

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 31, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 83

**Introduced by Senators Wolk and Galgiani
(Principal coauthor: Senator Cannella)
(Coauthor: Senator Berryhill)**

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

July 16, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to the International Year of Soils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 83, as amended, Wolk. International Year of Soils.

This measure would declare 2015 as the International Year of Soils, and recognize the importance of healthy soils as a critical resource supplying an abundance of food, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate resiliency.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
- 2 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing

1 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for
2 approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,
3 vegetables, and nuts; and

4 WHEREAS, Ninety-five percent of our food is directly or
5 indirectly produced on our soils and the essential nutrients they
6 contain; and

7 WHEREAS, It can take up to 1,000 years to form one centimeter
8 of soil, and, with 33 percent of all global soil resources degraded,
9 critical limits are being reached, making stewardship an urgent
10 matter; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Food and Agriculture
12 Organization of the United Nations, more than 805 million people
13 across the globe face hunger and malnutrition, and future
14 population growth will require an approximate 60 percent increase
15 in food production; and

16 WHEREAS, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the
17 United Nations launched the International Year of Soils on World
18 Soil Day, December 5, 2014; and

19 WHEREAS, On January 6, 2015, the United States Department
20 of Agriculture began its celebration of the International Year of
21 Soils to highlight the importance of healthy soils for food security,
22 ecosystems functions, and resilient farms and ranches; and

23 WHEREAS, California has launched its Healthy Soils Initiative
24 and is pioneering efforts to incentivize building soil organic matter
25 and provide research, education, and technical support to facilitate
26 healthy soils and ensuring interagency coordination and
27 collaboration; and

28 WHEREAS, Ensuring healthier soils by increasing the carbon
29 content and soil organic matter can help enhance the long-term
30 sustainability of California agriculture and its resiliency to climate
31 change; and

32 WHEREAS, Improved soil health increases soil's water holding
33 capacity and water infiltration rate, which can help optimize the
34 management of California's scarce water supply; and

35 WHEREAS, Increasing soil health helps to improve food crop
36 yields, help to increase soil fertility and the ability to hold plant
37 nutrients and water, supports beneficial biological microbial
38 diversity and populations, reduces soil erosion, and can be used
39 to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon;
40 and

1 WHEREAS, The building of soil organic matter can be
2 supported by several management practices, including, but not
3 limited to, minimal soil disturbance, residue soil cover, the use of
4 cover crops, and the utilization of compost; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1997, the California Legislature enacted SB 389
6 (Monteith), Chapter 331, Statutes of 1997, commemorating
7 completion of the state’s most comprehensive soil inventory by
8 designating San Joaquin Soil as the official State Soil; and

9 WHEREAS, We recognize the essential role of all of
10 California’s soils in supporting a thriving California economy and
11 healthy environment and ensuring a sustainable and food secure
12 future; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
15 hereby declares 2015 as the International Year of Soils; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved*, That on the occasion of the International Year of Soils,
18 the Legislature recognizes the importance of healthy soils as a
19 critical resource supplying an abundance of food, diverse habitats,
20 water storage, and climate resiliency; and be it further

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