

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Harper, Mark Stone, ~~and Waldron~~ Waldron, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

(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 amended, 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
4 the Sierra Nevada, its communities, and the citizens of California;
5 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, The legacy of Gold Rush era mining has resulted
32 in impairments to water quality from more than 20,000 abandoned

1 mines, of which more than 3,000 are known to contain chemical
2 hazards, that are the primary source of mercury for the San
3 Francisco Bay and the Delta; and

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

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

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature acknowledges the critical
14 role the Sierra Nevada Region plays in California's economy and
15 environment and the wide range of benefits, products, amenities,
16 and resources originating in the Sierra Nevada, and encourages
17 the proactive restoration of the watersheds and forests of the region;
18 and be it further

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

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

29 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon all Californians to
30 acknowledge the multiple benefits flowing from the Sierra Nevada
31 through observance of Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week;
32 and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the week of September
34 13, 2015, through September 19, 2015, and the third week of
35 September every year thereafter, as Sierra Nevada Watershed
36 Protection Week, with the purpose of expanding the
37 acknowledgment of the region's contributions to a higher quality
38 of life for all Californians; and be it further

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

O