

**Introduced by Senators Allen, Beall, Block, De León, Galgiani, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Leyva, Liu, McGuire, Monning, Pavley, Wieckowski, and Wolk**

April 13, 2015

---

Senate Resolution No. 22—Relative to California Earth Day.

1 WHEREAS, Forty-five years ago, on the first Earth Day,  
2 millions of Americans of all ages, walks of life, and political  
3 affiliations joined together and took to the streets, parks, and  
4 auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment  
5 in massive coast-to-coast rallies; and

6 WHEREAS, Public awareness of environmental issues, fostered  
7 by the first Earth Day, has led to the enactment of key federal laws,  
8 including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National  
9 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to the creation of the federal  
10 Environmental Protection Agency, which was established to  
11 implement, administer, and enforce laws protecting the  
12 environment; and

13 WHEREAS, The spirit of the first Earth Day has continued to  
14 increase public environmental awareness, inspiring many  
15 Californians to make individual decisions that reduce adverse  
16 environmental impacts; and

17 WHEREAS, The California environment, including its rocky  
18 coasts, sandy beaches, redwood forests, deserts, and towering  
19 mountains, is among the most beautiful in the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, California is recognized as a global leader in  
21 environmental protection and economic innovation; and

22 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes and has helped  
23 safeguard the state’s unique scenic beauty, natural resources, and  
24 the quality of its water, air, and land through the enactment of laws

1 including the California Environmental Quality Act, the California  
2 Coastal Act of 1976, the Hazardous Waste Control Law, the  
3 California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, the  
4 California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the Sustainable  
5 Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, the Statewide  
6 Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008,  
7 and the California’s Safer Consumer Products Law; and

8 WHEREAS, The voters have ratified the intent of the Legislature  
9 to protect the environment by approving the Safe Drinking Water,  
10 Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Bond  
11 Act of 2000, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean  
12 Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000, the California Clean  
13 Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection  
14 Act of 2002, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal  
15 and Beach Protection Act of 2002, the Safe Drinking Water, Water  
16 Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection  
17 Bond Act of 2006, and the California Clean Energy Jobs Act; and

18 WHEREAS, California residents have stated that the health  
19 impacts of poor air quality is their highest environmental health  
20 priority; and

21 WHEREAS, California has made tremendous efforts in  
22 improving the air quality in the Los Angeles Basin, effectively  
23 reducing asthma and respiratory illnesses in children and the  
24 elderly; and

25 WHEREAS, The Legislature has recognized the need to protect  
26 California’s drinking water through the passage of the California  
27 Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, leading  
28 to the establishment of a public health goal for methyl tertiary-butyl  
29 ether (MTBE) in 1999 and for perchlorate in 2004; and

30 WHEREAS, The work done by the Office of Planning and  
31 Research, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the  
32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, and the Interagency  
33 Working Group on Environmental Justice, acting on legislative  
34 mandate, through the Environmental Justice Program, has effected  
35 public health and environmental protection programs, policies,  
36 and activities in a manner that is designed to promote equality and  
37 afford fair treatment, full access, and full protection to all  
38 Californians, including low income and minority populations; and

39 WHEREAS, Clean energy jobs are growing across the state,  
40 and the protection of California’s natural resources helps stimulate

1 our economy, especially for industries relating to tourism, fishing,  
2 and new technologies, and enhances our quality of life; and

3 WHEREAS, Activities to celebrate, on April 22, 2015, the 45th  
4 anniversary of the first Earth Day, will focus public attention on  
5 and encourage personal and community participation in  
6 environmental protection through recycling, conserving energy  
7 and water, encouraging use of renewable resources, using efficient  
8 transportation such as alternative fueled vehicles, adopting  
9 sustainable building practices, and other environmentally  
10 responsible personal actions; and

11 WHEREAS, Earth Day 2015 will provide an impetus for  
12 additional protection of the environment and our health, and the  
13 continued local, state, national, and international efforts that will  
14 be required at an unprecedented level during the next decade in  
15 order to remedy the environmental problems that we face; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That April 22,  
18 2015, is hereby declared to be “California Earth Day”; and be it  
19 further

20 *Resolved*, That the Senate reaffirms its commitment to the  
21 fundamental principles that underlie the state’s environmental  
22 laws, including the protection of human health from environmental  
23 hazards through the prevention of environmental risks and the  
24 maintenance of health-based standards; the continuance of  
25 programs to safeguard air and water quality; the recycling and  
26 reuse of materials, whenever feasible, to reduce the economic and  
27 environmental costs of disposal, and to recapture the value of these  
28 materials for the state’s economy; the effective cleanup of pollution  
29 of the state’s land, air, and water resources; the preservation of  
30 natural ecosystems; and maintenance of the fundamental right of  
31 the public to know about environmental hazards and to fully  
32 participate in public decisions regarding the environment; and be  
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the importance of the  
35 environment and encourages residents to include in their daily  
36 lives those activities that promote the goals of Earth Day 2015.

O