

Date of Hearing: May 12, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
AB 338 (Ramos) – As Amended April 22, 2021

Policy Committee: Rules Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill deletes the requirement a monument to Father Junipero Serra be on the State Capitol grounds, and instead authorizes the construction and maintenance of a monument to the California Native people of the Sacramento, California region. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes tribal nations in the Sacramento region, in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS), to plan for a monument, as specified, and requires the tribal nations to submit a plan to the Joint Rules Committee for review and approval.
- 2) Requires the monument to be privately and exclusively funded by tribal nations in the Sacramento region, and prohibits construction of the monument until the Joint Rules Committee and the Department of Finance (DOF) determine sufficient private funding is available.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Minor, absorbable costs to DGS for consultation and maintenance of the monument's construction on the State Capitol grounds.
- 2) Minor, absorbable costs to the Joint Rules Committee and DOF to review construction and funding plans for the monument.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

For over 50 years the monument to Junipero Serra has stood on the grounds of our State Capitol, serving as a constant reminder for area native people of the atrocities inflicted upon their ancestors during the Spanish colonization period. At the same time, no formal recognition of these native peoples has existed to recognize their loss, their contributions, or their history on these lands. It is long overdue that we as a state right this wrong and AB 338 will send a clear message that California's values have in fact changed since the days of Serra's reign.

- 2) **Monuments at the State Capitol.** In 1967, a monument to Father Junipero Serra was erected in Capitol Park, featuring a life-sized statue of Father Serra and a map of California's

21 missions. The monument was vandalized and torn down by protestors on the evening of July 4, 2020, one of many statues of Father Serra torn down across California, as Father Serra's history and the treatment of Native American people during the mission period has come under increased scrutiny. This bill proposes to permanently replace the monument to Father Serra with a new monument to the California Native people of the Sacramento, California region. This bill is supported by various Native American tribes, who would raise private funds for the new monument's construction.

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