

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

April 24, 2012

In 2005, at the direction of the United States Congress, the National Park Service (NPS) began a special resource study for portions of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains to determine whether all or part of the study area is significant, suitable, and feasible for designation as a unit of the national park system. The area includes portions of the San Gabriel River and its tributaries from the city of Santa Fe Springs north to the mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains within the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. This area includes approximately 700,000 acres of land in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan region, including urban communities, local and regional parks, open space, and many communities along the San Gabriel River. It is one of the most densely populated and diverse areas in the United States. Additionally, the study area includes 415,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest.

The study recognized that currently, many people, organizations, and agencies are working to conserve biological and cultural resources in this area and to provide recreational opportunities, habitat restoration, watershed improvement, and flood protection as well. The study area is in the First, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

MOTION

Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Yaroslavsky _____

On behalf of the County, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works participated in the study and provided valuable input on how to design a system that best protected County assets while also enhancing citizens access to, and knowledge of, the natural and cultural resources in the study area.

The San Gabriel Mountains contain significant waterways and riparian areas. There is also a high level of biodiversity in the study area which provides habitat for 67 plant species and 105 wildlife species considered sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered. The dramatic change in elevation from sea level to 10,000 feet along with striking landforms such as Devil's Punchbowl, a County Park, makes for a highly scenic landscape of contrasts.

Through the study process, the NPS determined that:

- The natural and cultural resources of the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills are nationally significant; they meet all four of the NPS criteria for national significance.
- The study area is suitable for inclusion in the National Park system because it represents natural and cultural resource types that are not already adequately represented in the national park system or protected by another land managing entity.
- A collaborative partnership-based park unit which respects the complex mix of land use, ownership, and regulatory authority in the study area would be a feasible addition to the National Park system.
- NPS management in partnership with existing agencies and organizations is the best option to enhance protection of significant resources, to improve access to

The designation of a NPS national recreation area would not establish additional regulatory or land use authority over local governments. The NPS is not a regulatory agency. The creation of a National Recreational Area would respect existing general plans and local zoning, as well as state and local laws and policies for lands. In 1978, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was created in the western part of Los Angeles County and this is the same type of NPS designation. As part of the study, an Environmental Assessment was conducted; the NPS concluded that Alternative D is the environmentally preferable alternative because it would protect resources over a significantly larger area, provide greater opportunities for recreation and visitation provide greater socioeconomic benefits, and foster a larger framework for cooperative management than the other alternatives. This is the alternative that the Department of Parks and Recreation supports.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors Direct the Chief Executive Office to prepare a five signature letter to the Secretary of Interior and to the National Park Service indicating that the Board supports the resource study that was completed by the National Park Service for the San Gabriel Mountains and Watershed, specifically Alternative D.

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