

**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: September 25, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations  
Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso <sup>KEK</sup>  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 14-0002-S97  
Assignment No: 14-09-0663

SUBJECT: Resolution to SUPPORT HR 4858 (Chu) to establish the San Gabriel Mountains  
National Recreation Area.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt revised Resolution to include in the City's 2013-2014  
Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 4858, which would establish the San Gabriel  
Mountains National Recreation Area; SUPPORT for Presidential Proclamation of a National  
Monument of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests; and other actions.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Huizar-Fuentes-LaBonge), introduced September 10, 2014, discusses Los Angeles  
resident's lack of access to parkland and open space, noting that residents frequently use the San  
Gabriel Mountains as a place of refuge and recreation. The Resolution adds that HR 4858 would  
create the San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area and would preserve existing  
recreational opportunities and better protect valuable national areas. Stating that it would be in  
the best interest to strengthen park facilities frequented by City residents, the Resolution calls on  
the City support the bill.

BACKGROUND

Encompassing 970 square miles, the San Gabriel Mountains span nearly 70 miles through Los  
Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The mountains serve as a recreation location for millions  
of Southern California residents. HR 4858 would designate the San Gabriel National Recreation  
Area, with the approximate boundaries encompassing from Santa Clarita and Acton on the west  
to Wrightwood and Lytle Creek on the east, the San Gabriel River to Pico Rivera, and include  
the Whittier Hills. Nearly two-thirds of the acreage would consist of federal land as part of the  
Angeles National Forest, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. According to the bill's author, the  
Forest Service does an inadequate job of keeping the existing forest clean and managing the  
number of visitors, estimated at between 3 and 5 million per year. Under the bill, the National  
Park Service would partner with the Forest Service, as well as local and state government, to add  
improvements to signage, trails, interpretive and recreation programs. The bill would require the  
National Park Service, Department of Agriculture, and the Forest Service to develop a visitor  
services plan within three years of passage that would improve visitor experiences within the  
recreation area.

Since introduction of the bill in June 2014, Congresswoman Chu has requested that the President  
designate the area as a National Monument, which the President has the authority to designate

without Congressional approval. National Recreation areas and National Monuments are just some of the protective designations available to the area. Below is a short summary of the options:

- National Recreation Area: safeguard recreational opportunities, help ensure sustainable management. Requires Congressional/Presidential approval.
- National Monument: the President or Congress have the authority to designate in order to protect areas of historic or scientific interest.
- Wilderness Designations: highest form of protection the government can give to public land. No roads, vehicles, or permanent structures are allowed. Requires Congressional/Presidential approval.
- Wild and Scenic River Protections: the President or Congress can designate rivers as “wild” or “scenic.” The “wild” river designation protects against dams and limits roads. The “Scenic” river designation protects against dams, but allows road access.

In a letter dated September 9, 2014 Mayor Garcetti informed President Obama that he was in favor of designating the area as a National Monument. In light of Congresswoman Chu’s request that the President designate the area as a National Monument, we have attached a revised Resolution which calls on support of these above options in order to protect the San Gabriel Mountains and ensure they continue to be a recreational resource for Los Angeles residents.

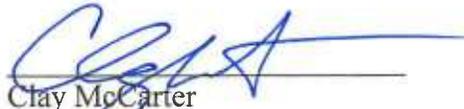
DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None.

BILL STATUS

6/12/2014

Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

  
Clay McCarter  
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Revised Resolution.  
2. Resolution (Huizar-Fuentes-LaBonge).

## 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 addition of accessible parks and open space will benefit our children while giving young people more opportunities to be physically active and connect with nature; and

WHEREAS, many Angelenos currently lack access to parkland and open space; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Mountains are widely used by local residents as a place of refuge and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Judy Chu has introduced HR 4858, the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act, which would provide National Recreation Area designation for the areas of the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel River through Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, and a corridor of open spaces extending east from Whittier Narrows; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area—modeled after the successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area—would preserve existing recreational opportunities and better protect valuable natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposal could connect existing parks and trails and add hiking trails, picnic and camp sites, signage, and educational opportunities to better connect the millions of people with this magnificent resource; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of all Angelenos to strengthen surrounding park facilities that are frequented by residents of the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, under the authority granted by the Antiquities Act, the President can establish National Monuments on federal public land for deserving areas and that this action would provide similar benefits to a National Recreation Area, including enhanced recreational opportunities, protection of open space, and watershed preservation;

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 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 4858, which would establish the San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area; SUPPORT for Presidential Proclamation of a National Monument of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests; SUPPORT for Wilderness designations and expansions for Sheep Mountain, Cucamonga, San Gabriel, Condor Peak, and Castaic; and SUPPORT for Wild and Scenic River designations for the San Gabriel River, San Antonio Creek, Middle Fork Lytle Creek, and Little Rock Creek in order to strengthen recreational opportunities for Angelenos and further protect our natural environment.

14-0002-597

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 addition of accessible parks and open space will benefit our children while giving young people more opportunities to be physically active and connect with nature; and

WHEREAS, many Angelenos currently lack access to parkland and open space; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Mountains are widely used by local residents as a place of refuge and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Judy Chu has introduced HR 4858, the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act, which has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation and which would provide National Recreation Area designation for the areas of the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel River through Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and a corridor of open spaces extending east from Whittier Narrows.

WHEREAS, the National Park Service conducted a special resource study starting in 2005 and determined the area was suitable for inclusion in the National Park system; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area—modeled after the successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area—would preserve existing recreational opportunities and better protect valuable natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposal could connect existing parks and trails and add hiking trails, picnic and camp sites, signage and educational opportunities to better connect the millions of people with this magnificent resource; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of all Angelenos to strengthen surrounding park facilities that are frequented by residents of the City of Los Angeles,

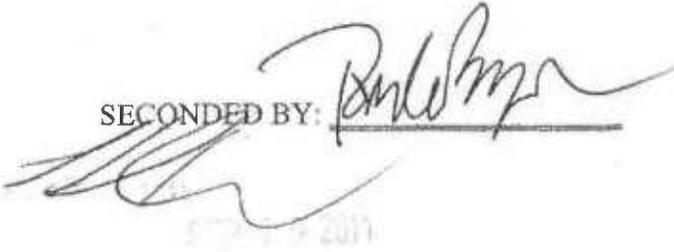
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 4858 and the creation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area in order to strengthen recreational opportunities for Angelenos and further protect our natural environment.

PRESENTED BY:

  
JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

  
FELIPE FUENTES  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL