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Subject: DCN: EST-00003251 - Support for the six California NM
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Attachments: [3251.in.pdf](#)

Tasked to OCL.



June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write in response to your May 12 letter, requesting our comments by June 9, to express strong support for the six California National Monuments as currently designated under the Antiquities Act. We attach appendix A to our letter containing some specific details about each monument. The monuments in California you are reviewing pursuant to Executive Order 13792 are:

- Mojave Trails
- Sand to Snow
- Berryessa Snow Mountain
- San Gabriel Mountains
- Carrizo Plain
- Giant Sequoia

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We firmly believe these six monument designations fall well within the scope and purpose of the Antiquities Act, which enables the President to “declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interests...” In addition, we believe the designation process for all six California National Monuments had beyond adequate public outreach and coordination. Further, public engagement continues after proclamation with “maximum public involvement” required in the development of management plans for most of these monuments.

These iconic California landscapes and historic landmarks were designated by President Trump’s predecessors in recognition of their “historic or scientific interest” to the nation and special meaning for our state. On behalf of all Californians, we urge that

these national monument designations are preserved with their present boundaries, to ensure these special places remain for generations to come.

Visitors to these six California national monuments enjoy a range of experiences, including majestic sequoias, pristine mountain air, geological formations ranging from sea level to elevation, exceptional Native American and national historical sites, and numerous other wonders to explore. Importantly, California's national monuments also safeguard natural supplies of clean drinking water for some of our nation's most populated urban areas.

Californians overwhelmingly support the conservation of their federal lands, and these six national monument designations are no exception. In fact, a poll published in advance of President Obama's 2015 Antiquities Act designation found that 75% of Californians statewide and 70% in the desert region supported establishing the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

We expect your Department's review to acknowledge that each of these six national monument designations was achieved through hard work and collaboration between federal agencies, local communities, tribes, and other stakeholder groups. In fact, all national monuments designated in California during the Obama Administration resulted from months of public dialogue including in-state public meetings, and many, such as San Gabriel Mountains, were many years in the making.

California is home to numerous examples of unique landscapes and natural areas designated as national monuments by both Republican and Democratic presidents, going back to the early 20th century. Many of California's most visited parks, including Joshua Tree National Park, were first protected by presidential order as national monuments. Without Antiquities Act designations, these breathtaking landscapes, historical sites, and natural areas would simply not exist as we know them today. Five of California's nine National parks were first protect as national monuments by presidential order. Nationwide, nearly half of the 59 current national parks were first protected as national monuments under the Antiquities Act.

These six presidentially designated national monuments also have significant positive economic impacts, particularly for rural development in communities across California. Many of California's federal land units, including our national monuments, enjoyed record-breaking attendance last year. According to a study by the Outdoor Industry Association, more than 59% of Californians participate in outdoor recreation each year, directly supporting an estimated 732,000 jobs, and generating some \$85.4 billion in consumer spending and \$6.7 billion in state and local tax revenue.

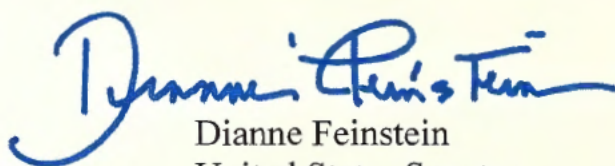
A recent study by Headwaters Economics shows the positive economic impacts of national monuments, tracking data from 2001 to 2015. The study includes two California

monuments, Carrizo Plain and Giant Sequoia, where the neighboring rural counties experienced positive economic growth and an increase in jobs, real personal income, and real per capita income for local residents. In San Luis Obispo and Kern counties, both nearby the Carrizo Plain monument designated in 2001, jobs grew by 28%. In counties neighboring the Giant Sequoia National Monument designated in 2000, jobs grew by 20%. This economic data illustrates some of the many positive impacts of these designations for individuals and local communities.

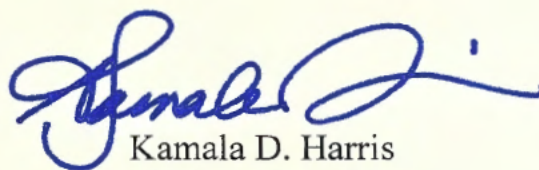
A 2015 report by the nonpartisan Sonoran Institute found that much of the economic growth in California's desert region over the past four decades was attributable to "businesses and demographic changes that benefit directly from preserving the desert." Furthermore, the Sonoran Institute report found that designating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments was likely the "highest and best economic use of those public lands" while also wholly "compatible with ongoing mining activities and...future development of critical and competitive mineral resources."

