

Introduced by Senator Monteith
(Coauthor: Assembly Member House)

February 14, 1997

An act to add Section 425.9 to the Government Code, relating to the official state soil.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 389, as introduced, Monteith. Official State Soil.

This bill would express legislative intent to commemorate the completion of the state's most comprehensive soil inventory, as conducted by specified entities, by designating an official State Soil. The bill would designate San Joaquin Soil as the official State Soil, and would make legislative findings and declarations in support of that designation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to
2 commemorate the completion of the state's most
3 comprehensive soil inventory by the Professional Soil
4 Scientists Association of California, the California
5 Association of Resource Conservation Districts, the
6 national Resources Conservation Service, and students
7 and teachers of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
8 in Madera, California, by adopting an official state soil, for
9 the following reasons:

1 (a) To acknowledge the importance of the state's
2 agricultural heritage and historic legacy, since soil is the
3 keystone to agribusiness in California.

4 (b) To acknowledge the importance of soil and the
5 many benefits derived from it in everyday life.

6 (c) To establish a standard to which educators may
7 compare other soils.

8 (d) To acknowledge the need for stewardship of the
9 soil, and expose the public to conservation of one of the
10 state's most valuable resources.

11 (e) To promote awareness on the part of the general
12 public of the complex dynamics of the state's ecosystem.

13 SEC. 2. Section 425.9 is added to the Government
14 Code, to read:

15 425.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that San
16 Joaquin Soil is the essence of California. It covers over
17 50,000 acres of the state, and is one of four soils to be
18 originally described at the beginning of this century, and
19 the beginning of soil studies in California. San Joaquin Soil
20 is approximately 50,000 to 250,000 years old and was
21 derived from and deposited by the runoff of swollen
22 streams during the glacial period, from mountain glaciers
23 in the Sierra Nevada. It is unique in that it supports the
24 mima mound topography, which is a geomorphic feature
25 of hillock or hummocky terrain, and California is one of
26 the few places in the world where this feature occurs.

27 (b) The Legislature hereby designates San Joaquin
28 Soil as the official State Soil.

