

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 25, 2017

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 17-0002-S71
Assignment No. 17-05-0508

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell/Huizar) to OPPOSE any changes to the status of established National Monuments.

CLA RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell/Huizar) to include in the City's 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program, OPPOSITION to any changes to the status of established National Monuments by the current Presidential administration.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell/Huizar), introduced May 2, 2017, states that past Presidents have used the American Antiquities Act of 1906 (Act) to create National Monuments in places with "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" to the people of the United States. The Act has created dozens of protected National Monuments within driving distance of Los Angeles, such as Bears Ears, Giant Sequoia, Muir Woods and the California Coastal National Monuments.

BACKGROUND

On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump issued a *Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act* as an Executive Order, which orders the Secretary of the Interior to review all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996. According to the Executive Order, if the designations or expansions are over 100,000 acres, the Secretary of the Interior can determine whether the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders and also conforms to the purpose of the Executive Order. If adopted, the City of Los Angeles 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program would include a position opposing any changes to the status of established National Monuments by the current administration.


Blayne Sutton-Wills
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution
SMT:BSW:bsw

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 first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Presidents have used the power granted to them under the "American Antiquities Act of 1906" to create National Monuments in places with "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" to the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the "Antiquities Act" originated with Congress and Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, and environmental and historical preservation was, until recently, a bipartisan effort; and

WHEREAS, areas within a reasonable driving distance for Angelenos are home to dozens of important National Monuments, including the Bears Ears, Grand Canyon -- Parashant, Navajo, Gold Butte, Giant Sequoia, San Gabriel Mountains, Muir Woods, and California Coastal National Monuments; and

WHEREAS, sacred sites of Native American cultural, religious, and historical significance are among the established and protected National Monuments; and

WHEREAS, in his first 100 days, President Trump has shown reckless disregard for scientific research, environmental protection and historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has ordered a review of National Monument designations by his predecessors with the intention of altering or abolishing existing monuments; and

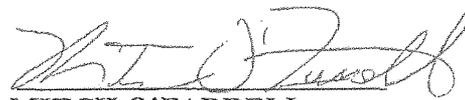
WHEREAS, the "Antiquities Act" does NOT grant a President the power to remove National Monuments created by previous Presidents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has made great strides forward in environmental protection and historic preservation;

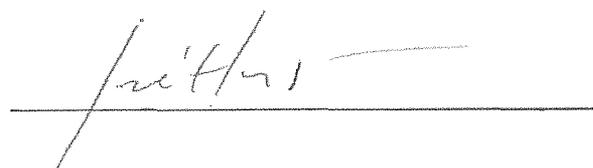
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any changes to the status of established National Monuments by the current Presidential administration.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:





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