

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 114

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthor: Senator Alquist)

February 23, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to California Tsunami Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 114, as amended, Monning. California Tsunami Awareness Week.

This measure would designate March 25 through March 31, 2012, as California Tsunami Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2011, an earthquake and subsequent
- 2 tsunami in the Pacific devastated parts of Japan resulting in the

1 loss of over 15,000 lives and billions of dollars in damage. The
2 effects of this earthquake reached coastal communities throughout
3 the world and impacted many of California's coastal communities;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Tsunamis are generated by any large, impulsive
6 displacement of the sea level. The most common cause of a tsunami
7 is sea floor uplift associated with an earthquake. Tsunamis are also
8 triggered by landslides into or under the water surface, and can be
9 generated by volcanic activity and meteorite impact; and

10 WHEREAS, On average, two tsunamis occur per year
11 throughout the world, inflicting damage near the source; and

12 WHEREAS, Tsunamis range in size from inches to over a
13 hundred feet. In deep water (greater than 600 feet), tsunamis are
14 rarely over 3 feet and are not normally noticed by ships due to
15 their long period (time between crests); and

16 WHEREAS, As tsunamis propagate into shallow water, the
17 wave height can increase by over 10 times; and

18 WHEREAS, Tsunami heights vary greatly along a coast, and a
19 large tsunami can flood low-lying coastal land over a mile from
20 the coast; and

21 WHEREAS, Earthquakes and landslides on the coasts of
22 California, Oregon, and Washington pose the greatest threat of
23 tsunamis that can reach California's coastline in less than 60
24 minutes; and

25 WHEREAS, An earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone,
26 off the coast of northern California, could trigger a tsunami that
27 could reach land within minutes; and

28 WHEREAS, A tsunami caused by a very large earthquake
29 elsewhere on the Pacific Rim could reach the California coast
30 many hours after the earthquake; and

31 WHEREAS, The most devastating tsunami to affect California
32 in recent history was from the magnitude 9.2 Alaskan earthquake
33 of 1964. Areas of northern California experienced a six-meter
34 (20-foot) tsunami wave that flooded low-lying communities, such
35 as Crescent City, and river valleys, killing 11 people; and

36 WHEREAS, The March 11, 2011, tsunami that reached
37 California caused an estimated \$48 million of damage along the
38 California coastline, with almost \$25 million of damage to the
39 Santa Cruz Harbor, and \$16 million of damage to the Crescent
40 City Harbor; and

1 WHEREAS, The lack of warning for seismic events and
2 potential speed with which a tsunami can strike demonstrates the
3 importance for the millions of Californians who enjoy the
4 California coastline to have a plan and prepare themselves and
5 their families for such a disaster; and

6 WHEREAS, It is important for citizens to know evacuation
7 routes and potential hazard zones for their communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Most coastal communities have an evacuation plan
9 and designated safe areas; and

10 WHEREAS, In light of the tragic events on March 11, 2011,
11 the California Emergency Management Agency, along with the
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National
13 Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, have designated March 25
14 through March 31, 2012, as “Tsunami Awareness Week”; and

15 WHEREAS, “Tsunami Awareness Week” is a nationally
16 coordinated effort that the California Seismic Safety Commission
17 and the California Emergency Management Agency are promoting
18 here in California through continued outreach and education; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the week of March 25 through March 31,
22 2012, be designated as “California Tsunami Awareness Week” to
23 create public awareness of the necessity for residents of California
24 coastline communities to actively prepare and plan for the
25 possibility of tsunamis; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
27 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.