

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: July 31, 2017

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 17-0002-S81  
Assignment No. 17-05-0571

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell) to SUPPORT SB 50 (Allen).

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell) to include in the City's 2017-2018 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT for SB 50, to ensure that any federal public lands in California will remain in public hands and managed to benefit all Californians.

## SUMMARY

The Resolution (Koretz-O'Farrell), introduced May 19, 2017, states that California has 45.8 million acres of federal lands that are managed by the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management among others. Some of the federal public lands in California permit the extraction of crude oil, minerals, natural gas development, and allow cattle grazing. The current Congress has pursued efforts to open federal public lands for more oil and gas exploration and to give lands away to corporations. This Resolution supports SB 50 (Allen), which seeks that federal land in California remains in the public hands, and is managed and preserved for all Californians into the future.

## BACKGROUND

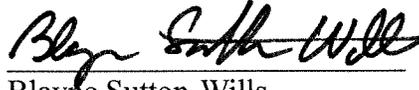
SB 50, if approved, would prevent conveyance of federal public lands in California unless the State Lands Commission (SLC) has the right of first refusal in said conveyance. The bill's purpose is to protect public lands by preventing their sale to private interests. The bill defines "conveyance" as any method, including sale, donation, or exchange, by which all or a portion of the right, title and interest of the United States in and to federal lands located in California is transferred to another entity.

The bill would declare that the State of California will not legally recognize any conveyance of federal public lands within the state unless the SLC is provided the first right of refusal to purchase the land, or the right to arrange transfer to a third party. SB 50 also prohibits a person from knowingly recording a deed or other document to convey federal public lands unless the deed or document is accompanied by a certificate of compliance from SLC. SB 50 also states that the SLC shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Wildlife Conservation Board and Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish a state policy that they shall take all feasible efforts to protect against any future unauthorized conveyance or change in federal public land designation. The SLC will also create regulations or a process to engage federal managers early in the conveyance process. The SLC shall also ensure that the

future management of conveyed federal public lands is determined in a public process. SB 50 permits the SLC to waive its right of first refusal or the right to arrange for the transfer of federal public lands to another entity, and issue a certification of compliance with the transfer.

BILL STATUS

7/12/2017 Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on Appropriations  
6/15/2017 Referred to Committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary  
12/5/2016 Introduced



Blayne Sutton-Wills  
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution

SMT:BSW:bsw

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

WHEREAS, California has 45.8 million acres of federal lands, managed by a variety of agencies including the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management within the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, highlights of federal land in California include Yosemite Joshua Tree National Parks; and

WHEREAS, some of these public lands are managed as congressionally designated Wilderness Areas or as Roadless Areas, which means they are managed to provide recreation opportunities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, backpacking and horseback riding while maintaining their natural character; and

WHEREAS, others are managed to allow for resources extraction such as mining, oil and gas development, and cattle grazing; and

WHEREAS, public, federal ownership of these lands has long been widely supported by the vast majority of Americans, including broad-based support from urban and rural communities, hunters, fishermen, conservationists, an outdoor recreation enthusiasts and was traditionally supported by both major political parties; and

WHEREAS, we have seen a drastic shift in Congress, which has culminated in efforts to open federal public lands for more oil and gas exploration and to even give lands away outright to corporations; and

WHEREAS, there has been a groundswell of opposition to congressional efforts to sell off public lands; and

WHEREAS, a State bill, SB-50 (Allen) has been introduced seeking to ensure that any federal public lands in California will remain in public hands, managed for the benefit of all Californians and preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Los Angeles will benefit from such preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 50 (Allen) to ensure that any federal public lands in California will remain in public hands, managed for the benefit of all Californians and preserved for future generations.

PRESENTED BY:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

MAY 19 2017

