

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 144

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

[Filed with Secretary of State August 26, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, 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.

WHEREAS, Invasive species threaten California's environment, economy, water, natural resources, agriculture, and climate adaptation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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