

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 173

Introduced by Assembly Member Evans

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Carter, Coto, De La Torre, De León, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Hall, Hayashi, Hill, Huffman, Jones, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Ruskin, Salas, Saldaña, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

June 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 173—Relative to Native Plant Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 173, as amended, Evans. Native Plant Week.

This measure would proclaim the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and would encourage community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California's native plants provide unparalleled and
- 2 unique iconic, economic, artistic, historical, and environmental
- 3 values to the state; and

1 WHEREAS, California’s over 6,000 native plant species,
2 subspecies, and varieties, of which over 2,150 exist only in
3 California, make California home to more diverse plant life than
4 all other states combined; and

5 WHEREAS, California’s native plants include some of the
6 oldest, tallest, and most massive living things on Earth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Fish and Game recognizes
8 nearly one-quarter of California’s native plants as “special status
9 plants” that warrant additional protections; and

10 WHEREAS, California currently contends with over 1,000
11 nonnative plants, some of which compete with native plant species,
12 degrade soil, facilitate erosion and catastrophic wildfire, and alter
13 the state’s natural landscapes; and

14 WHEREAS, Many native California plants have played a vital
15 role in the history of our state and our nation, compelling Congress,
16 the Legislature, and many communities to protect the beauty,
17 power, and grandeur of our wild places; and

18 WHEREAS, California’s first Indian nations lived and thrived
19 by their knowledge of native California plants, which provided
20 them with food, clothing, shelter, dyes, tools, medicines, and fuel
21 for centuries; and

22 WHEREAS, California’s citizens have consistently supported
23 efforts to protect our wild landscapes, including numerous areas
24 within the Coast Redwoods, the Sierra Nevada Mountain range,
25 and the Mojave Desert, spurring a conservation and environmental
26 awareness that helps define California today; and

27 WHEREAS, California’s native plants have played a vital role
28 in inspiring the creation and management of our National Park
29 Service, including President Lincoln’s 1864 signing of the
30 Yosemite and Mariposa Big Tree Grove Grant to California,
31 designating a park “to be held for public use, resort, and recreation
32 ... inalienable for all time,” and the adoption of the Sequoia cone
33 as an official insignia of the National Park Service; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1899, 1903, and 1904, members of the 9th
35 Cavalry and 24th Infantry Buffalo Soldier regiments were
36 dispatched to Sequoia and Yosemite national parks, where they
37 protected giant sequoias from illegal logging, built trails and fences
38 to enhance visitors’ experiences among the giant trees while
39 protecting park resources, and developed the first museum in a

1 national park, a California native plant arboretum in Yosemite
2 Valley; and

3 WHEREAS, An interest in protecting California's native plants
4 has played a vital role in the creation of many California state and
5 regional parks, including California's oldest state park, Big Basin,
6 created in 1902 to protect old growth Coast Redwood forests; and

7 WHEREAS, The impact of California's landscape has influenced
8 literary and artistic works, including the works of Mark Twain,
9 John Steinbeck, Ansel Adams, and many other internationally
10 known figures, furthering California's legacy; and

11 WHEREAS, California's native plants have provided and
12 continue to provide foods, medicines, and other products, from
13 the origins of California's strawberry industry to Taxol for cancer
14 treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, California native plant horticulture is a thriving,
16 vital, and growing industry employing thousands of Californians,
17 and the benefits to water conservation and natural area restoration
18 help provide economic stability within the state; and

19 WHEREAS, California's native plants provide essential
20 watershed protections by helping to recharge natural aquifers,
21 filtering water flowing through mountains, hills, and valleys,
22 lessening erosion and flooding, and enabling efforts to beautify
23 and renew our state; and

24 WHEREAS, Gardens and landscapes comprised of California
25 native plants, being perfectly suited to California's climate and
26 soil, require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides,
27 and use 60 to 90 percent less water than conventional landscapes,
28 exemplified by a City of Santa Monica experiment, in which a
29 native plant garden using appropriate watering methods was shown
30 to use nearly 220,000 fewer gallons of water than a similarly sized
31 conventional garden, a 77 percent decrease in water use; and

32 WHEREAS, Restoring California native plants provides natural
33 links to wild land areas, while introducing people to their beauty
34 and instilling a greater understanding and appreciation for
35 California's natural heritage; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the essential
38 value and importance of California native plants to our history,
39 economy, landscape, and environment; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages community
2 groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to
3 promote native plant conservation and restoration, and to inform
4 their neighbors and communities of the value of native plants in
5 nature and in horticultural settings; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature hereby declares the
7 third week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week;
8 and be it further
9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.