

Date of Hearing: March 23, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Jim Frazier, Chair
ACR 1 (Levine) – As Amended March 12, 2015

SUBJECT: Robin Williams Tunnel

SUMMARY: Designates the tunnel on State Route (SR) 101, known locally as the Waldo Tunnel and the Rainbow Tunnel, in Marin County as the Robin Williams Tunnel. Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Describes the accomplishments of Robin Williams.
- 2) Designates the SR 101 tunnel between post miles 0.885 to 1.074 in Marin County as the Robin Williams Tunnel.
- 3) Requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of the appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing special designation and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

FISCAL EFFECT: Costs to make and erect the appropriate signs are covered by donations.

COMMENTS: The tunnel on SR 101 between the Golden Gate Bridge and Sausalito is known locally as the Waldo Tunnel after Waldo Point from nearby Richardson Bay which was named after William Waldo, a California politician in the 1850's who is known for his relief efforts on behalf of starving immigrants coming west who were stranded in the Sierra Nevada Mountains during a snowstorm. Waldo later ran, unsuccessfully, as a Whig candidate for California governor in 1853. The tunnel has also been referred to locally as the "Rainbow Tunnel" after the archways at the ends of the bores were painted in rainbows by a Caltrans employee.

After the passing of actor Robin Williams who lived Marin County, Julia Wainright, a local resident, circulated a petition to name the tunnel after the late actor. To date, the petition requesting the naming has received over 61,000 signatures. Ms. Wainright has noted that renaming the "Rainbow Tunnel" after the late actor was appropriate because Robin Williams was known for wearing rainbow suspenders in the television program Mork and Mindy and he also performed a famous comedy routine about passing through the tunnel.

Robin Williams was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 21, 1951 to Laurie McLaurin and Robert Fitzgerald Williams. At age 16 the family moved to Tiburon, California where Mr. Williams attended Redwood High School in Larkspur. Mr. Williams studied theater at the College of Marin in Kentfield, California and later received a full scholarship to the Juilliard School in New York City. Mr. Williams began his career as a comedian doing stand-up comedy shows in the San Francisco Bay area and in Los Angeles. Mr. Williams starred in numerous television programs and films, won numerous awards and accolades, and was known for his philanthropy.

Mr. Williams lived in Marin County and died in his home in Tiburon on August 11, 2014 as a result of suicide.

This resolution designates the Waldo Tunnel on State Route 101 (Tunnel # 27-40) between post mile 0.885 to 1.074 in Marin County as the Robin Williams Tunnel. This resolution further requests that Caltrans erect appropriate signs upon receiving donations from non-state sources to cover the costs.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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