

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 8, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 204

Introduced by Assembly Member Wayne

May 6, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204—Relative to Little Italy
in the City of San Diego.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 204, as amended, Wayne. City of San Diego's Little Italy.

This bill would designate specified exits on Interstate 5 as the route for the destination of Little Italy and would request the Department of Transportation to determine the costs of appropriate plaques and markers and, upon receipt of donations, to erect these plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, San Diego's Middletown district was a historic
2 settling area for Italian American immigrants, in which they
3 created a unique extra-national community in the early 1900s; and
4 WHEREAS, In 1906, the San Francisco earthquake and an
5 influx of Italian immigrants from San Pedro, where fishermen that
6 hailed from Naples and Ischia had settled, caused San Diego's
7 Italian population to swell; and
8 WHEREAS, These immigrants joined with local populations of
9 Mexican, Japanese, and Portuguese in small fishing enterprises,

1 where they became vital to the establishment and growth of the
2 tuna fishing industry; and

3 WHEREAS, The fishing industry helped establish other
4 businesses in the community of Little Italy; and

5 WHEREAS, The fishing fleet became a source of wealth for the
6 City of San Diego; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1945, the fishermen's committee organized to
8 ensure the success of the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church,
9 the currently active community church, with members signing an
10 agreement promising to donate 25 cents for every ton of fish that
11 the boats sold; and

12 WHEREAS, As Italians grew in the social and economic ranks
13 of the city, many moved away from Little Italy; and

14 WHEREAS, The completion of Interstate 5 in 1962 disrupted
15 the neighborhood, causing residents to relocate, and the
16 community lost its identity as a place where Italians lived; and

17 WHEREAS, In the mid-1990s, the San Diego Centre City
18 Development Corporation initiated the process of the
19 reconstruction and reconditioning of Little Italy; and

20 WHEREAS, Little Italy is today a thriving neighborhood that
21 has become an example for other redevelopment projects in San
22 Diego County; and

23 WHEREAS, The local business community has established the
24 Little Italy Association, a recognized business improvement
25 district that works in concert with the City of San Diego to ensure
26 the success of the neighborhood and to emphasize and support its
27 commercial success; and

28 WHEREAS, The recognition of Little Italy as a destination
29 through the placement of freeway markers and plaques will
30 encourage the continued growth and redevelopment of this
31 important component of the history of San Diego; now, therefore,
32 be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
35 Hawthorne Street exit on Interstate 5 north and the Front Street
36 exit on Interstate 5 south near downtown San Diego, as the defined
37 routes for the destination of Little Italy; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested to
39 determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent
40 with the signing requirements of the state highway system,



1 showing this designation, and upon receiving donations from
2 nonstate sources, to erect these plaques and markers, *provided that*
3 *the City Council of the City of San Diego has first approved a*
4 *resolution designating the area referenced in this resolution as the*
5 *Little Italy district*; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
8 author for appropriate distribution.

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