

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 7, 2016

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso ^{KEK}
Chief Legislative Analyst _{for}

Council File No: 15-0002-S149
Assignment No. 16-04-0307

SUBJECT: Resolution (Bonin - Buscaino) to SUPPORT H.R. 4871 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area to evaluate alternatives for protecting it as a resource.

CLA RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution (Bonin – Buscaino) to include in the City’s 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT for H.R. 4871 (Lieu) to conduct a special resource study to evaluate alternatives to include all of the beaches of the Santa Monica Bay, as well as the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hills and San Pedro Coastline as protected recreational resources of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA).

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Bonin - Buscaino), introduced April 1, 2016, resolves to include in the City’s 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act, H.R. 4871, which authorizes a three year study of the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The feasibility study would consider all of the beaches of the Santa Monica Bay, as well as other open spaces such as the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hills and San Pedro Coastline. If approved, H.R. 4871 would facilitate the first National Park Service presence in South Los Angeles and connect the entire Santa Monica Bay from Point Mugu to Rat Beach in Torrance, California.

BACKGROUND

If approved, H.R. 4871 (Lieu) would study the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area to consider other open spaces and coastlines. Specifically, the bill’s study of special resources would expand and designate the area as the “Santa Monica Mountains and Coastal Recreation Area,” or create a new “Los Angeles Coastal Recreation Area.” The study’s focal points will be to preserve and restore coastal beaches, uplands and waterways,

coordinate and connect parks for recreational use, develop and protect historic and significant recreation areas, and protect wildlife. The study by the Secretary of the Interior will analyze the preservation of recreational opportunities to access open space for a variety of users. Particular interest will be directed to parks and recreational use along the coastline adjoining the Ballona Wetlands, in the City of Santa Monica, adjacent to and along State and county beaches of Los Angeles, along the north Santa Monica Bay down through Dockweiler State Beach around the Ballona Creek and Wetlands, Baldwin Hills, and along the San Pedro coastline. In addition, the analysis will address the impact that establishment of all or a portion of the Ballona Creek and Wetlands, Baldwin Hills, and the San Pedro coastline as a unit of the SMMNRA will have on the privately owned lands bordering the study areas.

The Resolution states that the National Recreation Areas are a unit of the National Park Service providing scientific research and infrastructure support to local entities to encourage conservation, preservation and recreational use of open space and historic buildings. The Resolution also notes the open spaces in Southern California are precious environmental treasures that are worthy of consideration as part of and receive the benefits associated with being in the SMMNRA.

BILL STATUS

03/23/16

Introduced.

03/29/16

Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands.



Blayne Sutton-Wills

Analyst

Attachment:
SMT:BSW:bsw

1. Resolution

CF: 15-0002-S149

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, Southern California is home to precious environmental treasures, such as the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Santa Monica Mountains and miles of beautiful coastline; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4871, which was recently proposed by Representative Ted Lieu, would authorize a three year study of the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (or creating a new recreation area) to include all of the beaches of the Santa Monica Bay, as well as the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hills and San Pedro Coastline; and

WHEREAS, if approved and implemented, H.R. 4871 would facilitate the first National Park Service presence in South LA and connects the entire Santa Monica Bay from Point Mugu to Rat Beach in Torrance; and

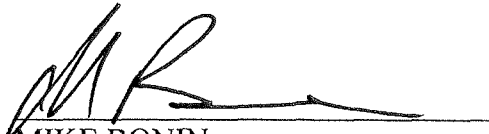
WHEREAS, National Recreation Areas are a unit of the National Park Service that offers, coordinates and provides scientific research and infrastructure support to local entities and federal land holdings to encourage conservation, preservation and recreational use of open space and historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, unlike National Monuments, National Historic Sites or National Parks, National Recreation Areas do not exert control nor do they force private property owners or state/local governments to do anything, but rather make resources available to entities to encourage conservation, preservation, expansion and recreational use of open space and historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, the areas proposed for study by H.R. 4871 are important local environmental treasures that deserve due consideration for inclusion as a National Recreation Area;

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 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 4871 as currently proposed.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

APR 01 2016