

**A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNOR AND THE  
LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A SUMMIT TO ADDRESS THE  
DEVASTATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL  
MARIJUANA GROWS ON BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS  
THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA AND THE INCREASING PROBLEMS TO  
PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED TO THESE ACTIVITIES BY WORKING IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES TO  
DEVELOP RESPONSIVE SOLUTIONS AND TO SECURE ADEQUATE  
FUNDING FOR COST-EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

WHEREAS, public concerns in response to widespread damage to fish and wildlife resources and degradation to California's environment, and threats to public safety resulting from illegal marijuana cultivation statewide requires urgent action by the Governor and the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, local governments and the public support the State's primary objectives in complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and Endangered Species Act and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for future citizens of California, and

WHEREAS, illegal marijuana cultivation activities include habitat destruction and fragmentation, poaching wildlife, illegal water diversions, unregulated use of fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides, soil amendments contaminating land and waters without regard for the cumulative impacts to the environment or public health, and

WHEREAS, changing global climate conditions are posing escalated threats in California to health, well-being, nature and property; as evidenced by critical water shortages across the state due to prolonged drought conditions, and

WHEREAS, illegal water diversion for the purpose of cultivating marijuana plantations poses a direct threat to California's endangered and threatened anadromous fish species, including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and other aquatic species, especially at critical life phases during seasonally low flow conditions; and

WHEREAS, California is a leader in the global effort to fight climate change and is pursuing a broad, integrated strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy, yet in a recent Lawrence Livermore Lab study estimated that upwards of 10% of electricity usage statewide can be attributed to indoor marijuana cultivation; these sites are often the causation of fires and home invasion incidents due to criminal activity, and

WHEREAS, the presence of illegal marijuana growing sites on State and federal public lands is creating unsafe conditions for visitors; these lands are taxpayer supported and intended to be managed for recreation, resource conservation and the enjoyment by the public, and

WHEREAS, increasing violence and threats to public safety related to illegal marijuana grows is contributing to a sense of lawlessness and impacting nearby communities where criminal activities are expanding, and

WHEREAS, the issue of illegal marijuana grows has reached a crisis level across the state as evidenced by the murder of former League Board member, Fort Bragg Councilmember and veteran forester Jere Melo who was fatally shot down while investigating a report of a marijuana grow on private timberlands in northern California.

RESOLVED, at the League General Assembly, assembled at the League Annual Conference on September 5, 2014 in Los Angeles, that the League calls for the Governor and the Legislature to work with the League and other stakeholders to convene a summit to address the devastating environmental impacts of illegal marijuana grows on both private and public lands and the increasing problems to public safety related to these activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the League will work with its member cities to educate State and federal officials regarding emerging concerns from their communities and citizenry and to the challenges facing local governments. Therefore, we request the Governor and the Legislature to work with the League to provide responsive solutions with adequate funding support and effective State and federal government leadership to address widespread environmental damage and associated threats to public safety impacting every region in the State of California.