

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 13, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 17, as introduced, Corbett. Coastal resources: San Francisco Bay.

This measure would declare the Legislature’s endorsement of S. 97 and H.R. 3034, and would urge the United States Congress to enact the San Francisco Restoration Act at the earliest possible time.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the
2 west coast of the United States; and
3 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is an ecologically rich and
4 productive estuary, but its ecological values have declined
5 significantly as a result of physical alteration and pollution over
6 the past 160 years; and
7 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the hub of commercial
8 activity and is home to the third largest commercial port on the
9 west coast of the United States, has three international airports,
10 and is vital to the economic vitality of California and of the United
11 States; and
12 WHEREAS, Low-lying developed areas along the shore of San
13 Francisco Bay, such as Silicon Valley, contribute immeasurably
14 to the economic vitality of California and the United States; and
15 WHEREAS, The sea level rose approximately eight inches in
16 San Francisco Bay between the years 1900 and 2000; and

1 WHEREAS, The California Ocean Protection Council estimates
2 the sea level will rise an additional 14 inches by the year 2050 and
3 will rise to 55 inches by the year 2100; and

4 WHEREAS, A one meter sea-level rise would threaten
5 commercial, residential, and industrial structures around San
6 Francisco Bay valued at \$48 billion (in year 1990 dollars); and

7 WHEREAS, A 1.4 meter sea-level rise will put 480,000 people
8 living in coastal California at risk of a 100-year flood event, given
9 the size of the population (in year 2000). Populations in San Mateo
10 and Orange Counties are especially vulnerable. In each, an
11 estimated 110,000 people are at risk. Large numbers of residents
12 (66,000) in Alameda County are also at risk; and

13 WHEREAS, Nearly \$100 billion (in year 2000 dollars) worth
14 of property along California's coast, measured as the replacement
15 value of buildings and contents, is at risk of flooding from a
16 100-year event with a 1.4 meter sea-level rise if no adaptation
17 actions are taken. An overwhelming two-thirds of that property is
18 concentrated on San Francisco Bay; and

19 WHEREAS, Building or strengthening levees and seawalls
20 simply to protect existing high value development along the San
21 Francisco Bay shoreline was estimated to require an immediate
22 capital investment of approximately \$1 billion (in year 1990
23 dollars) and would require an additional \$100 million per year in
24 ongoing maintenance; and

25 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Estuary Partnership, part of the
26 National Estuary Program of which the State of California is an
27 official partner and sponsor, developed a Comprehensive
28 Conservation and Management Plan for San Francisco Bay in 1993
29 that, among other programs, recommended a large-scale restoration
30 of San Francisco Bay wetlands to restore the estuary and improve
31 flood protection of the developed shoreline; and

32 WHEREAS, The largest coastal wetland restoration program
33 in the nation has been underway in San Francisco Bay since 1993;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can
36 dramatically improve the effectiveness of flood management efforts
37 in San Francisco Bay by performing the functions of man-made
38 structures in key locations; and

39 WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can
40 dramatically reduce the costs of providing flood protection for the

1 developed shoreline by supplanting the need for man-made
2 structures in key locations; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay wetlands will provide more
4 effective flood protection benefits the more quickly they are
5 restored; and

6 WHEREAS, California Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced
7 S. 97 and California Congresswoman Jackie Speier has introduced
8 H.R. 3034, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act, to provide
9 federal matching funds to accelerate the restoration of San
10 Francisco Bay's wetlands for, among others, the purpose of
11 adapting to ongoing sea level rise; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
13 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature endorses S. 97 and H.R.
14 3034, and respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact
15 the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act promptly; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
17 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
18 in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for
19 appropriate distribution.