
6 the following:

7 (a) One in every nine California children, one in three teens,  
8 and over 50 percent of adults are already overweight or obese, and  
9 obesity affects virtually all age, income, educational, ethnic, and  
10 disability groups.

11 (b) Research has shown that where people live, work, and play  
12 impacts obesity. For example, in Imperial County, 73 percent of  
13 adults are overweight or obese, while only 43 percent of San  
14 Francisco City and County adults are overweight or obese.

15 (c) California's costs attributable to physical inactivity, obesity,  
16 and excess body weight in 2006 were estimated at forty-one billion  
17 two hundred million dollars (\$41,200,000,000). In contrast, a  
18 5-percent improvement in each of these risk factors could result  
19 in an annual savings of nearly two billion four hundred million  
20 dollars (\$2,400,000,000).

21 (d) To address obesity, the state must ensure that all California  
22 residents have access to safe places to play and be active; and

23 WHEREAS, California's 10 Step Vision for a Healthy California  
24 is a call to action to transform the state so that all Californians can  
25 enjoy healthy eating and active living, resulting in all of the  
26 following:

27 (a) Every day, every child will participate in physical activity.

28 (b) California's adults will be physically active every day.

29 (c) Neighborhoods, communities, and buildings will support  
30 physical activity, including safe walking, stair climbing, and  
31 bicycling; and

32 WHEREAS, The Governor, Legislature, and citizens have  
33 prioritized efforts to increase physical activity, access to nature,  
34 spaces for play and exercise, the arts, lifelong learning, and social  
35 connections among children and adults through the approval of  
36 statewide park bond programs; and

37 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society promotes  
38 the positive personal and community benefits of parks, open space,  
39 trails, recreation facilities and programs, nature education, and

1 sports for able and disabled children, teens, adults, and seniors;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Participation in physical activities can lower a  
4 citizen's risk of developing chronic health problems, such as high  
5 blood pressure, asthma, heart disease, and diabetes, and also help  
6 children grow up to be healthier adults; and

7 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society has  
8 released a statewide public awareness campaign, "Parks Make  
9 Life Better!" to inform citizens of the many benefits of utilizing  
10 parks, facilities, programs, and services; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the importance  
13 of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities such as  
14 swimming pools, skate parks, dog parks, tennis courts, nature  
15 centers, and museums, for the health and development of all  
16 Californians; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the month of July 2015  
18 as "Parks Make Life Better!" Month; and be it further

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