

DATE: July 22, 2019
TO: Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 8A: Legislation and Initiatives

Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>
State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

Current as of 6/27/19

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

PARKS AND WATER

AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program

Introduced: 1/14/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes the program envisioned in this bill can help to underwrite these positions.

AB 217 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Safe Drinking Water for All Act (NOW INCOME TAXATION)

Introduced: 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** 3rd Reading on the Assembly Floor. **Update:** *This bill was gut and amended on 6/13/19 to address income tax law. No longer a natural resources bill.*

Summary: Would enact the Safe Drinking Water for All Act and would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the board to provide a source of funding to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. This bill and a companion measure, SB 200, reflect a priority articulated by Governor Newsom in his 2019-20 Budget and in his state of the state, implementing a sustainable funding source to address deficient water systems.

AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program
Introduced: 2/13/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Summary: This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources community education programs, or recreational amenities. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

AB 926 (O'Donnell D) Oil Revenue: Oil Trust Fund

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: Current law requires the Controller to transfer certain oil-revenue-related moneys to the Oil Trust Fund. Current law requires the State Lands Commission to expend the money in the fund to finance the costs of well abandonment, pipeline removal, facility removal, remediation, and other costs associated with removal of oil and gas facilities from the Long Beach tidelands. Current law prohibits the total amount deposited in the fund from exceeding \$300,000,000 and requires all interest earned on money in the fund after the balance in the fund totals \$300,000,000 to be transferred to the General Fund. This bill would delete the provisions relating to the limit on the total amount deposited in the fund. By increasing the amount of money that may be deposited into a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal of developing and implementing watershed improvement plans aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, until January 31, 2028, the department to report those outcomes to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

Summary: Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or

preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025. This bill has become a two-year bill.

AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation: California Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Account

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Governmental Organization Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: This bill replicates the language contained in last year's vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in state government. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office. Also authorizes the office to receive assistance and funds from the public and private sources. Given that outdoor participation rates in California pale in comparison to those in neighboring states, this bill among other things, heightens the focus of exploring practices and policies that generate greater outdoor use.

AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Senate Governance and Finance Committee hearing postponed

Summary: Would authorize the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property acquired or developed with grant moneys per the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program Act, the Community Parklands Act of 1986, the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act, and subject to the acquisition of property of equal or greater value, as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation, at no cost to the state.

AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Deer: Santa Catalina Island: Report

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/21/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to biennially report to the Legislature and Fish and Game Commission on the progress made toward restoration and maintenance of California's deer herds. This bill would require the department to develop by 1/2/2022, a report, in consultation with state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, NGO's, landowners, and scientific agencies to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding deer on Santa Catalina Island, including historic, current and future deer population on the island and assessment of their overall health.

AB 1578 (Rivas, Luz D) School Pavement to Parks Grant Program

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Education Committee on 7/3/19

Summary: Would establish the School Pavement to Parks Grant Program under the administration of the State Department of Education for purposes of providing grants to applicant school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools maintaining schools in

disadvantaged communities, as defined, or low-income communities, as defined, to convert portions of existing pavement at those schools to green space. The bill would require the department to establish processes and procedures for administering the grant program, as specified. The bill would require a school district or county office of education that receives a request from a school in the school district or county office of education to participate in the grant program to inform the school that it has received the request in a timely manner.

AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island
Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: This bill would add the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island to the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bill would require the conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use within the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month
Introduced: 4/9/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"® Month.

SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Wildfires: Grant Program
Introduced: 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/11/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on 7/2/19

Summary: Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit an annual report to the agency regarding projects funded by the grant program.

SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs
Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Summary: Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofits for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose. This bill would authorize the conservancy to undertake educational projects and programs for adults and for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 and to award grants to nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, etc. for educational projects and programs related to the

preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, enjoyment of coastal resources and for onsite and distance learning facilities, activities, and instruction programs that support the delivery of science, history and social science. Would authorize conservancy to award grants for the construction and improvement of structures and facilities used for those projects and programs.

SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

Summary: Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of four specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. Would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Parks, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired.

SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Urban and Rural Forest and Woodlands Restoration and Fire Resiliency Workforce Program

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 7/8/19

Summary: Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to develop a forest and woodlands restoration workforce model curriculum and vocational program to be offered by community college districts commencing on or before July 31, 2021. Bill would require the curriculum to reflect regional needs, and to be developed by the Chancellor's Office in consultation with experts from designated governmental, academic, and nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated expertise in forest and woodland restoration and fire management.

