Assembly Concurrent Resolution  No. 58

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

April 22, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 58—Relative to memorial paths and access ways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 58, as introduced, Williams. Ralph Fertig Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path and the Peter Douglas Coastal Access Way.

This measure would designate the bicycle-pedestrian path constructed as part of the project to widen State Highway Route 101 in the County of Ventura as the Ralph Fertig Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path and the pedestrian undercrossing of State Highway Route 101 in the community of La Conchita in the County of Ventura as the Peter Douglas Coastal Access Way.

The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing each of these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost of the signs for which the donations were made, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

WHEREAS, Ralph Fertig, a longtime bicycle advocate in Santa Barbara of such consistency, durability, and selflessness that his presence achieved an almost geologic aspect, passed away on July 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Fertig, a Lynch-pin of bicycle activism in the Santa Barbara area and statewide, raised the profile of bicycling
in Santa Barbara and was responsible for bringing the 1998 ProBike
conference to Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Fertig also served as the Regional Director
of the California Association of Bicycling Organization (CABO)
for the Central Coast for many years; and

WHEREAS, Quiet, unassuming, and absolutely dogged, Ralph
Fertig made it his mission for more than 20 years to attend every
transportation planning meeting to bear witness to the need for
more space on the roads for bicycles; and

WHEREAS, To an uncommon extent, Ralph Fertig understood
the complicated anatomy of transportation funding; he knew where
the money was hidden, what it had been set aside for, and far better
than most, he understood the rules and regulations guiding the
expenditure of those funds; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Fertig was respectful, positive, and persistent
and was the first local bicycle advocate to consistently assess and
provide public comment on the needs of the bicycling community;
and

WHEREAS, Peter Douglas, the former Executive Director of
the California Coastal Commission, passed away during the night
on Sunday, April 1, 2012, at his sister’s home in La Quinta,
California at 69 years of age after a long battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Peter Douglas was the commission’s
longest-serving executive director, a position he held from 1985
to 2011, inclusive. Prior to working for the commission, he served
in the Legislature as an aide to then-Assembly Member Alan
Siertoy (D-Beverly Hills), and as a committee consultant. During
that time he was responsible for the drafting and passage of
Proposition 20 (the Coastal Initiative) in 1972, as well as the
California Coastal Act of 1976 which created the California Coastal
Commission; and

WHEREAS, Over the decades, Peter Douglas’ name has become
synonymous with coastal protection. His accomplishments are too
numerous to list, but he played a part in creating, acquiring, or
preserving many coastal parks and state beaches, campgrounds,
trails, and overnight hostels, including Crystal Cove, Garrapata,
Tolowa Dunes, Steep Ravine and Sea West State Parks, San
Onofre and Doheney Beach State Campgrounds, the Monterey
Bay Recreational Trail, the Avila Lighthouse Trail, the Point
Buchon Trail, and many others; and
WHEREAS, Peter Douglas also worked to protect California’s ocean waters from offshore oil development and other industrial practices. During his 34-year tenure at the commission, Peter Douglas earned the love, respect, and loyalty of his staff, and inspired environmental advocates and stewards statewide and beyond. He will be forever remembered for his kind heart and unpredictable sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Peter Douglas was the first recipient of the national Julius A. Stratton “Champion of the Coast” award for leadership in coastal management at Coastal Zone ‘95, an international, biennial symposium on coastal zone management. He provided technical assistance on coastal management issues to other countries and served on the China-United States panel on integrated coastal management and was a member of the first National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Advisory Board and served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science and Policy for the Coastal Ocean; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Department of Transportation approached the California Coastal Commission with a plan to improve State Highway Route 101 in the Counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara. This ambitious proposal involved adding a carpool lane, bicycle lane, and a pedestrian undercrossing, and other safety and access improvements. Peter Douglas suggested changes to the project that involved a major redesign and, when all was said and done, the department proceeded with his suggestions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the bicycle-pedestrian path (Class 1 Bicycle path) constructed as part of the project to widen State Highway Route 101 (US 101 Carpool Lane Improvement Project), from Mobil Pier Road to Bates Road in the County of Ventura, as the Ralph Fertig Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature hereby designates the pedestrian undercrossing of State Highway Route 101 in the community of La Conchita in the County of Ventura as the Peter Douglas Coastal Access Way; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing each
of these special designations and, upon receiving donations from
nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which
the donations were made, to erect those signs; and be it further
Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
for appropriate distribution.
**SUMMARY**

ACR 58 honors Ralph Fertig’s bicycle advocacy and Peter Douglas’s coastal advocacy. Both were strong supporters of California and their communities.

**BACKGROUND**

Ralph Fertig was a long-time bicycle advocate and former President of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, who passed away on July 18th, 2014.

Ralph joined a group of cyclists whose only mission at the time was to improve local bicycling conditions. Within a few months the group became known as the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition. Ralph served as president of the Bicycle Coalition for most of the next two decades. He also served as the Regional Director of the California Association of Bicycling Organizations (CABO) for the Central Coast, and was responsible for bringing the ProBike conference to Santa Barbara in 1998.

Ralph was a relentless cyclist who attended hundreds of local public meetings and met with Caltrans and other highway officials on a regular basis to promote better trails and bike lanes. Without Ralph, the bicycle-pedestrian path constructed as part of the project to widen State Highway Route 101 would not have been possible.

Peter Douglas was well-regarded as an effective advocate for Californians and their access to the coast. Peter served in the California Legislature as an assistant to Assemblymember Alan Sieroty (D-Beverly Hills), and as a committee consultant. During Mr. Douglas’s time in the Legislature he was played a part in drafting and passing Prop 20 (the Coastal Initiative), and the California Coastal Act of 1976 which created the Coastal Commission. Peter served as the Executive Director of the Commission for a record 26 years.

Peter was a relentless advocate for coastal protection. He was instrumental in creating, acquiring or preserving coastal parks and state beaches, campgrounds, trails and overnight hostels. He also worked to protect California’s coast and ocean from offshore oil development and other industrial practices. Further, Peter was instrumental in ensuring the bicycle-pedestrian path named in ACR 58 was on the coastal side of the State Highway Route 101.

Peter passed away after a battle with cancer in April 2012. He was 69 years old.

**NEED FOR THE BILL**

ACR 58 names the local bicycle-pedestrian pathway on Highway 101 as the Ralph Fertig Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path, and names the pedestrian undercrossing off of Highway 101 as the Peter Douglas Coastal Access Way.

ACR 58 recognizes these men for the giants they were in the fields of cycling advocacy and coastal protection.

**SUPPORT**

- City of Santa Barbara, Mayor Helene Schneider
- Coalition for Sustainable Transportation
- Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition
- Santa Barbara Car Free
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
- University California, Santa Barbara Associated Student Bike Committee
- 5 Individuals

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Tara Brown
Office of Assemblymember Das Williams
(916) 319-2037
Tara.Brown@asm.ca.gov