

From: Amanda Kaster
To: randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Executive Order 13792 - Comment Letter - San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 3:13:41 PM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[07_10_17_SGM_Monument_Comment_Letter.pdf](#)

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Desai, Sonali" <Sonali.Desai@mail.house.gov>
Date: July 10, 2017 at 4:07:22 PM EDT
To: "'amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov'" <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Soto, Rudy" <Rudy.Soto@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Executive Order 13792 - Comment Letter - San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Amanda,

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Please find attached a letter from 12 Members of Congress representing the Los Angeles area in support of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

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Could you confirm receipt of this e-mail?

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Thank you for your assistance.

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Sonali Desai
Legislative Director
Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27)
2423 Rayburn HOB
(202) 225-5464
<http://chu.house.gov/>

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We write to express our strong support for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument as you conduct your review process of certain national monuments pursuant to Executive Order 13792. We believe this monument embodies the intended purpose of the Antiquities Act - to protect special natural, historical and cultural areas. We urge you to preserve this designation and ensure this monument is available to enjoy for generations to come.

The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument provides access to critical natural resources and opportunities for recreation for Southern California. The Los Angeles metropolitan area is one of the most park poor areas in the country. Located within a 90 minute drive of more than 15 million Americans, the San Gabriel Mountains comprise 70 percent of all open space and 30 percent of all drinking water for Angelenos. This proximity to one of the country's most populous urban areas makes San Gabriel Mountains one of the most heavily trafficked national forests. The Mountains attract millions of visitors each year for activities such as hiking, camping, off-road driving, fishing, bird watching, scientific research and more.

The San Gabriel Mountains also encompass cultural and scientific landmarks. These attractions include historic cultural sites that catalogue the layers of American history beginning with the Native Americans and Spanish missionaries, up to the early discovery of gold in the small mining town of Eldoradoville. Important scientific landmarks include the Mount Wilson Observatory, where researchers gathered early evidence of the Big Bang Theory, and the San Dimas Experimental Forest, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument resulted from over 10 years of intense public engagement and community input. Because of public demand for more resources for maintenance and preservation, in 2003 Congress authorized a ten year special resource study of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains. The National Park Service

subsequently completed this study in 2013 and identified the national significance of the Mountains for their biodiversity, dynamic river systems and the long history of scientific study and discovery. The study also called for additional protections. After one year of intense stakeholder engagement and numerous public meetings, this study led to a legislative proposal to preserve the San Gabriel Mountains as a National Recreation Area (NRA).

After this legislative effort stalled in Congress, Members of Congress and the local community turned to the Obama administration for help. Specific to the National Monument designation, the public submitted thousands of comment letters, and the administration hosted a standing room only public hearing with over five hundred community participants. Using the NRA legislation as a platform, President Barack Obama then designated the San Gabriel Mountains as a National Monument in 2014.

Since this designation, more than 40 stakeholders representing environmental groups, local businesses, water districts, utilities, and more formed the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative to improve community engagement with the Forest Service as the Monument's management plan is finalized. In addition, the Monument has raised over 4 million dollars in private philanthropy and received 6.5 million dollars in federal support for cleanup, trail maintenance, improved visitor services, and other new initiatives.

We also write to express concern with the thoroughness of the review process initiated by the President's Executive Order. A credible review should include public meetings and engagement with the communities, businesses, and local governments that benefit from monument designation. The 120-day review period of all national monuments is inadequate to conduct a thorough review. In addition, we assert that the constitutional authority to revoke or shrink monuments lies with the Congress, and not with the Executive. While Congress has delegated significant federal land management responsibilities to the Executive through the Antiquities Act, we maintain that Congress has not yielded the authority to significantly diminish or abolish existing national monuments.

The San Gabriel Mountains are a national treasure worthy of protection. This designation came after years of public engagement and should remain for future generations to come. We respectfully request that your Department not recommend to the President to reduce or revoke the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



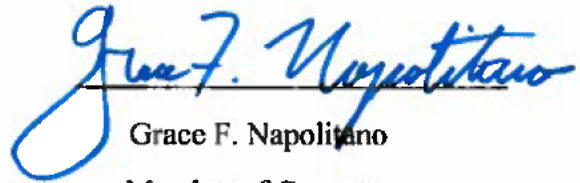
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



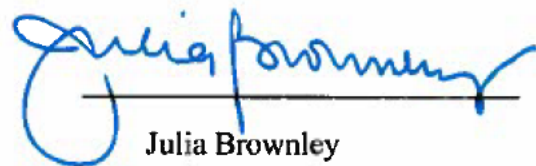
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress



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