

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4871

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. BASS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. HAHN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Santa Monica Moun-
5 tains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment
6 Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESOURCE STUDY OF THE LOS ANGELES COASTAL**
2 **AREA, CALIFORNIA.**

3 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Inte-
4 rior shall conduct a special resource study of the lands,
5 waters, and interests of the study area to evaluate a range
6 of alternatives for protecting resources of the study area,
7 including—

8 (1) expanding the Santa Monica Mountains
9 Recreation Area and redesignating the area as the
10 “Santa Monica Mountains and Coastal Recreation
11 Area”; or

12 (2) creating a new coastal recreation area des-
13 igned as “Los Angeles Coastal Recreation Area”.

14 (b) **STUDY TOPICS.**—In conducting the study, the
15 Secretary shall evaluate alternatives that accomplish, to
16 the extent practicable, the following objectives:

17 (1) Preserving and restoring beaches, coastal
18 uplands, and waterways.

19 (2) Connecting, coordinating, and preserving
20 State, county, and local government parks and other
21 publicly owned lands to enhance the potential for
22 public recreation use.

23 (3) Developing and protecting historic sites, sig-
24 nificant landscapes, districts, sites, structures, and
25 recreation areas in connection therewith, including

1 parks, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, hiking trails,
2 bicycle trails and equestrian trails.

3 (4) Creating open spaces for parks and rec-
4 reational use along the coastline adjoining the
5 Ballona Wetlands, in the City of Santa Monica, ad-
6 jacent to and along State and county beaches of Los
7 Angeles along the north Santa Monica Bay down
8 through Dockweiler State Beach up and around the
9 Ballona Creek and Wetlands, Baldwin Hills, and
10 along the coastline in the San Pedro section of the
11 City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los An-
12 geles north of Crescent Avenue.

13 (5) Protecting wildlife populations in the des-
14 ignated area by preserving and restoring the Ballona
15 Creek and Wetlands.

16 (6) Establishing connections along the trail sys-
17 tems in the designated areas with the aim of cre-
18 ating or maintaining single contiguous trails along
19 the Santa Monica Bay coastline and through
20 Ballona Creek into the Baldwin Hills and encom-
21 passing major feeder trails connecting adjoining
22 communities and regional transit to the trail system.

23 (7) Preserving recreational opportunities and
24 facilitating access to open space for a variety of rec-
25 reational users.

1 (8) Protecting rare, threatened, or endangered
2 plant and animal species, and rare or unusual plant
3 communities and habitats.

4 (c) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—The study shall include an
5 analysis of—

6 (1) the impact that establishment of all or a
7 portion of the Ballona Creek and Wetlands, Baldwin
8 Hills, and the San Pedro coastline as a unit of the
9 Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
10 is likely to have on—

11 (A) land within or bordering the area that
12 is privately owned at the time the study is con-
13 ducted; and

14 (B) leaseholders of publicly owned, devel-
15 oped lands; and

16 (2) the concerns of private landowners within
17 the existing boundaries of the Santa Monica Moun-
18 tains National Recreation Area.

19 (d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall conduct
20 the study in consultation with the appropriate Federal,
21 State, county and local government departments and enti-
22 ties, elected officials, community groups and nonprofits,
23 including those that serve the following areas:

24 (1) North Santa Monica Bay Coastline: City of
25 Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles, City of Los

1 Angeles communities of Pacific Palisades, Brent-
2 wood, and Venice.

3 (2) Ballona Creek, Wetlands, and central Santa
4 Monica Bay: City of Culver City, County of Los An-
5 geles Marina Del Rey community, City of Los Ange-
6 les communities of Palms, Playa Vista, Del Rey,
7 Palms, and Westchester.

8 (3) Baldwin Hills and Ballona Creek head-
9 waters: County of Los Angeles communities of Bald-
10 win Hills, Windsor Hills and Ladera Heights, and
11 City of Los Angeles communities of View Park, and
12 Faircrest Heights.

13 (4) Santa Monica Bay Coastline South: City of
14 El Segundo, City of Manhattan Beach, City of
15 Hermosa Beach, City of Redondo Beach, and City
16 of Torrance.

17 (5) Port of Los Angeles: City of Los Angeles,
18 community of City of Los Angeles, community of
19 San Pedro.

20 (e) STUDY CRITERIA.—In addition to the special con-
21 siderations specified in this section, the Secretary shall
22 conduct the study in accordance with section 100507 of
23 title 54, United States Code.

24 (f) TRANSMISSION OF STUDY.—Not later than 3
25 years after funds are first made available for the study,

1 the Secretary shall transmit a report containing the re-
2 sults of the study to the Committee on Natural Resources
3 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
4 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

6 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (2) STUDY.—The term “study” means the
9 study required by subsection (a)

10 (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
11 means the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa
12 Monica Bay from the City of Santa Monica from
13 Will Rodgers Beach to Rat Beach, including the
14 areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin
15 Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los
16 Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of
17 Crescent Avenue.

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