

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Assembly Member Dodd

(Principal coauthor: Senator Wolk)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Bigelow, Cooper,
Eggman, Levine, Mullin, Olsen, Mark Stone, and Wood)**

(Coauthor: Senator McGuire)

March 10, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to California
Wines: Down to Earth Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 44, as introduced, Dodd. California Wines: Down to Earth
Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2015 as California
Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate the sustainable leadership
of California wineries and winegrape growers throughout April.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Sustainability is a vital part of the long-term future
- 2 of California wine, which contributes an estimated \$61.5 billion
- 3 in annual economic impact to California's economy; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Wine Institute and the California Association
- 5 of Winegrape Growers created the California Code of Sustainable
- 6 Winegrowing more than a decade ago and it has since been used
- 7 by vineyards and wineries representing nearly three-quarters of
- 8 California's winegrape acreage and production to self-assess
- 9 operations; and

1 WHEREAS, The California Code of Sustainable Winegrowing,
2 now managed by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance,
3 is comprised of more than 200 best practices for vineyards and
4 wineries that benefit the environment, employees, neighbors, and
5 the production of high quality wine; and

6 WHEREAS, Wineries that produce more than half of California
7 wine are Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing, a
8 third-party certification option added in 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, Other state and regional sustainability programs,
10 such as Lodi Rules, Sustainability in Practice, Napa Green, Fish
11 Friendly Farming, and the Green Business Program, along with
12 regional sustainability commitments by Sonoma County, Santa
13 Barbara County, Lake County, and others, all play an important
14 role in the California wine communities' efforts to grow grapes
15 and produce wine in a manner that is environmentally sound,
16 economically feasible, and socially equitable; and

17 WHEREAS, Growing participation in organic, biodynamic, and
18 sustainable certification programs further conveys California
19 vintners' and growers' adherence to high standards, desire for
20 transparency, and dedication to continuous improvement; and

21 WHEREAS, California's wine community conserves water,
22 energy, and other natural resources; protects habitat, employee
23 well-being, and air, water, and soil quality; and promotes the use
24 of natural pest management and alternative energy and fuels; and

25 WHEREAS, California wineries and winegrape growers make
26 charitable contributions of \$101.5 million annually and generously
27 contribute their time and expertise to communities and nonprofit
28 organizations; and

29 WHEREAS, California's 4,100 wineries and 5,900 winegrape
30 growers are primarily family businesses with a long-term
31 commitment to the health and vitality of their communities and to
32 preserving the land for future generations; and

33 WHEREAS, California growers' and vintners' commitment to
34 sustainability was recognized with a Governor's Environmental
35 and Economic Leadership Award, for the third time, in 2015; and

36 WHEREAS, California wineries and regional associations host
37 Down to Earth and Earth Day activities such as eco-tours,
38 winemaker dinners pairing sustainably produced wine and food,
39 and other green activities during the month of April; now, therefore,
40 be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of*
3 *April 2015 as California Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate*
4 *the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape*
5 *growers throughout April; and be it further*

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

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