

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 5, 2001
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 9, 2001
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001-02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Assembly Member Nation

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon, Chan, Salinas, Vargas, and Wiggins) Wiggins, Aanestad, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Bates, Briggs, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Havice, Hertzberg, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Migden, Mountjoy, Nakano, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pavley, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Shelley, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Wayne, Wesson, Wright, Wyland, and Wyman)

(Coauthors: Senators Chesbro, Kuehl, and Torlakson)

December 4, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Relative to sudden oak death syndrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 5, as amended, Nation. Sudden oak death syndrome.

This measure would urge state agencies that are involved with the response to sudden oak death syndrome to coordinate with federal

agencies to seek funding to address prescribed problems caused by sudden oak death syndrome.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Coast live oak, tanoak, and black oak trees are a
- 2 treasured part of California’s landscape and history, and play an
- 3 integral role in California’s ecology; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Tanoaks were first reported dying of a disease
- 5 known as sudden oak death syndrome in large numbers in Marin
- 6 County in 1995, and this disease also has now affected unusually
- 7 large numbers of coast live oaks and black oaks in Marin County,
- 8 causing widespread death; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The estimated number of coast live oak, tanoak,
- 10 and black oak trees, including seedlings and saplings, affected by
- 11 sudden oak death syndrome are in the hundreds of thousands, and
- 12 the syndrome appears to be spreading, with confirmed reports of
- 13 coast live oak, tanoak, and black oak trees dying or dead in other
- 14 coastal counties of California, including Sonoma, Napa, Santa
- 15 Cruz, and Monterey Counties, and unconfirmed reports of sudden
- 16 oak death syndrome present in Humboldt, Mendocino, Contra
- 17 Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, and
- 18 Santa Barbara Counties; and
- 19 WHEREAS, These oak trees are generally capable of
- 20 withstanding wildfires, but when they are impacted by sudden oak
- 21 death syndrome, there is an increased risk of crown fires and
- 22 accelerated accumulation of fuels on the ground; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Many individual homes and communities are built
- 24 within, around, and adjacent to these trees, and are now
- 25 increasingly at risk for wildfires; and
- 26 WHEREAS, Many species of wildlife, such as deer, birds,
- 27 rodents, and fish, and endangered species such as spotted owl and
- 28 salmon, depend upon coast live oaks, black oaks, and tanoaks for
- 29 food and shelter, and may be at risk if this disease continues to
- 30 spread; and
- 31 WHEREAS, Pathologists at the University of California have
- 32 isolated a previously unknown species of Phytophthora from
- 33 infected species found in most areas where the syndrome has been
- 34 reported, and this fungus is considered to be the prime candidate
- 35 for the underlying cause of the syndrome; and



1 WHEREAS, There is currently no known treatment or control
2 of sudden oak death syndrome, and more research is critically
3 needed to determine all of the interacting factors associated with
4 the syndrome, the geographic extent and distribution of this
5 epidemic within California, and the movement of the disease over
6 the landscape; and

7 WHEREAS, Management options must be developed to
8 mitigate the impacts of the syndrome, including the increased risk
9 of wildfires, the ecological impacts of changing species
10 compositions of forests, and the resulting impacts on birds, fish,
11 and wildlife; and

12 WHEREAS, Treatment or control of this epidemic must be
13 found before it spreads to other parts of California and other states;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The California Oak Mortality Task Force was
16 established to bring together concerned state and federal public
17 agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private interests to
18 implement a comprehensive and unified approach for research,
19 management, education, and public policy focused on sudden oak
20 death syndrome; and

21 WHEREAS, The goals of the California Oak Mortality Task
22 Force are to minimize the impacts of sudden oak death on oak
23 forests and individual trees and to coordinate an integrated
24 response by all interested parties to sudden oak death syndrome;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Funding is critically needed for the California Oak
27 Mortality Task Force to achieve all of the following objectives:

28 (1) Assisting communities affected and threatened by sudden
29 oak death syndrome to maintain a safe and healthy environment.

30 (2) Developing and maintaining an adaptive integrated pest
31 management program for sudden oak death syndrome.

32 (3) Providing information and education to interested parties
33 regarding causes, treatments, and consequences of sudden oak
34 death syndrome.

35 (4) Coordinating efforts to prevent the spread of pathogens and
36 insects associated with sudden oak death syndrome.

37 (5) Identifying additional funding avenues, staffing, and
38 resource needs to address sudden oak death syndrome; now,
39 therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That concerned state agencies act with all
3 deliberate speed to coordinate with federal agencies to seek
4 immediate funding of at least \$5,000,000 in state funds and
5 \$5,000,000 in federal funds for research, public education,
6 increased emergency wildfire response capability in affected
7 counties, and the creation of a revolving loan program, grants, or
8 other means to aid homeowners and local governments with the
9 significant costs of tree removal, final disposition of trees, and
10 replanting of affected areas; and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
12 Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Director of Fish and Game,
13 the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Director of
14 Parks and Recreation.

