

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Assembly Member Dodd

(Principal coauthor: Senator Wolk)

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

(Coauthor: Senator McGuire)

March 10, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to California Wines: Down to Earth Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 44, as amended, Dodd. California Wines: Down to Earth Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2015 as California Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape growers throughout April.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Sustainability is a vital part of the long-term future
2 of California wine, which contributes an estimated \$61.5 billion
3 in annual economic impact to California’s economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The Wine Institute and the California Association
5 of Winegrape Growers created the California Code of Sustainable
6 Winegrowing more than a decade ago and it has since been used
7 by vineyards and wineries representing nearly three-quarters of
8 California’s winegrape acreage and production to self-assess
9 operations; and

10 WHEREAS, The California Code of Sustainable Winegrowing,
11 now managed by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance,
12 is comprised of more than 200 best practices for vineyards and
13 wineries that benefit the environment, employees, neighbors, and
14 the production of high quality wine; and

15 WHEREAS, Wineries that produce more than half of California
16 wine are Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing, a
17 third-party certification option added in 2010; and

18 WHEREAS, Other state and regional sustainability programs,
19 such as Lodi Rules, Sustainability in Practice, Napa Green, Fish
20 Friendly Farming, and the Green Business Program, along with
21 regional sustainability commitments by Sonoma County, Santa
22 Barbara County, Lake County, and others, all play an important
23 role in the California wine communities’ efforts to grow grapes
24 and produce wine in a manner that is environmentally sound,
25 economically feasible, and socially equitable; and

26 WHEREAS, Growing participation in organic, biodynamic, and
27 sustainable certification programs further conveys California
28 vintners’ and growers’ adherence to high standards, desire for
29 transparency, and dedication to continuous improvement; and

30 WHEREAS, California’s wine community conserves water,
31 energy, and other natural resources; protects habitat, employee
32 well-being, and air, water, and soil quality; and promotes the use
33 of natural pest management and alternative energy and fuels; and

34 WHEREAS, California wineries and winegrape growers make
35 charitable contributions of \$101.5 million annually and generously
36 contribute their time and expertise to communities and nonprofit
37 organizations; and

38 WHEREAS, California’s 4,100 wineries and 5,900 winegrape
39 growers are primarily family businesses with a long-term

1 commitment to the health and vitality of their communities and to
2 preserving the land for future generations; and

3 WHEREAS, California growers' and vintners' commitment to
4 sustainability was recognized with a Governor's Environmental
5 and Economic Leadership Award, for the third time, in 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, California wineries and regional associations host
7 Down to Earth and Earth Day activities such as eco-tours,
8 winemaker dinners pairing sustainably produced wine and food,
9 and other green activities during the month of April; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
13 April 2015 as California Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate
14 the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape
15 growers throughout April; and be it further

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