

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Atkins, Bloom, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gordon, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lopez, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Mullin, O'Donnell, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Weber, Williams, and Wood)

August 27, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, as amended, 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

1 land and water resources, including, but not limited to, parks,
2 forests, rivers, lakes, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.
3 These investments have resulted in the permanent protection of
4 nearly five million acres of public lands and working landscapes;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Despite being chronically underfunded, the LWCF
7 has had several positive conservation and recreation impacts
8 throughout the country, has protected lands in each state, and has
9 supported over 41,000 state and local park projects; and

10 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the LWCF has delivered over
11 \$2 billion to California, and has provided hundreds of millions of
12 dollars more for projects through its matching fund program; and

13 WHEREAS, The LWCF has helped conserve some of
14 California's most treasured and iconic natural resources in each
15 region of the state, including, but not limited to, Lake Tahoe, the
16 Mojave Desert, Point Reyes National Seashore, the Headwaters
17 Forest Reserve, the San Diego and Don Edwards San Francisco
18 Bay National Wildlife Refuges, working forests in the Sierra
19 Nevada, and Central Valley wetlands; and

20 WHEREAS, The LWCF has provided funding for outdoor
21 recreational and park programs benefitting underserved youth and
22 others in urban and rural communities throughout the state, and
23 has established a critical federal partnership with state and local
24 parks and communities; and

25 WHEREAS, Forest Legacy Program grants are also funded
26 through the LWCF to protect working forests, which support jobs
27 and sustainable forest operations and enhance wildlife habitat,
28 water quality, and recreation. The Forest Legacy Program grants
29 have provided \$12 million in federal funds, which along with
30 matching funds have provided a total of \$62 million in investments
31 in California forests; and

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

1 watersheds; and provides state and local grants to support healthy
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Outdoor Industry Association,
4 active outdoor recreation supports \$85.4 billion of consumer
5 spending and 723,000 jobs in California, which annually generates
6 \$27 billion in wages and salaries and \$6.7 billion in state and local
7 tax revenue; and

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

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

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

17 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
18 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges Congress to
19 permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water
20 Conservation Fund; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
23 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
24 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
25 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
26 author for appropriate distribution.