We respectfully request that your Department not recommend to the President that California's national monuments be rolled back or otherwise reduced. This would in turn jeopardize good-paying jobs in our state's tourism and outdoor recreation economies, and have negative impacts on both rural and urban communities. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss California's national monuments further. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Enclosures: Appendix A: California National Monuments under DOI Review

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Appendix A: CALIFORNIA NATIONAL MONUMENTS UNDER DOI REVIEW

The six National Monuments in California under review by the U.S. Department of the Interior protect more than 2.9 million acres of federal public:

- **Mojave Trails**
 - Designated 2016
 - 1.6 million acres
- **Sand to Snow**
 - Designated 2016
 - 154,000; acres
- **Berryessa Snow Mountain**
 - Designated 2015
 - 330,780 acres
- **San Gabriel Mountains**
 - Designated 2014
 - 346,177 acres
- **Carrizo Plain**
 - Designated 2001
 - 204,107 acres
- **Giant Sequoia**
 - Designated 2000
 - 327,769 acres

MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 1.6 million acres of pristine California desert and Home to iconic and rare plants and wildlife like the endangered and threatened bighorn sheep and desert tortoise providing some of the best habitat and dispersal corridors.
- Encompasses historic World War II-era training camps and the longest-remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66.
- Public meeting held on October 13, 2015, with more than 1,000 people estimated in attendance
- Designated by President Obama on February 12, 2016, subject to valid existing rights
- Invaluable scientific study site for a range of fields including geologists, ecologists, archaeologists, historians, volcanologists, and astronomers
- Contains fossil fauna assemblages from Miocene and historic human sites from 10,000 years ago up to present, including old Spanish Trail, a National Historic Trail
- Managed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with input from Desert Advisory Council comprised of citizens that provide input and advice into the management of over 11 million acres of public land throughout the southern California desert

SAND TO SNOW NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 154,000 acres ranging from craggy mountains, including the highest peak in southern California, to the floor of the Sonoran Desert
- Approximately 1,700 Native American petroglyphs
- Historical asset of national culture and history from 17th century Spanish missionaries to Native American tribes, mining and ranching camps, and scientific study for archaeologists, geologists, and biologists, and seismologists
- 30 miles of the renowned Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Refuge for diverse range of species including 240 species of birds, and 14 federally listed plant species, and 12 federally listed endangered or threatened animal species
- Public meeting held on October 13, 2015, with more than 1,000 people estimated in attendance
- Designated by President Obama on February 12, 2016 subject to valid existing rights

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 330,780 acres, rising from near sea level to over 7,000 feet at elevation
- Invaluable scientific study site for a range of fields including geologists, ecologists, archaeologists, historians, and seismologists
- Provides vital habitat and migration corridors for hundreds of rare plant and animal species
- Includes Cache Creek, a California Wild and Scenic River, which provides habitat for one of the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in California
- A biodiversity hotspot spanning nearly 100 miles at different ranges
- Important area for ranching, and recreational opportunities, including, hunting, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding
- Public meeting held on December 19, 2014, with then-Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie and Congressmen Mike Thompson and John Garamendi.
- Designated by President Obama on July 10, 2015 subject to valid existing rights

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 346,177 acres of nature easily accessible to the public, including hundreds of miles of hiking, motorized, equestrian trails, including National Recreational Trails and 87 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Utilized by world-class scientists, including astronomer Edward Hubble and America's first Nobel Prize winner in a science field, Albert Michelson
- More than 15 million people live within 90 minutes of the San Gabriel Mountains, providing 70% of the open space and 30% of drinking water for Los Angeles residents, one of the nation's most populace urban areas
- Public meeting held on August 26, 2014, with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Governing Board adopted Resolution in support of the San Gabriel Mountains maintaining its National Monument designation as it is currently configured on May 18, 2017 and submitted the resolution to Secretary Zinke
- The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative currently has 40 members from a broad range of interests that work together with the Forest Service in the management of this monument
- Designated by President Obama on October 10, 2014

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 204,107 acres of valleys cut by the San Andreas Fault
- Home to the recent wildflower “Super Bloom” in California’s South Coast grasslands
- Supports pronghorn antelope, the California condor, Tule elk, and many rare species not found elsewhere
- Fossil assemblages, including the Caliente Formation, contains remains of the Miocene Epoch dating back 13 to 25 million years and human history in the area dates from 11,000 to 9,000 B.C.
- Invaluable scientific study site for a range of fields including geologists, ecologists, archaeologists, historians
- Recent economic study shows that since designation (between 2001 and 2015), neighboring rural communities enjoyed economic and job growth
- Designated by President Clinton on January 17, 2001

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT



- 327,769 acres including 33 groves of giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), the world's largest tree species
- Varying elevations within short distances create multiple biodiverse habitats and climatic zones within small areas, home to rare plant and animal species endemic to the Southern Sierra Nevada
- Giant sequoias are only found within a narrow 60-mile band on the western slopes of California's Sierra Nevada mountain range, part of the area protected by this monument
- Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have lived and are among the world's longest-lived trees, reaching ages of 3,200 years or more
- Giant sequoias provide unique ecological functions, e.g. are only known trees large enough to provide nesting cavities for the California condor
- Between 2001 and 2015, recent economic study shows, neighboring counties experienced job growth by 20%
- Designated by President Clinton on April 15, 2000