

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

**No. 183**

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### Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

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

May 9, 2016

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 183, as amended, 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 through 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

14 WHEREAS, California's state parks contain the largest and  
15 most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state  
16 agency in the nation. State park units include underwater preserves,  
17 reserves, and parks; redwood, rhododendron, and wildlife reserves;  
18 state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and reservoirs;  
19 state historic parks, homes, Spanish-era adobe buildings, including  
20 museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves, and preserves; and  
21 lighthouses, ghost towns, waterslides, conference centers, and  
22 off-highway vehicle parks. These parks protect and preserve an  
23 unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally sensitive  
24 structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal species, ancient  
25 Native American sites, and historic structures and artifacts and  
26 demonstrate the best of California's natural and cultural history;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Many California state parks provide venues for  
29 resource-based recreational activities, including hiking, walking,  
30 paddling, biking, camping, fishing, and other activities. Outdoor  
31 recreation provides a range of well-documented benefits, including  
32 mental well-being, an increase in self-esteem, an appreciation for  
33 the natural environment, and health benefits derived from  
34 involvement in physical activities; and

35 WHEREAS, Parks and protected public lands are proven to  
36 improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding,  
37 improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers  
38 to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place  
39 for people to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together;  
40 and

1 WHEREAS, Since 1864, grassroots activism and legislation  
2 have made it possible for all Californians to take pride and  
3 ownership of their unique and diverse landscapes; now, therefore,  
4 be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims June 30, 2016,  
7 as “California State Parks Discovery Day,” and urges all  
8 Californians to celebrate and visit state parks; and be it further

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