

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 20

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

March 7, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to California Safe Digging Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 20, as amended, DeSaulnier. California Safe Digging Month.
This measure would proclaim April ~~2011~~ as California Safe Digging Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Excavators, homeowners, and professional
2 contractors can save time and money while making California's
3 communities a safer place to live and work by dialing 811 in
4 advance of all digging projects; and
5 WHEREAS, The 811 "Call Before You Dig" program is a vital
6 public education and awareness program dealing with the safety
7 of subsurface excavation, and education is the key to promoting
8 safe digging practices; and
9 WHEREAS, The five steps to a safe excavation are: survey and
10 mark, call before you dig, wait the required time, respect the marks,
11 and dig with care; and
12 WHEREAS, Utility lines are often buried only a few inches
13 underground, making them easy to strike and cause damage and
14 harm even during shallow excavation projects; and
15 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 underground utility lines are
16 struck each year in the United States and approximately 37 percent

1 of all United States digging damages result from not calling 811
2 before digging; and

3 WHEREAS, Undesired consequences, such as service
4 interruption, outages, damage to the environment, personal injury,
5 and death, are risked by failing to call 811 before digging or safely
6 ~~mark~~ marking utility lines; and

7 WHEREAS, Calling 811 to be connected to a “One Call Center”
8 before digging, respecting the color-coded lines that demarcate
9 underground utilities, and digging with care around the marked
10 lines will help keep Californians safe and prevent damages and
11 destruction; and

12 WHEREAS, As California’s economy recovers from the recent
13 recession and the state’s economic recovery stimulates new
14 construction, new construction requires supporting infrastructure,
15 and California’s underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized
16 by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before
17 digging; and

18 WHEREAS, California has two “One Call Centers” that provide
19 a free and effective damage prevention service for Californians:
20 Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada
21 and Underground Service Alert of Southern California; and

22 WHEREAS, Underground Service Alert of Northern California
23 and Nevada and Underground Service Alert of Southern California,
24 in cooperation with California’s public and private utilities, provide
25 an effective damage prevention service that protects California’s
26 citizens, communities, public services, environment, and
27 underground facilities at no cost to the caller; and

28 WHEREAS, The free notification service provided by
29 Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada
30 and Underground Service Alert of Southern California has
31 dramatically reduced the number of accidents causing property
32 damage, personal injury, and interruption of vital services; now,
33 therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims April-2011 as
36 California Safe Digging Month; and be it further

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

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5 CORRECTIONS:

6 Dateline—Page 1.

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