SB 474 (Stern D) The California Wildfire Protection Act of 1990: Habitat Conservation Fund

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee canceled by author

Summary: Would establish the Wildlife Protection Subaccount in the Habitat Conservation Fund and would require the Controller, if an appropriation is made for this purpose in any fiscal year, to transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the subaccount, less any amount transferred from specified accounts and funds, to be expended by the board for the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat.

CLIMATE CHANGE

AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization

Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 6/17/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Governance and Finance Committee on 7/3/19

Summary: The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as

Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation. This bill also includes a new, more robust, definition of “natural infrastructure.”

AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols

Introduced: 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** 3rd Reading on the Senate Floor

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program

Introduced: 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Senate Environmental Quality Committee hearing canceled by author

Summary: Would, beginning July 1, 2020, require state agencies administering competitive grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring for programs intended to improve air quality, to include a specified application timeline. Requires the Department of Finance to include in an annual report to the Legislature specified information on the applications received for each grant program allocating moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Bill would also authorize the Strategic Growth Council to give grant priority to plans and projects covering areas that have a high proportion of low-income communities.

AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health

Introduced: 2/5/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

Summary: Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper

watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan.

AB 552 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Coastal Adaptation: Access, and Resilience Program
Introduced: 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/14/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Would establish the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Program for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Act of 2020
Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 4/4/2019, **Status:** Senate Appropriations Committee hearing canceled by author

Summary: Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

SB 576 (Umberg D) State Coastal Conservancy: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program
Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 7/8/19

Summary: Would require the State Coastal Conservancy to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to, among other things, recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat and collaborate with certain entities and scientists to facilitate information sharing regarding coastal climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness using the Office of Planning and Research Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program state clearinghouse.

BUDGET

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the state budget on June 27th. Below is the 2019-20 GGRF Expenditure Plan from Assembly Budget Committee.

2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

Category	Department	Program	Funding
Air Toxic and Criteria Air Pollutants	Air Resources Board	AB 617 Community Air Protection & Local Programs to Reduce Air Pollution	\$245
		AB 617 - Local Air District Implementation	\$20
		AB 617 - Technical Assistance to Community Groups	\$10
		Subtotal	\$275
Low Carbon Transportation	Air Resources Board	Clean Vehicle Rebate Project	\$238
		Clean Trucks, Buses, & Off-Road Freight Equipment	\$182
		Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, School Buses & Transportation Equity Projects	\$65
		Subtotal	\$485
Climate Smart Agriculture	Air Resources Board	Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement & Upgrades	\$65
	Department of Food and Ag	Healthy Soils	\$28
		Methane Reduction	\$34
		Subtotal	\$127
Healthy Forests	CAL FIRE	Healthy & Resilient Forests	\$165
		Forest Carbon Plan: Prescribed Fire & Fuel Reduction	\$35
		Wildland-Urban Interface and Other Fire Prevention Activities	\$10
		Urban Forestry	\$10
		Subtotal	\$220
Short-Lived Climate Pollutants	CalRecycle	Waste Diversion	\$25
	Air Resources Board	Fluorinated Refrigerants	\$1
		Subtotal	\$26
Integrated Climate Action: Mitigation & Resilience	SGC	Transformative Climate Communities	\$60
	Natural Resources Agency	Urban Greening	\$30
	Coastal Commission & BCDC	Coastal Resilience	\$3
	CSD	Low-Income Weatherization	\$10
	CA Conservation Corps	Energy Corps	\$6
		Subtotal	\$109
Climate and Clean Energy Research	SGC	Climate Change Research	\$5
	CalEPA & CARB	Transition to a Carbon-Neutral Economy & Zero-Emission Vehicle Strategy	\$3
Technical Assistance	SGC	Technical Assistance to Disadvantaged Communities	\$2
		Subtotal	\$10
Workforce Training	WDB	Preparing Workers for a Carbon-Neutral Economy	\$35
Safe Drinking Water	State Water Board	Safe Drinking Water	\$100
Total			\$1,387

2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

Notes for table:

BCDC= San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

CSD= Community Services and Development

SGC= Strategic Growth Council

WDB= Workforce Development Board

In addition, the Cap and Trade Expenditure Package includes the following.

Trailer bill language that codifies the AB 617 provisions previously in budget bill language and requires the Air Resources Board to report annually on the projects funded.

Trailer bill language specifying that 5 percent of the GGRF continuous appropriation beginning in 2020-21 is for safe drinking water with a cap of \$130 million and provides a General Fund backstop for the Safe Drinking Water Fund should the 5 percent of GGRF be lower than \$130 million beginning in 2023-24 and sunsets in 2030.

