Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 21

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 20, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 21, as introduced, Salas. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of April 21, 2013, through April 27, 2013, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, West Nile virus resulted in 19 human deaths in California and over 470 individuals in 31 counties tested positive for the virus, of which over 300 developed neuroinvasive disease; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control, disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with best management practices on public and private lands, are the
best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other
diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and
WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not
limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,
continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and
a public nuisance in California and around the world; and
WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private
outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
and reduce livestock productivity; and
WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based
on scientific research has made great advances in reducing
mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;
and
WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases
such as plague, Lyme disease, and encephalitis, and new and
emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, arenavirus,
babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death
every year in California; and
WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
the State of California work closely with the United States
Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and
WHEREAS, The public’s awareness of the health benefits
associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
sites on public and private property; and
WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
agencies, in order to meet the public’s need for information about
West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
and control; and
WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of
mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of
mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing controls; and

WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week will increase the public’s awareness of the threat of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight the educational programs currently available; and

WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has designated the week of April 21 to April 27, 2013, inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby declares that the week of April 21 to April 27, 2013, inclusive, be designated as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the State Public Health Officer, and the author for appropriate distribution.