

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JULY 11, 2023

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3681 (CHU): SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS PROTECTION ACT

On October 10, 2014, President Barack Obama designated 346,177 acres of federal lands as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, including areas within the Angeles National Forest and the San Bernardino National Forest.

This monument designation has been instrumental in preserving a diverse range of wildlife and ecosystems. Notably, it encompasses four wilderness areas—Magic Mountain, Pleasant View Ridge, San Gabriel, and Sheep Mountain—and showcases unique geological features. The San Gabriel Mountains also serve as a vital water source, providing critical drinking water for humans, as well as sustaining native fish, animals, plants, and essential habitats.

In 2022, the County released the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), demonstrating their commitment to preserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by 2030. This commitment is further reinforced by the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan and OurCounty, a sustainability plan that guides the County's conservation and preservation efforts.

On May 25, 2023, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla introduced the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, which would increase protections for public lands throughout Northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles. Part of this legislative package includes H.R.3681, introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu, also known as the San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act. The aim of this legislation is to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by adding an additional 109,167 acres of land from the National Forest System.

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Page: 2

This expansion would extend the monument's borders to include the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys.

Furthermore, Senator Alex Padilla and Congresswoman Judy Chu have actively advocated for the expansion through various channels. They have urged President Joseph Biden to utilize his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, urging him to issue a presidential proclamation to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

These collective efforts align with the State of California and Los Angeles County's objectives to safeguard open spaces for future generations, and it underscores the importance of this legislation.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support H.R. 3681, legislation which seeks to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and send a letter to Congresswoman Judy Chu and the Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, with a copy to the County's Congressional Delegation, and to advocate for the passage of this legislation.

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