

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

August 27, 2015

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, as introduced, Levine. The Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to reauthorize and fully fund the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in order to maintain and preserve land and water resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
2 was created by Congress in 1965 as a bipartisan commitment for
3 protection of natural areas, water resources, cultural heritage, and
4 outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the country; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the 50 years since the LWCF was created,
6 billions of dollars in funding have been provided to protect valuable
7 land and water resources, including, but not limited to, parks,
8 forests, rivers, lakes, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.
9 These investments have resulted in the permanent protection of
10 nearly five million acres of public lands and working landscapes;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Despite being chronically underfunded, the LWCF
13 has had several positive conservation and recreation impacts

1 throughout the country, has protected lands in each state, and has
2 supported over 41,000 state and local park projects; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the LWCF has delivered over
4 \$2 billion to California, and has provided hundreds of millions of
5 dollars more for projects through its matching fund program; and

6 WHEREAS, The LWCF has helped conserve some of
7 California's most treasured and iconic natural resources in each
8 region of the state, including, but not limited to, Lake Tahoe, the
9 Mojave Desert, Point Reyes National Seashore, the Headwaters
10 Forest Reserve, the San Diego and Don Edwards San Francisco
11 Bay National Wildlife Refuges, working forests in the Sierra
12 Nevada, and Central Valley wetlands; and

13 WHEREAS, The LWCF has provided funding for outdoor
14 recreational and park programs benefitting underserved youth and
15 others in urban and rural communities throughout the state, and
16 has established a critical federal partnership with state and local
17 parks and communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Forest Legacy Program grants are also funded
19 through the LWCF to protect working forests, which support jobs
20 and sustainable forest operations and enhance wildlife habitat,
21 water quality, and recreation. The Forest Legacy Program grants
22 have provided \$12 million in federal funds, which along with
23 matching funds have provided a total of \$62 million in investments
24 in California forests; and

25 WHEREAS, The LWCF is critical to the quality of life in
26 California. The LWCF protects watersheds and drinking water
27 supplies; provides sustainable jobs in urban and rural communities;
28 protects the economic asset that federal, state, and local public
29 lands represent; conserves natural areas, wildlife habitats, and open
30 space from urban parks to large landscapes; improves access for
31 sportsmen, sportswomen, and recreationists to natural lands;
32 stimulates local economies and jobs that support tourism and
33 outdoor recreation sectors; preserves wetlands, forests, and
34 watersheds; and provides state and local grants to support healthy
35 communities; and

36 WHEREAS, According to the Outdoor Industry Association,
37 active outdoor recreation supports \$85.4 billion of consumer
38 spending and 723,000 jobs in California, which annually generates
39 \$27 billion in wages and salaries and \$6.7 billion in state and local
40 tax revenue; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau reports that each
2 year 7.4 million people engage in outdoor recreation in California,
3 which contributes over \$8 billion of wildlife-related recreation
4 spending to the state economy; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite the LWCF's successes, many more lands
6 and resources remain vulnerable and in critical need of investment,
7 and many urban and rural populations remain underserved; and

8 WHEREAS, The LWCF will expire if not reauthorized by
9 Congress before September 30, 2015; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
11 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges Congress to
12 permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water
13 Conservation Fund; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
16 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
17 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
18 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
19 author for appropriate distribution.