

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper

(Principal coauthor: Senator Dodd)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Bigelow, Flora, Frazier,
Gonzalez Fletcher, Levine, Mathis, Quirk-Silva, Salas, Waldron,
and Wood)**

(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Galgiani, McGuire, Nielsen, and Stone)

March 15, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to California
Wines: Down to Earth Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 35, as introduced, Cooper. California Wines: Down to Earth
Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2017 as California
Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate the sustainable leadership
of California wineries and winegrape growers throughout the month of
April.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Sustainability is a vital part of the long-term future
- 2 of California wine, which contributes an estimated \$57.6 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

1 California’s winegrape acreage and production to self-assess
2 operations; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Wineries that produce more than half of California
9 wine are Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing, a
10 third-party certification option added in 2010 and updated in 2017;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Other state and regional sustainability programs,
13 such as Lodi Rules, Napa Green, Sustainability in Practice, along
14 with sustainability commitments by Sonoma County, Napa Valley,
15 and others, all play an important role in the California wine
16 communities’ efforts to grow grapes and produce wine in a manner
17 that is environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially
18 equitable; and

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, California’s 4,600 wineries and 5,900 winegrape
32 growers are primarily family businesses with a long-term
33 commitment to the health and vitality of their communities and to
34 preserving the land for future generations; and

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

38 WHEREAS, California wineries and regional associations host
39 Down to Earth and Earth Day activities such as eco-tours,
40 winemaker dinners pairing sustainably produced wine and food,

1 and other green activities during the month of April; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
5 April 2017 as California Wines: Down to Earth Month, to celebrate
6 the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape
7 growers throughout the month of April; and be it further

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