

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Earth faces a global extinction crisis never before witnessed by humankind, with scientists predicting that more than 1 million species are in extreme danger of extinction in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent article in *The New York Times*, California has the most imperiled biodiversity of any state in the contiguous United States; and

WHEREAS, both President Biden and Governor Newsom have launched initiatives to protect 30% of natural areas by 2030 as recommended by scientists to better protect against these possible mass extinctions; and

WHEREAS, LA County is one of the most park-poor, densely-populated and polluted areas in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the City is working to increase climate resilience and improve its relationship to the natural world by protecting and enhancing its biodiversity through the creation of its City Index and wildlife corridors; and

WHEREAS, parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing access to nature and an essential connection for people of all ages and abilities to the life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, National Recreation Areas are protected areas in the United States established by an Act of Congress to preserve enhanced recreational opportunities in places with significant natural and scenic resources, including forests and reservoirs near urban areas; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress, are several bills, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (H.R.693), the PUBLIC Lands Act (S.1459), and the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (H.R.1075 and S.1769); and

WHEREAS, together, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act and the PUBLIC Lands Act, would set forth provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, and conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands throughout California, as well as in the Los Angeles area, would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by over 109,000 acres to include the western Angeles National Forest; and

WHEREAS, these bills would also establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area along the foothills and San Gabriel River corridor, and designate over 30,000 acres of protected wilderness and 45.5 miles of protected rivers in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act would expand the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by roughly 191,000 acres, increasing public land access for 47% of Californians who live within two hours of this area, many in disadvantaged communities; and

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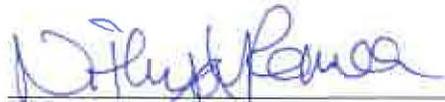
WHEREAS, the City should support these bills inasmuch as they seek to increase protections of federal public lands throughout the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; and by expanding their respective boundaries and establishing the San Gabriel National Recreation Area along the foothills and the San Gabriel River corridor; and

WHEREAS, the approval of these bills would help meet President Biden and Governor Newsom's vital 30x30 goals and complement the City's biodiversity protection and wildlife habitat connectivity initiatives;

WHEREAS, Council has already approved a resolution (CF#21-0002-S120) in support of S. 1459 (PUBLIC Lands Act);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program support of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (H.R.693) and the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (H.R.1075 and S.1769) which would increase protections of federal lands and expand their respective boundaries in the Los Angeles region thereby preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats and ensuring access to nature and life-enhancing benefits for all Angelenos.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilwoman, 4th District



PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

JUN 24 2021