Provisional language that

- states that the funding for Low Carbon Transportation would fund pilot projects, demonstration projects, and commercial projects and ports would be eligible for this funding;
- states that \$1.5 million of the funding is for a study to identify strategies to significantly reduce emissions from vehicles and to achieve carbon neutrality in the sector;
- states that \$1.5 million is for a study to identify strategies to decrease demand and supply of fossil fuels, while managing the decline of fossil fuel use in a way that is economically responsible and sustainable;
- states that certain funding shall not be allocated for the purchase of fully automated cargo handling equipment; and
- gives the Department of Finance the authority to reduce allocations for certain programs, while maintaining budgeted funding levels for other programs to ensure that funding for certain programs is prioritized and would be cut last in a shortfall scenario.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Summary: S.3704 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Introduced in Senate (12/05/2018) By: Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

H.R. 2215 – 116th Congress (2019-2020)

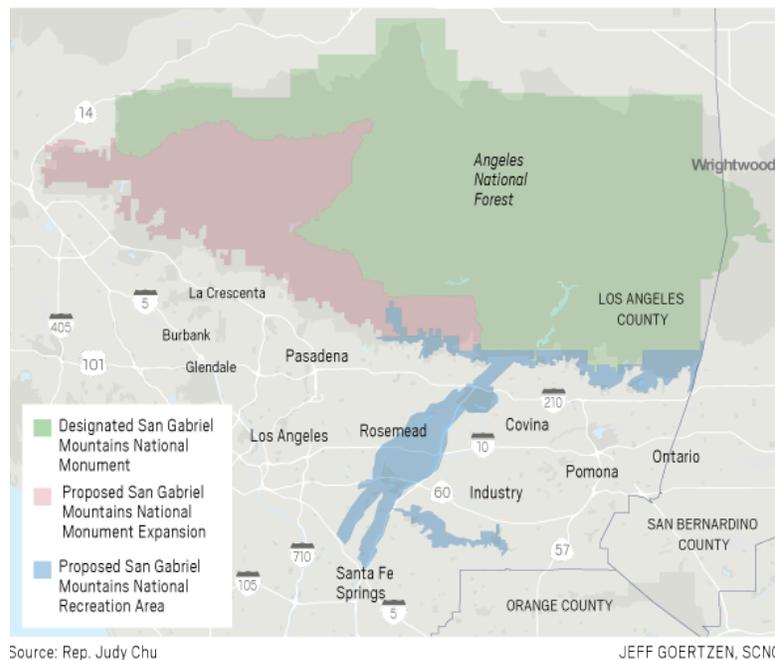
Introduced in House (04/10/2019) By: Judy Chu (D-CA-27)

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act

This bill establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in California, establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council and the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership, expands the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in

California (to include western Angeles National Forest), designates specified National Forest System lands in Angeles National Forest in California as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and designates specified river segments in California as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The 15,878 acres of expanded wilderness and 15,191 acres of new wilderness areas will benefit from the highest form of protection of any federal wildland.

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019, the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (NPFPL) Subcommittee held a Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2215. Several leaders from California's conservation and outdoor recreation communities testified in Washington D.C. in favor of the public lands bill, including Nature for All and Active San Gabriel Valley. These groups attended to share the importance of these mountains and wilderness areas with the Committee in anticipation for a bill vote soon.



Summary: H.R. 1708—116th Congress (2019-2020)

Introduced in the House of Representatives (03/13/2019) By: Congressman Adam Schiff

Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands (04/01/2019); Subcommittee hearings held 04/02/2019.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act consists of a plan to identify an alternative or combination of alternatives for a new proposed boundary within the National Recreation Area.

The Rim of The Valley Corridor Study Area consisted of 650,000 acres in the Los Angeles Area and included 153,000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and 180,000 acres of National Forest Land. 80% of the land in the Study Area is undeveloped and or already protected open space run by various agencies and conservancies. The Study areas includes Griffith Park, Elysian Park, the LA River, and the Verdugo Mountains. The centerpiece of the area is the 200-mile long Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail, which is currently 40% complete.

This legislation has been re-introduced by the author after a final 400+ report was completed an exhaustive 400+ page report, where the Park Service (NPS) determined that this region contains a very high number of unique, nationally-significant resources including biological, geological,

historic, and cultural sites. The list of resources is incredibly, almost overwhelmingly diverse. The Study goes into great detail on what makes this region special — including our rare Mediterranean climate, unique and active geology, many endemic species of plants and animals (our ‘South Coast Ecoregion’ supports more than 33% of California’s native plant species in only 8% of the land area. According to the report, there are more endemic plant and animal species in this ecoregion than any other ecoregion in the country!), and our vast collection of historic and cultural sites — ranging from Native American sites and Spanish missions to historic gold and oil fields, exemplary architecture, and important Space Age sites.

