

Senate Bill No. 389

Passed the Senate April 17, 1997

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly June 19, 1997

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this ____ day
of _____, 1997, at ____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER ____

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 389, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

425.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that San Joaquin Soil is the essence of California. It covers over 500,000 acres of the state, and is one of four soils to be originally described at the beginning of this century, and the beginning of soil studies in California. San Joaquin Soil is approximately 50,000 to 250,000 years old and was derived from and deposited by the runoff of swollen streams during the glacial period, from mountain glaciers in the Sierra Nevada. It is unique in that it supports the mima mound topography, which is a geomorphic feature of hillock or hummocky terrain, and California is one of the few places in the world where this feature occurs.

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

Approved _____, 1997

Governor

