

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is in the interest and benefit of the people of the City of Los Angeles to permanently protect and enhance our local mountains, rivers and parks with access for all; and

WHEREAS, over 18 million people live within a 90-mile radius of the San Gabriel Mountains, and permanently protecting these lands will help to increase equitable access to nature and improve public health for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Mountains include a rich and diverse cultural heritage of the original stewards of these sacred lands — the Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Gabrieleño (also known as Kizh, Gabrielino and Tongva) Peoples; and

WHEREAS, permanent protections of the San Gabriel Mountains would help to protect the upper Los Angeles River watershed, which provides one-third of the Los Angeles County's drinking water, and is an important water source for our region; and

WHEREAS, permanent protections would benefit our community, including those historically marginalized to care for the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers; and

WHEREAS, these lands are the backyard for many urban and culturally diverse communities that have limited access to green spaces in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, lack of access to nature has negative health implications and is linked to higher rates of obesity and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, having nearby open space and wild areas preserved for the protection of our region's air quality, water supply and water quality will also provide for outdoor education and vast recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, permanent protections would enhance educational and interpretive opportunities so that kids—and everyone—can learn more about the native plants and animals as well as forest stewardship; and

WHEREAS, permanent protections could facilitate planning for and funding of innovative outreach programs to schools and youth organizations to help get kids outdoors and to help students learn about green jobs and vocational career opportunities available with the Forest Service, National Park Service, and other organizations; and

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WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Mountains are an interconnected landscape and refuge for native plants and wildlife, and permanent protections would safeguard wildlife corridors and habitat for species such as black bears, mountain lions, coyotes, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and the Arroyo toad; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act, and Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act was simultaneously introduced on May 25, 2023 by Congresswoman Chu and Senator Padilla; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument through the addition of 109,167 acres of the Angeles National Forest; and

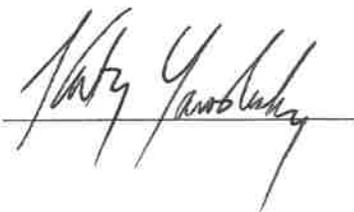
WHEREAS, the legislation would expand Wilderness area designations within the San Gabriel Mountains by 30,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would designate 45.5 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains; and

WHEREAS given the cultural, historical and scientific value of the expansion area, Senator Alex Padilla and Congresswoman Chu have requested President Joe Biden to use the Antiquities Act to expand the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the permanent protections of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers with federal designations and/or the use of Presidential authority under the Antiquities Act, that enhance health, air quality, water supply and water quality, recreational opportunities, and the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY: 
NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

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