

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 government 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 Santa Monica Mountains are an important public and environmental resource. Topanga Canyon is located in the central part of the mountain range, and the canyon’s ecosystem supports a diverse variety of plant species, including Oak Woodlands, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Riparian Woodlands, all of which are identified as “plant communities of special concern” by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Topanga Canyon is traversed by Topanga Canyon Boulevard (SR 27), a state highway located in the western portion of the City linking the San Fernando Valley with the Pacific Coast Highway through the Santa Monica Mountain range; and

WHEREAS, more than three-quarters of a million travelers each year enjoy SR 27’s stunning views and captivating landscape as they pass through the vibrant Topanga Creek Watershed, which is home to protected plant life and rugged geological formations; and

WHEREAS, traveling north along Topanga Canyon Boulevard from the Pacific Ocean into the Canyon, travelers see a wide variety of distinct geologic features, rock formations, and the ancient landslides that have helped to create the unique character of the Canyon -- traveling south yields a different perspective, with broad vistas of the Canyon, natural ridgelines, mountainous landscapes, and distinct valleys all coming into view; and

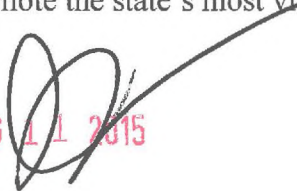
WHEREAS, SR 27 also offers the public a historical connection to the greater Los Angeles area’s past, winding through ancient Tongvan territory, tracing the historic route of pioneers and homesteaders, and featuring architecturally unique bridges and other architectural features that call to mind the original character of the highway when it was first built as a two-lane road for horses and wagons in the late 19th century; and

WHEREAS, the center of Topanga “village” is located along SR 27, approximately half way through the Canyon – the “village” contains a historic US Post Office, fire station, small shops, restaurants, a public library, and a Caltrans-installed traffic signal designed to look like an old-fashioned lamppost, which is unique among traffic signals along the state highway system; and

WHEREAS, while SR 27 passes primarily through unincorporated Los Angeles County, a portion of the highway just south of Topanga “village” is located in the City of Los Angeles and passes through a rather undeveloped section of the Canyon before continuing back into the unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the economic and aesthetic value of scenic highways, the State Legislature established the California Scenic Highway Program in 1963 to showcase and promote the state’s most visually appealing roads; and

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WHEREAS, SR 27 merits recognition as one of the state's picturesque highways, thereby increasing public awareness of this scenic resource; and

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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 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for any legislation or administrative action that officially requests Caltrans to favorably consider the request to extend formal State Scenic Highway designation to the stretch of Topanga Canyon Boulevard extending south from the Los Angeles City/County line south of Mulholland Drive to Pacific Coast Highway (SR1) at Topanga State Beach.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL