

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS AND RIVERS PROTECTION ACT

Technical Summary

SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Provides the short title of the bill as the “San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act,” and provides a table of contents for the bill listing all of the bill sections.

TITLE I

SECTION 1.1: DEFINITIONS

- Provides definitions for key terms used throughout the bill, as follow: Adjudication; Advisory Council; Federal Lands; Management Plan; Park Lands; Partnership; Recreation Area; Secretary; Secretaries; State; Utility Facility; Water Resource Facility.

SECTION 1.2: ESTABLISHMENT OF SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

- Establishes the purposes of the Act, which include conservation, environmentally responsible recreation, education, cooperative management, and continued water management, water conservation, flood protection, and other water related activities.
- Establishes the acreage of the NRA, consisting of approximately 51,107 acres and makes a map publicly available.
- Establishes administrative jurisdictions, including no change to the Forest Service, Army Corps, and State and local.

SECTION 1.3: MANAGEMENT

- Establishes that the Secretary of Agriculture will manage the National Forest System lands and the National Park System will manage any Park System lands (transfer or acquired later).
- Protects the continuation of a broad range of recreational uses in the Forest lands.
- Provides extensive protections for non-federal lands, facilities and activities from Federal actions.
- Mandates the establishment of a management plan, access and visitor services plan, and management partnership.

SECTION 1.4: NON-FEDERAL LANDS

- Establishes how lands within the NRA may be acquired by Federal agencies, as well as how such lands are to be managed and administered, and prohibits the use of eminent domain.
- Establishes the character lands within the NRA must exhibit in order to be acquired (shall . . . contain important biological, cultural, historic, or recreational value).

SECTION 1.5: WATER RIGHTS; WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES; PUBLIC ROADS; UTILITY FACILITIES

- Established extensive protections for water, including NO EFFECT on water rights, water resource facilities, flood control, utility facilities and rights of way, and public roads and transit.

SECTION 1.6: SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Establishes a 21-member public advisory council and its administrative terms.
- Defines the duties of the council as advising the Secretaries on the development and implementation of the management plan, and the visitor services plan.
- Defines the membership of the council as: environmental, recreational, community, business, Native American tribes, homeowners, water rights, energy and mineral, owners of federal grazing permits, archaeological, environmental educators, cultural history, environmental justice, electrical utility and the greater public.

SECTION 1.7: SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA PARTNERSHIP

- Establishes a 21-member management partnership and its administrative terms.
- Defines the duties of the partnership as making recommendations to the Secretaries on the development and implementation of the management plan, and the visitor services plan; reviewing and helping implement the visitor service plan; assist local governments, regional planning organizations, and nonprofits in carrying out the purposes of the NRA.
- Defines the membership of the partnership as: 1 designee from the Forest Service, 1 from the Park Service, 1 from the Army Corps of Engineers, 1 from the State of California, 1 from the LA County Board of Supervisors, 1 from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, 1 from the Puente Hill Habitat Authority, 4 from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, 1 from the San Bernardino Associated Governments, 1 from the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, 1 from LA County Flood Control, 1 from the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, 1 from the Central Basin Water Association, 1 from the Six Basins Watermaster, 1 from a public utility company, 1 from the Watershed Conservation Authority, 1 from the public advisory council and 1 from the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative.
- Establishes the authorities of the partnership.
- Mandates that the partnership will establish a Water Technical Advisory Committee and a Public Safety Advisory Committee.

SECTION 1.8: ACCESS AND VISITOR SERVICES

- Establishes the purposes of the visitor services plan to increased interpretation, education, resource protection, and enforcement in the NRA.
- Defines the content of the plan. It shall assess current and anticipated visitation to the recreation area, demand for different types of recreation, impact of recreation on natural resources, infrastructure, water, and nearby residents, and the current level of access to interpretive/educational services.
- Mandates an access study to look at how most people access various locations within the recreation area, and include recommendations for improving accessibility to the recreation area and between the National Forest System and the San Gabriel River.
- Restates the prohibition of land acquisition through eminent domain.
- Mandates coordination between the Secretaries and provides for technical assistance to public agencies, private landowners, and organizations by the Park Service.

TITLE II

SECTION 2.1: BOUNDARY MODIFICATION OF SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

- Modifies the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include 109,143 acres of National Forest System land depicted on the map titled “San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area and National Monument Expansion Proposal” and dated October 5, 2015.
- Upon inclusion, this land will be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as part of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in accordance with all laws applicable to the existing monument.