



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### AGENDA ITEM

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Report: San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion Support

1. Resolution Supporting San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion

### COUNCIL ACTION

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**Item Type:** Action Item

**Approved for** 10/31/2023 **calendar**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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On October 24, 2023, Council requested a resolution supporting the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion effort. The San Gabriel Mountains draw around 4 million visitors annually. With over 18 million people residing within a 90-mile radius, an expansion of the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, designated in 2014 by President Obama, is proposed.

This expansion, championed by Senator Alex Padilla and Representative Judy Chu, aims to protect an additional 109,000 acres, enhancing equitable access to nature, promoting public health, safeguarding drinking water sources, and addressing climate and biodiversity concerns. The initiative, supported unanimously by various entities including LA County Board of Supervisors, LA Mayor Bass, indigenous communities, and state agencies, seeks the City's endorsement to urge President Biden to preserve these critical lands for future generations.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

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This report is outside of the four priority areas adopted by the City Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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Adopt the resolution of support.

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

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The San Gabriel Mountains are the backyard for many urban and culturally diverse communities within Los Angeles. Every year, the Angeles National Forest welcomes about 4 million visitors. Over 18 million people live within a 90-mile radius of the proposed national monument expansion.

In 2014, President Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument that protected about 346,000 acres to ensure access to the outdoors for the region's residents, as well as to protect the wildlife and biodiversity within it. Since then, support has grown to safeguard public lands in the western Angeles National Forest; an additional 109,000 acres.

Expanding the monument will help increase equitable access to nature, improve public health, conserve a critical drinking water source for local residents, and address the climate and biodiversity crisis. In addition, this expansion of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument will also help California meet the goal to protect 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030.

For the last few years, Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Judy Chu (CA-28) have been championing this effort and have recently urged the Biden Administration to expand the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The City is being asked to join this effort by Nature for All by adopting a resolution of support to ask President Biden to use the Antiquities Act to build on his conservation legacy and permanently protect these important lands for future generations. Nature for All's mission is to build a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area has equitable access to the wide range of benefits which nature provides.

Thus far, unanimous support has been received from the LA County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles City Mayor Bass, the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Kizh Nation, the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, various municipal leaders (including cities of Monterey Park and Alhambra), and State agencies, like the CA Coastal Conservancy and others.

A map of the proposed expansion area can be found on this site: <https://san.gabriel.mountains.forever.org/>

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)**

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N/A

**CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

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This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

**ALTERNATIVES**

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- 1) Council may adopt the resolution of support.
- 2) Council may choose another alternative not proposed by staff.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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**Approved by:**

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

**EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS**

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Exhibit 1: Sample Letter of Support