

1/12

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 2

**Introduced by Assemblyman Chappie
(Coauthor: Senator Way)**

*Coso
Hot
Springs file*

*7007 gm
70026 B*

January 11, 1972

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

*Assembly Joint Resolution No. 2—Relative to China Lake
Naval Weapons Center.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 2, as introduced, Chappie (N.R. & Con.). China Lake Naval Center.

Memorializes President and Congress and appropriate departments and agencies of United States to take necessary steps to grant to Paiute and Shoshone Indians of Inyo County such rights to Coso Hot Springs and Devil's Kitchen, located within China Lake Naval Weapons Center, as will enable them to achieve their objectives in developing such areas as commercial project.

Fiscal Committee—No.

- 1 WHEREAS, For many generations the Paiute and
- 2 Shoshone Indians of Inyo County and other counties of
- 3 this state had the use and benefit of the Coso Hot Springs
- 4 and the Devil's Kitchen areas, located in the southern
- 5 part of Inyo County, which were proven to have a
- 6 mineral content of high therapeutic value, as attested by
- 7 many Indians and non-Indians who have used the
- 8 mineral waters and mud baths in the past; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of the Navy
- 10 and the United States government, by action brought in

1 1945 in a United States district court, acquired title to an
 2 area of approximately 529,000 acres for development and
 3 operation of the weapons testing program based at China
 4 Lake, California, which included the Coso Hot Springs
 5 and the Devil's Kitchen areas as part of the restricted
 6 zone and excluded access to such areas to the Indians and
 7 others; and

8 WHEREAS, The entire area comprising this restricted
 9 zone is approximately 26 miles in width and 43 miles in
 10 length from north to south; and

11 WHEREAS, The Paiute and Shoshone Indians of Inyo
 12 County have requested that the western boundary of the
 13 restricted zone be realigned so as to exclude therefrom
 14 Coso Hot Springs and the Devil's Kitchen in order to
 15 permit the restoration of the Indians' historical right of
 16 access and usage; and

17 WHEREAS, The Coso Hot Springs area has considerable
 18 religious significance to the Indians, as was evidenced on
 19 one-day visits permitted by the China Lake Naval
 20 Weapons Center to the Indians in April and October of
 21 1971; and

22 WHEREAS, The basic request for complete restoration
 23 of Coso Hot Springs to the Indians has been denied by the
 24 commanding officer of the China Lake Naval Weapons
 25 Center and by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for
 26 installations and logistics; and

27 WHEREAS, Development of the Coso Hot Springs and
 28 the Devil's Kitchen areas by the Paiute and Shoshone
 29 Indians of Inyo County as a commercial spa and resort
 30 would be both economically feasible and commercially
 31 beneficial to the Indians seeking to accomplish their own
 32 economic betterment; and

33 WHEREAS, The opening of this area for Indian
 34 development is supported by residents of Inyo County,
 35 both Indian and non-Indian, and by leading
 36 archaeologists and anthropologists; and

37 WHEREAS, President Nixon, on July 8, 1970, declared
 38 "It is critically important that the federal government
 39 support and encourage efforts which help Indians
 40 develop their own economic infrastructure, . . ."; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
 3 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
 4 California respectfully memorializes the President and
 5 the Congress of the United States and the appropriate
 6 departments and agencies of the United States
 7 government to take necessary steps to grant to, and to
 8 secure to, the Paiute and the Shoshone Indians of Inyo
 9 County, California, such rights to the Coso Hot Springs
 10 and the Devil's Kitchen as will enable them to achieve
 11 their objectives in developing such areas as a commercial
 12 project; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
 14 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
 15 Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of
 16 the Interior, to the Secretary of Defense, to the Speaker
 17 of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
 18 Representative from California in the Congress of the
 19 United States.

O