

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING  
ACR 129 (Haney and Bryan)  
As Introduced January 28, 2026  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

This resolution would establish a formal sister state relationship between the State of California and Lagos State, Nigeria, to promote collaboration across key strategic areas.

## Major Provisions

## COMMENTS

California uses legislative resolutions to establish sister-state and cooperation agreements that promote trade, economic growth, and cultural exchange, with 36 partnerships already in place, including with Punjab, Guangdong Province and Jalisco. These agreements often focus on key areas such as clean energy, education, and technology.

This resolution establishes a sister-state relationship between California and Lagos reinforcing and institutionalizing the cooperation outlined in Governor Gavin Newsom's Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Republic of Nigeria, announced during COP30 in Belém. By establishing a sister-state relationship, the resolution advances a structured, long-term mechanism for collaboration across priority sectors, including sustainable urban mobility, green port development, low-carbon fuels, methane monitoring and reduction, climate resilience, air quality improvement, and academic exchange. This approach aligns with analysis from the International Energy Agency, which underscores that achieving global net-zero emissions by mid-century will require unprecedented levels of cross-jurisdictional coordination and investment, exceeding \$4 trillion annually in clean energy by 2030.

This resolution builds on the foundation established by the California–Africa Climate Economic Partnership delegation, which convened leaders in Nairobi, Abuja, and Lagos in August 2025. Organized in collaboration with the University of California, Davis and the Bay Area Council, the delegation identified shared priorities in clean transportation, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive economic development. Formalizing these priorities through a sister-state designation provides continuity beyond executive agreements, embedding cooperation within California's legislative framework. Evidence from the World Bank indicates that investments in climate-resilient infrastructure can generate returns of up to four dollars for every dollar spent, reinforcing the economic rationale for sustained bilateral engagement.

This resolution reflects a convergence of economic and technological interests between California and Lagos State, Nigeria's primary economic center. Lagos anchors one of Africa's largest metropolitan economies, with estimates placing its GDP above \$250 billion, while Nigeria's population exceeds 220 million. According to the International Finance Corporation, Nigeria's digital economy alone could contribute more than \$180 billion to GDP by 2025. This resolution positions the sister-state relationship as a platform to expand trade, investment, and market access across sectors such as technology, financial services, agriculture, infrastructure, and the creative economy.

The resolution also highlights opportunities for innovation-driven collaboration between Silicon Valley and Lagos' rapidly growing technology ecosystem. Nigeria consistently attracts the largest share of startup investment on the African continent, accounting for approximately 30–40% of total venture capital inflows in recent years. This concentration of entrepreneurial activity creates a basis for joint advancement in renewable energy systems, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence, while supporting workforce development and knowledge exchange through academic partnerships. By formalizing ties with Lagos State, California establishes a consistent framework for cooperation on trade, investment, and climate-related initiatives. As the California–Africa Climate Economic Partnership continues into 2026, the sister-state designation provides a mechanism to track progress and advance joint efforts in clean energy, transportation, climate adaptation, and economic development.

### **According to the Author**

According to the author “Nigeria, and Lagos in particular, is a global center for creative industries, technology, and maritime trade, with world-leading growth in film, music, digital media, innovation, and port activity. California shares these strengths and is home to one of the largest and most engaged Nigerian diaspora communities in the United States, contributing to our state's cultural vibrancy, economy, and workforce. Strengthening our ties through a sister-state relationship builds on these shared strengths, supports existing collaboration in arts, ports, education, climate, and technology, and ensures that a rapidly growing and mutually beneficial partnership receives the visibility and recognition it deserves”.

### **Arguments in Support**

Supporters of ACR 129 recognize the importance of strengthening international partnerships that drive economic growth, innovation, and cultural exchange. Establishing a sister-state relationship between California and Lagos State creates new opportunities for collaboration in key sectors such as technology, trade, infrastructure, and clean energy. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to global engagement and positions California as a leader in building forward-thinking, mutually beneficial relationships that support long-term economic development and sustainability.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

None.

## **VOTES**

### **ASM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND HOUSEHOLD IMPACT: 7-0-1**

**YES:** Solache, Castillo, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Wallis

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Muratsuchi

## **UPDATED**

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