

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40**

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 95

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to the Mormon Battalion.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 40, Monteith. Mormon Battalion.

This measure would request the Department of Transportation to grant an encroachment permit authorizing a historical plaque dedicated to the Mormon Battalion to be placed within the right-of-way of State Highway Route 49, near Mormon Creek, in Tuolumne County.

WHEREAS, In 1846, a state of war existed between the United States and the Government of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Patriotic Americans everywhere were called to arms; and

WHEREAS, The United States faced dire peril from the dictatorship of the Government of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The presence of enemy soldiers in California posed a significant threat to American lives and property; and

WHEREAS, Gallant Americans belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints were crossing the Great Plains from Iowa; and

WHEREAS, These valiant pioneers formed an infantry battalion of 500 men strong; and

WHEREAS, This infantry battalion joined in the Regular Army of the United States and became known as the Mormon Battalion; and

WHEREAS, The Mormon Battalion marched 2,400 miles from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, This march, the longest infantry march in United States history, was a significant factor in the defeat of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, John Sutter recruited large numbers of Mormon Battalion members, following their muster from active service in July of 1847, to construct his lumber mill on the American River in what would become Coloma; and

WHEREAS, Large numbers of former Mormon Battalion members were completing the work on Sutter's Mill when gold was discovered on January 24, 1848, touching off the great California Gold Rush; and

WHEREAS, A party of former Mormon Battalion members founded the gold mining settlement of Mormon Gulch, near Mormon



Creek in Tuolumne County, in June of 1849 during the early part of the Gold Rush; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the significant contribution of the Mormon Battalion to the history and culture of California and to the Nation be officially recognized; and

WHEREAS, It has been proposed that a monument honoring the role of the Mormon Battalion be constructed and erected within the State Highway Route 49 right-of-way at no cost to the public; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Department of Transportation is requested to grant, without charge, the necessary encroachment permit authorizing an appropriate historical plaque dedicated to the Mormon Battalion to be placed within the right-of-way of State Highway Route 49, near Mormon Creek, in Tuolumne County; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and to the Mormon Battalion Monument Committee.

