

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 183

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 127

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

[Filed with Secretary of State August 16, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 183, 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.

WHEREAS, California state parks maintain not only the natural beauty of the state, but provide valuable spaces for recreation, escape, and history and a special place for contemplation; and

WHEREAS, The first state park was conceived in California in 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California's United States Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and public enjoyment. At Raymond's request, Senator Conness introduced a bill that quickly passed through both Congressional houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act on June 30, 1864, which granted the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year; and

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

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

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

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

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

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