

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: February 28, 2020

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 20-0002-S26
Assignment No: 20-02-0199

SUBJECT: Expanding the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Buscaino – Bonin) to include in the City’s 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2103 (O’Donnell), which would expand the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy by including the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island in order to preserve their unique open space and wildlife habitat.

SUMMARY

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy was created by the State Legislature in 1999. 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. Currently, the Conservancy’s territory covers eastern Los Angeles County and western Orange County. AB 2103 (O’Donnell) 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. Additionally, the bill would include Santa Catalina Island in the Conservancy’s territory.

The Resolution recommends support for AB 2103 (O’Donnell).

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy has a number of plans in development to improve the areas in its territory. Some of these plans include parks, including one on a 57-acre site wedged between the San Gabriel River and the 605 Freeway which was formerly a duck farm. Another is a River Wilderness Park situated at the gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, which will be a model for sustainable, multi-benefit watershed projects that address the open space recreation and watershed needs of the region. The Conservancy is also developing a plan for a bikeway, the Coyote Creek Regional Bikeway Project, which considers the feasibility of a 15-mile section of Coyote Creek between the City of Brea to the north and its downstream confluence with the San Gabriel River in the City of Long Beach.

The Conservancy’s most comprehensive project is the Green Visions Plan, which exists as part of a partnership between San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and the

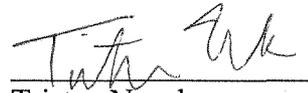
University of Southern California's Center for Sustainable Cities and GIS Research Laboratory. The project goals are to protect and restore natural areas, restore natural hydrological function, promote equitable access to open space, and maximize support via multiple-use facilities.

Expanding the territory of the Conservancy would provide new opportunities for improvement projects that could provide recreational and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements. By including the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island in the Conservancy's territory, AB 2103 (O'Donnell) would ensure that these unique open spaces and their habitats will be preserved for present and future generations.

BILL STATUS

02/06/20 Introduced.

02/20/20 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



Tristan Noack
Analyst

SMT:tcjn

Attachment: Resolution

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 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 2103 (O'Donnell), introduced on February 6, 2020 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 2103 (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: _____

FEB 18 2020