

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 10, 2019

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S73
Assignment No: 19-05-0436

SUBJECT: Resolution to support AB 1694

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution (Buscaino – Bonin) to include in the City’s 2019 – 2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1694 (O’Donnell), which seeks to expand the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy by including the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island in order to preserve their unique open space and wildlife habitat.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Buscaino – Bonin), introduced on April 30, 2019, states that the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy was established by the State Legislature in 1999. The Conservancy aims to preserve open space for recreational and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within its jurisdiction, which includes territory within the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River and their tributaries.

The Resolution further states that AB 1694 would expand the territory of the Conservancy by including the Dominguez Channel watershed bounded by Manchester Boulevard in the City of Inglewood to the north and the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors to the south. AB 1694 would also include Santa Catalina Island in the Conservancy’s territories. The Resolution states that including these areas would preserve and enhance these areas’ unique open space and wildlife habitat resources. The Resolution therefore requests that the City support AB 1694.

BACKGROUND

The State has established ten conservancies across California to preserve open space and habitat while facilitating public access to California’s wilderness and wildlife. Their activities include providing low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within our jurisdiction. Conservancies with territory within the City include the California Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC).

The territory of the RMC totals 1,480 square miles and includes the watersheds for the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River, as well as portions of the Santa Clara River and the lower Santa Ana River. AB 1694 would expand the RMC’s jurisdiction by approximately 200 square miles through the addition of the Dominguez Watershed and Santa Catalina Island. The Dominguez Watershed encompasses approximately 133 square miles of land and water in the cities

of Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Inglewood, Los Angeles, and Torrance. Residential development covers 40% of the watershed, and an additional 41% is made up by industrial, commercial, and transportation uses. The watershed drains into Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors.

Santa Catalina Island covers approximately 74 square miles. It includes the City of Avalon and the unincorporated communities of Two Harbors, Rancho Escondido, and Middle Ranch. The Catalina Island Conservancy, a non-profit that aims to preserve and provide access to the lands undeveloped interior, manages the unincorporated territory on the island.

The addition of the Dominguez Watershed and Santa Catalina Island allows RMC to acquire property, manage land, and provide grants to those areas. Funds from Proposition 68, a \$4 billion bond for parks, environmental protection projects, and water infrastructure projects, would be eligible to be spent in these areas. The proposed legislation also requires the RMC to update the existing Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use in Dominguez Watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

BILL STATUS

2/22/2019	Introduced
3/28/2019	Referred to Committee on Natural Resources
3/28/2019	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Natural Resources
4/25/2019	From Committee on Natural Resources: Amend, and no pass as amended and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations (9-0)
4/29/2019	Read second time and amended



Tim Plummer
Analyst

SMT:tcp

Attachments: Resolution (Buscaino — Bonin) in support of AB 1694

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 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 San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) was created by the State Legislature in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Conservancy is to preserve open space in order to provide recreational and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy's territory covers portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties located within the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River and their tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy's vast and varied area includes mountains, valleys, rivers, coastal plain and coastline; and

WHEREAS, AB 1694 (O'Donnell), introduced on February 22, 2019 in the State Legislature, seeks to expand the territory of the Conservancy by including the Dominquez Channel watershed bounded by Manchester Boulevard in the City of Inglewood to the north and the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors to the south; and

WHEREAS, the measure also seeks to include Santa Catalina Island, including the City of Avalon, in the Conservancy's territory; and

WHEREAS, by including these areas within the Conservancy's jurisdiction, the State is ensuring that their unique open space and wildlife habitat resources will be preserved and enhanced for present and future generations;

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 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1694 (O'Donnell) which seeks to expand the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy by including the Dominquez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island in order to preserve their unique open space and wildlife habitat.

PRESENTED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



APR 30 2019



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