

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 183

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

May 9, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 183—Relative to California State Parks Discovery Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 183, as introduced, Cooley. California State Parks Discovery Day.

This measure would recognize June 30, 2016, as California State Parks Discovery Day and urge all Californians to celebrate and visit state parks.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California state parks maintain not only the natural
2 beauty of the state, but provide valuable spaces for recreation,
3 escape, and history and a special place for contemplation; and
4 WHEREAS, The first state park was conceived in California in
5 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California’s United States
6 Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at
7 Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and
8 public enjoyment. At Raymond’s request, Senator Conness
9 introduced a bill that quickly passed though both Congressional
10 houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant
11 Act on June 30, 1864, which granted the Yosemite Valley and the
12 Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor
13 Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year; and

1 WHEREAS, California's state parks contain the largest and
2 most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state
3 agency in the nation. State park units include underwater preserves,
4 reserves, and parks; redwood, rhododendron, and wildlife reserves;
5 state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and reservoirs;
6 state historic parks, homes, Spanish-era adobe buildings, including
7 museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves, and preserves; and
8 lighthouses, ghost towns, waterslides, conference centers, and
9 off-highway vehicle parks. These parks protect and preserve an
10 unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally sensitive
11 structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal species, ancient
12 Native American sites, and historic structures and artifacts and
13 demonstrate the best of California's natural and cultural history;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Many California state parks provide venues for
16 resource-based recreational activities, including hiking, walking,
17 paddling, biking, camping, fishing, and other activities. Outdoor
18 recreation provides a range of well-documented benefits, including
19 mental well-being, an increase in self-esteem, an appreciation for
20 the natural environment, and health benefits derived from
21 involvement in physical activities; and

22 WHEREAS, Parks and protected public lands are proven to
23 improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding,
24 improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers
25 to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place
26 for people to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Since 1864, grassroots activism and legislation
29 have made it possible for all Californians to take pride and
30 ownership of their unique and diverse landscapes; now, therefore,
31 be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims June 30, 2016,
34 as "California State Parks Discovery Day," and urges all
35 Californians to celebrate and visit state parks; and be it further

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

O