

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: June 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 21-0002-S120
Assignment No: 21-05-0413

SUBJECT: Resolution to support S. 1459

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Lee – Koretz – O’Farrell) to include in the City’s 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for S. 1459 (Padilla), the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, which would protect California's iconic landscapes, provide critical access to open space for communities, support California's outdoor recreation economy, and fight the climate crisis.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Lee – Koretz – O’Farrell), introduced on May 18, 2021, notes that despite the proximity to natural lands, many people in Los Angeles lack adequate access to open spaces for recreational opportunities.

S. 1459 (Padilla), known as the PUBLIC Lands Act, would increase protections for over one million acres of federal public lands throughout Northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles, including nearly 600,000 acres of new wilderness, more than 583 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and the expansion of an existing national monument by more than 100,000 acres. The legislation is designed to improve wildfire resiliency in Northwest California, provide lasting protections for California's biodiversity, protect tribal cultural sites, and increase equitable access to public lands by increasing recreational opportunities for the 17 million people living in the Los Angeles region.

BACKGROUND

The PUBLIC Lands Act includes three main components: the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act; the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act; and the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act.

The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act would protect approximately 262,000 acres of public lands as wilderness, designate 379 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, require management plans for 101 miles of wild and scenic rivers, restore forests and fish habitat, and help cleanup lands and waters impacted by trespass marijuana grows. S. 1459 would also increase wildfire resiliency in northwest California by requiring federal agencies to develop coordinated fire management plans with input from local communities.

The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act would designate approximately 288,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness, about 159 miles of streams as wild and scenic rivers, and two national scenic areas totaling approximately 34,880 acres. It would establish a 400-mile long Condor National Scenic Trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County, which would enhance equitable access to the Los Padres National Forest and benefit local economies. It designates three new wilderness areas in the Carrizo Plain National Monument and one new wilderness area, and expands eight existing wilderness areas in the Los Padres National Forest.

The San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by over 109,000 acres to include the western Angeles National Forest; and establish a National Recreation Area along the San Gabriel Valley foothills and the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River corridors. S. 1459 would designate over 30,000 acres as wilderness and over 45 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the San Gabriel range.

BILL STATUS

04/29/21 Introduced.



Tristan Noack
Analyst

SMT:tcjn
Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, despite the proximity to natural lands, many people in Los Angeles lack adequate access to open spaces for recreational opportunities; and

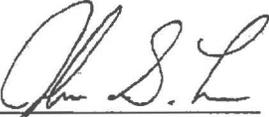
WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a bill, S. 1459 (Padilla), the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, which would increase protections for over 1 million acres of federal public lands throughout Northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles, including nearly 600,000 acres of new wilderness, more than 583 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and the expansion of an existing national monument by more than 100,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the PUBLIC Lands Act is guided by input from local communities and the scientific community, and advances the goal of conserving 30% of public lands and waters by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the PUBLIC Lands Act is an amalgamation of legislation designed to improve wildfire resiliency in Northwest California, provide lasting protections for California's biodiversity, protect tribal cultural sites, and increase equitable access to public lands by increasing recreational opportunities for the 17 million people living in the Los Angeles region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has repeatedly shown support for legislation designed to protect public lands and increase access to open spaces;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for S. 1459 (Padilla), the PUBLIC Lands Act, which would protect California's iconic landscapes, provide critical access to open space for communities, support California's outdoor recreation economy, and fight the climate crisis.

PRESENTED BY: 
JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

MAY 18 2021

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