

THIRD READING

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Bill No: SCR 129  
Author: Cortese (D), et al.  
Amended: 3/25/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/7/26

AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson,  
Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

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**SUBJECT:** Rusty Areias Highway

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill designates the portion of State Route (SR) 152 from Cedar Creek BR# 37-30R/L to Sidehill Viaduct BR# 37-398 in the County of Santa Clara as the “Rusty Areias Highway,” as specified.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

This resolution:

- 1) Provides background on the life of Rusty Areias, as specified.
- 2) Designates the section of SR 152 between Cedar Creek BR# 37-30R/L (postmile R28.163) to Sidehill Viaduct BR# 37-398 (postmile R31.656) in the County of Santa Clara as the “Rusty Areias Highway.”

- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations.

### **Comments**

*Purpose of this resolution.* According to the author, “Rusty Areias is a dedicated public servant who has made a lasting impact on my district, and on our state. As an Assemblymember who served the 25th and 28th districts for 12 years, Rusty had over 100 pieces of legislation signed into law under two Republican Governors. He secured critical funds for numerous key projects, including Martial Cottle Park, a one-of-a-kind agricultural park surrounded by urban development in Santa Clara County. Rusty also helped obtain \$150 million for key improvements to Highway 152 that made the road from the South Bay to the San Joaquin Valley safer and more accessible for all Californians. That legacy, coupled with his time as Director of Parks and Recreations under Governor Jerry Brown, where he expanded the number of visitors to our state parks by 23 million people, is what makes Rusty so deserving of recognition. SCR 129 will designate a portion of Highway 152 as the “Rusty Areias Highway” in his honor.”

*Background.* Born on September 12, 1949, in Los Banos California, Rusty graduated from California State University Chico and completed Executive Leadership programs at the Harvard Kennedy School. Serving in a number of public service positions / roles, Rusty served as a California Assemblymember from 1982-1994, Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation from 1998-2001, as a member of the California Coastal Commission for four years, including two as Chair. Currently, Rusty co-owns the Bird Ranch at San Luis Creek with his wife and has two children.

*Consistent with committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 4/21/26)

Congressman John Garamendi, 8th District  
Willie L. Brown, Jr. - Former Speaker, California State Assembly  
Will Kempton, Individual

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121  
4/21/26 16:19:44

**\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\***