

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 49**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Berman**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bennett, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Connolly, Megan Dahle, Dixon, Flora, Mike Fong, Vince Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Lee, Low, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Muratsuchi, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Villapudua, Waldron, Wallis, Ward, Weber, Wicks, Wood, and Zbur)*

*(Coauthor: Senator Glazer)*

March 29, 2023

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49—Relative to California Native Plant Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 49, as introduced, Berman. California Native Plant Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April, each year, as California Native Plant Month 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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Fish and Wildlife recognizes  
11 nearly one-third of California’s native plants as “special plants”  
12 that warrant additional protections; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Many native California plants have played a vital  
18 role in the history of our state and our nation, compelling Congress,  
19 the Legislature, and many communities to protect the beauty,  
20 power, and grandeur of California’s natural landscapes; and

21 WHEREAS, California’s first Native American nations have  
22 lived and thrived by their knowledge of native California plants,  
23 which has provided them with food, clothing, shelter, dyes, tools,  
24 medicines, and fuel for centuries; and

25 WHEREAS, California’s citizens have consistently supported  
26 efforts to protect our natural landscapes, including numerous areas  
27 within the Coast Redwoods, the Sierra Nevada, and the Mojave  
28 Desert, spurring a conservation and environmental awareness that  
29 helps define California today; and

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

37 WHEREAS, In 1899, 1903, and 1904, members of the 9th  
38 Cavalry and 24th Infantry Buffalo Soldier regiments were  
39 dispatched to Sequoia and Yosemite national parks, where they  
40 protected giant sequoias from illegal logging, built trails and fences

1 to enhance visitors’ experiences among the giant trees while  
2 protecting park resources, and developed the first museum in a  
3 national park, a California native plant arboretum in Yosemite  
4 Valley; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The impact of California’s landscape has influenced  
10 literary and artistic works, including the works of Octavia E. Butler,  
11 Gary Snyder, Frank Day, Mary Hunter Austin, Ansel Adams, and  
12 many other internationally known figures, furthering California’s  
13 legacy; and

14 WHEREAS, California’s native plants have provided and  
15 continue to provide foods, medicines, and other products, from  
16 the origins of California’s strawberry industry to Taxol for cancer  
17 treatment; and

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Gardens and landscapes comprised of California  
28 native plants, being perfectly suited to California’s climate and  
29 soil, require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides,  
30 and use less water than conventional landscapes, exemplified by  
31 a City of Santa Monica experiment, in which a native plant garden  
32 using appropriate watering methods was shown to use nearly  
33 220,000 fewer gallons of water than a similarly sized conventional  
34 garden, a 77 percent decrease in water use; and

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

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
40 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the essential

1 value and importance of California native plants to our history,  
2 economy, landscape, and environment; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages community  
4 groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to  
5 promote native plant conservation and restoration, and to inform  
6 their neighbors and communities of the value of native plants in  
7 nature and in horticultural settings; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature hereby declares the  
9 month of April, each year, as California Native Plant Month; and  
10 be it further

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

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15 **REVISIONS:**

16 **Heading—Line 2.**

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