
**Introduced by Senator Wolk
(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)**

May 11, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46—Relative to “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 46, as introduced, Wolk. “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

This measure would declare the Legislature’s recognition of the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all Californians. The measure would also declare July 2011 as “Parks Make Life Better!SM” Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, A 2009 public opinion research study, conducted
2 by the California Park & Recreation Society, revealed 98 percent
3 of California’s households visit a local park and 50 percent of
4 California’s households participate in an organized recreation
5 program annually; and

6 WHEREAS, California’s residents value their local parks and
7 recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and
8 inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and
9 exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation;
10 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,
11 the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth
12 that help lower crime and mischief; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of California’s 2010 Obesity Prevention
14 Plan states the following:

1 (a) One in every nine California children, one in three teens,
2 and over 50 percent of adults are already overweight or obese, and
3 that obesity affects virtually all age, income, educational, ethnic,
4 and disability groups.

5 (b) The state's childhood obesity epidemic and related health
6 conditions and associated costs are expected to increase unless
7 concerted and coordinated efforts are made to increase
8 opportunities for children and youth to engage in age-appropriate,
9 high-quality physical activity programs during nonschool hours.

10 (c) Research has shown that where people live, work, and play
11 impacts obesity. For example, in Imperial County, 73 percent of
12 adults are overweight or obese, while only 43 percent of San
13 Francisco City and County's adults are overweight or obese.

14 (d) California's costs attributable to physical inactivity, obesity,
15 and overweight in 2006 were estimated at \$41.2 billion. In contrast,
16 a 5 percent improvement in each of these risk factors could result
17 in annual savings of nearly \$2.4 billion.

18 (e) To address obesity, the State of California must ensure that
19 all California residents have access to safe places to play and be
20 active; and

21 WHEREAS, California's 10 Step Vision for a Healthy California
22 is a call to action to transform the state so that all Californians can
23 enjoy healthy eating and active living, resulting in all of the
24 following:

25 (a) Every day, every child will participate in physical activity.

26 (b) California's adults will be physically active every day.

27 (c) Neighborhoods, communities, and buildings will support
28 physical activity, including safe walking, stair climbing, and
29 bicycling; and

30 WHEREAS, The Governor, Legislature, and citizens have
31 prioritized efforts to increase physical activity, access to nature,
32 spaces for play and exercise, the arts, lifelong learning, and social
33 connections among children and adults through the approval of
34 statewide park bond programs, including Proposition 84 (The Safe
35 Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River
36 and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006), the Statewide Park
37 Development and Community Revitalization Program of 2008;
38 Assembly Bill 31 (Chapter 623 of the Statutes of 2007), the
39 Statewide Park Development and Revitalization Act of 2007; the
40 Complete Streets Act of 2008, which requires cities and counties

1 consider all users of streets and roads when plans are revisited;
2 and Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728 of the Statutes of 2008), which
3 links transportation, housing, and land use planning to support
4 sustainable communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society promotes
6 the positive personal and community benefits of parks, open space,
7 trails, recreation facilities and programs, nature education, and
8 sports for able and disabled children, teens, adults, and seniors;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Participation in physical activities can lower a
11 citizen's risk of developing chronic health problems, such as high
12 blood pressure, asthma, heart disease, and diabetes, and also help
13 children grow up to be healthier adults; and

14 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society has
15 released a statewide public awareness campaign, "Parks Make
16 Life Better!SM," to inform citizens of the many benefits of utilizing
17 parks, facilities, programs, and services; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the importance
20 of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities such as
21 swimming pools, skate parks, dog parks, tennis courts, nature
22 centers, and museums, for the health and development of all
23 Californians; and

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares July 2011 as "Parks
25 Make Life Better!SM Month in California; and be it further

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