

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Harper, Mark Stone,
and Waldron)
(Coauthor: Senator Gaines)

February 10, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 22—Relative to Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 22, as introduced, Dahle. Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week.

This measure would declare the week of September 13, 2015, through September 19, 2015, and the third week of September every year thereafter, as Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week. The measure would encourage public schools to include watershed protection in the Sierra Nevada as part of their outdoor education curriculum whenever possible during the month of September. The measure would also encourage state, federal, and local agencies, along with nongovernmental organizations to work cooperatively towards the goal of increasing the pace and scale of watersheds and forest restoration in the region and would urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to play a key role in development of a plan and program to address these issues.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was established
- 2 in bipartisan fashion to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that
- 3 improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of

1 the Sierra Nevada, its communities, and the citizens of California;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada Region encompasses 25 million
4 acres and is the origin of more than 60 percent of California's
5 developed water supply; and

6 WHEREAS, Forests of the Sierra Nevada store massive amounts
7 of carbon and present an immediate opportunity to assist the state
8 in meeting the objectives of the California Global Warming
9 Solutions Act of 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, The region is the primary source of fresh water
11 flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada Region draws visitors from
13 around the United States and the world, with Yosemite National
14 Park alone bringing in nearly four million visitors per year; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of the forests in the Sierra Nevada Region
16 are overgrown and unhealthy, putting them at extreme risk of
17 uncharacteristically large and damaging fires, with this year likely
18 to establish the highest number of acres burned in a single decade
19 in the recorded history of the Sierra Nevada; and

20 WHEREAS, The impacts of these fires include massive
21 emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, as well as a
22 dramatic increase in sedimentation of streams and reservoirs and
23 the loss of crucial habitat and recreational opportunities; and

24 WHEREAS, Agriculture and tourism in the Sierra Nevada
25 Region are key economic drivers in the state, and the values and
26 services coming out of the region, such as clean water and energy,
27 are critical to the state's overall economic health; and

28 WHEREAS, The legacy of Gold Rush era mining has resulted
29 in impairments to water quality from more than 20,000 abandoned
30 mines, of which more than 3,000 are known to contain chemical
31 hazards, that are the primary source of mercury for the San
32 Francisco Bay and the Delta; and

33 WHEREAS, The Great Sierra River Cleanup is the premier
34 volunteer event focused on removing trash and restoring the health
35 of waterways throughout the Sierra Nevada Region and is held in
36 conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day; and

37 WHEREAS, During the first six years of the Great Sierra River
38 Cleanup, more than 23,000 volunteers have joined together to
39 remove more than 600 tons of trash and recyclables from
40 watersheds throughout the Sierra Nevada; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature acknowledges the critical
3 role the Sierra Nevada Region plays in California's economy and
4 environment and the wide range of benefits, products, amenities,
5 and resources originating in the Sierra Nevada, and encourages
6 the proactive restoration of the watersheds and forests of the region;
7 and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages state, federal, and
9 local agencies, along with nongovernmental organizations, to work
10 cooperatively towards the goal of increasing the pace and scale of
11 watershed and forest restoration in the region and urges the Sierra
12 Nevada Conservancy to play a key role in development of a plan
13 and program to address these issues; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages public schools to
15 include watershed protection in the Sierra Nevada as part of their
16 outdoor education curriculum whenever possible during the month
17 of September; and be it further

18 *Resolved,* That the Legislature calls upon all Californians to
19 acknowledge the multiple benefits flowing from the Sierra Nevada
20 through observance of Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week;
21 and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Legislature declares the week of September
23 13, 2015, through September 19, 2015, and the third week of
24 September every year thereafter, as Sierra Nevada Watershed
25 Protection Week, with the purpose of expanding the
26 acknowledgment of the region's contributions to a higher quality
27 of life for all Californians; and be it further

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