

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Salas)
(Coauthors: Senators Ducheny and Huff)

April 19, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to the Imperial Valley Pioneers Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 160, as introduced, V. Manuel Perez. Imperial Valley Pioneers Highway.

This measure would designate the portion of State Highway Route 111 between State Highway Route 8 and State Highway Route 78, in Imperial County, as the Imperial Valley Pioneers Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, In 1849, advancements in engineering made it
2 possible for water to be conveyed from the Colorado River to the
3 interior desert of Southern California, creating the opportunity for
4 year-round farming; and

5 WHEREAS, By 1901, courageous pioneers from throughout
6 the world, staking their future on the region's agricultural promise,
7 began to relocate to the vast desert area now called the Imperial
8 Valley; and

1 WHEREAS, These pioneers reflected the cultural melting pot
2 of the early twentieth century, a patchwork quilt of peoples —
3 including African American, Chinese, East Indian, Filipino, French,
4 German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese American, Lebanese,
5 Mexican, Portuguese, and Swiss — that has contributed to
6 California's rich diversity today; and

7 WHEREAS, These pioneers envisioned the potential for
8 prosperous and thriving communities in the harsh environment of
9 the low desert, leveling their own land and constructing the first
10 roads and canals, making way for the development of homes,
11 schools, businesses, and places of worship; and

12 WHEREAS, The determination, ingenuity, and hard work of
13 the Imperial Valley pioneers helped to create a thriving \$1 billion
14 annual agricultural economy, making it one of the most productive
15 farming regions in California; and

16 WHEREAS, Imperial Valley pioneers became leading members
17 of the community, helping to establish civic, religious, charitable,
18 and other organizations to advance quality of life in the region;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Imperial Valley Pioneers Association was
21 established in 1928 for the purpose of uniting pioneer families in
22 the area and educating newcomers about the history of the early
23 settlers to keep history alive for future generations; and

24 WHEREAS, The Pioneers Museum and Cultural Center, located
25 at Pioneers Park near the City of Imperial, is operated by the
26 Imperial County Historical Society and is a rich archive of
27 documents, newspapers, personal letters, period furniture,
28 photographs, clothing, and sundry equipment used by early settlers,
29 with galleries honoring the different ethnic communities and their
30 history of settlement in the Imperial Valley; and

31 WHEREAS, It is valuable and important to commemorate the
32 remarkable modern history of the irrigated desert and of the people
33 who settled it, to learn from the inspiring American story of diverse
34 people uniting around the common dream of a better future, and
35 to honor the vision and daring of those who opened the rugged
36 desert frontier and built a community enjoyed by succeeding
37 generations; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the significant
40 contributions made by Imperial Valley pioneers to the State of

1 California and designates the portion of State Highway Route 111
2 between State Highway Route 8 and State Highway Route 78, in
3 Imperial County, as the Imperial Valley Pioneers Highway; and
4 be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
6 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
7 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
8 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
9 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
13 author for appropriate distribution.