

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2015

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 68**

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**Introduced by Senator Galgiani**

**(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella and McGuire)**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cooper, Dodd, and Perea)

**(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Pan, Vidak, and Wolk)**

(*Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood*)

May 26, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to 2015 California Invasive Species Action Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, as amended, Galgiani. California Invasive Species Action Week.

This measure would declare June 6, 2015, to June 14, 2015, inclusive, as the 2015 California Invasive Species Action Week and would urge all Californians to participate in activities that raise awareness of invasive species issues and to take action to prevent their spread.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Invasive species threaten California’s environment,  
2 economy, water, natural resources, agriculture, and climate  
3 adaptation; and

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Food and Agriculture, the  
5 Natural Resources Agency, and four other state agencies have  
6 endorsed a Strategic Framework for Protecting California from  
7 Invasive Species; and

8 WHEREAS, Invasive species include plants, animals, insects,  
9 diseases, and other biological organisms that are nonnative to  
10 California; and

11 WHEREAS, Invasive species spread more rapidly with  
12 increasing global travel and commerce, at great cost to human and  
13 animal health as well as economic security; and

14 WHEREAS, The destructive impact of invasive species is  
15 profound, affecting California’s cropland, rangeland, forests, parks,  
16 wildlands, and waterways, and causing enormous losses of private,  
17 state, and federal resources through decreased land productivity,  
18 degradation of wildlife habitat, and outright destruction of crops,  
19 livestock, wetlands, watersheds, and recreational areas; and

20 WHEREAS, Invasive species are a factor in damaging habitat  
21 for nearly half of the species federally listed as threatened or  
22 endangered, and in California, 415 special status species are  
23 threatened by invasive plants alone; and

24 WHEREAS, Scientists estimate the costs to prevent, monitor,  
25 and control invasive species combined with the costs of damages  
26 to crops, fisheries, forests, and other natural resources cost the  
27 United States \$137 billion annually; and

28 WHEREAS, In California quagga and zebra mussels have altered  
29 ecosystems, water quality, and food webs, fouled shorelines and  
30 watercraft, clogged water intakes and conveyances, and cost the  
31 state, water agencies and municipalities, and watercraft owners  
32 hundreds of millions of dollars since their introduction in 2007;  
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Invasive pests like the European grapevine moth,  
35 Asian citrus psyllid, and glassy-winged sharpshooter can cause  
36 major damage to California’s agricultural crops, invasive plants  
37 damage rangeland productivity, and other invasive pests like the  
38 gold-spotted oak borer and polyphagous shothole borer threaten  
39 our forests; and

1 WHEREAS, Incurable invasive plant diseases, such as  
2 huanglongbing, transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid, and Pierce’s  
3 disease, transmitted by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, are serious  
4 threats to California’s citrus and grape-growing industries,  
5 respectively, and have already shown severe and widespread  
6 damage to these agricultural crops both nationally and  
7 internationally; and

8 WHEREAS, Invasive plants damage rangeland productivity,  
9 and noxious and invasive weeds have destroyed large portions of  
10 riparian habitat along creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and  
11 other bodies of freshwater in California, damaging the integrity  
12 of the riparian system by altering erosion, sedimentation, flooding,  
13 and fire; and

14 WHEREAS, Invasive aquatic plants, such as water hyacinth,  
15 *Egeria densa*, and spongeplant, have significantly degraded  
16 ecosystems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by severely  
17 choking waterways, altering water quality, destroying aquatic  
18 habitat, obstructing recreation and navigation, and clogging  
19 infrastructure and equipment, vastly increasing commercial  
20 operating costs and costing the state millions of dollars, annually;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The invasive weed *Arundo donax* (giant reed) has  
23 established large colonies across the state, most notably in southern  
24 California, where in one 10,000-acre area of riparian habitat the  
25 weed has been estimated to consume more than 30,000 acre-feet  
26 of water each year, or enough water to meet the yearly freshwater  
27 needs of 150,000 persons; and

28 WHEREAS, The invasive weed yellow star-thistle has infested  
29 more than 14.3 million acres, making it the most common invasive  
30 plant in California, choking out native plants, and killing horses  
31 who eat its poisonous early season growth; and

32 WHEREAS, Pathways for the spread of harmful nonnative  
33 weeds are many and varied, involving both accidental and  
34 intentional introductions, and could be reduced by increased  
35 awareness of the dangers posed by even seemingly innocuous  
36 plants that are transplanted to a different ecosystem; and

37 WHEREAS, The federal government, through the United States  
38 Department of Agriculture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
39 and several other agencies, maintains programs to prevent, control,  
40 and manage invasive species; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of California, through the Department  
2 of Food and Agriculture, the Natural Resources Agency, and  
3 several other agencies, maintains several invasive species  
4 management programs and public awareness campaigns for the  
5 purpose of preventing invasive species entry, reporting and  
6 mapping new detections, and controlling and eradicating existing  
7 populations; and

8 WHEREAS, The State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Update has  
9 identified invasive species as the most prevalent and widely  
10 identified threat to the state's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant  
11 resources, and the habitats upon which they depend; and

12 WHEREAS, These programs to prevent, control, manage, and  
13 eradicate invasive species have emphasized information sharing,  
14 education, and public awareness as crucial to the success of  
15 prevention, control, and eradication efforts; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate  
17 Adaptation Strategy, the President's Council on Climate  
18 Preparedness' Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience  
19 of America's Natural Resources, and the President's State, Local  
20 and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and  
21 Resilience, and Safeguarding California, our state's climate  
22 adaptation plan, recommend action to control invasive species as  
23 a means to improve climate resiliency; and

24 WHEREAS, The 24-member California Invasive Species  
25 Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of public  
26 awareness and engagement on the issue of invasive species; now,  
27 therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares June 6,  
30 2015, to June 14, 2015, inclusive, as the 2015 California Invasive  
31 Species Action Week; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That on the occasion of California Invasive Species  
33 Action Week, the Legislature encourages all Californians to  
34 participate in activities that raise awareness of invasive species  
35 issues and take action to prevent their spread; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
37 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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