

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1769

To adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2021

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, 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 “Rim of the Valley Cor-
5 ridor Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Santa Monica Mountains National
2 Recreation Area was authorized as a unit of the Na-
3 tional Park System on November 10, 1978;

4 (2) the Santa Monica Mountains and the Rim
5 of the Valley Corridor include—

6 (A) nationally significant resources, includ-
7 ing—

8 (i) outstanding examples of geologic
9 history, including the evolution of the
10 Transverse Ranges Province;

11 (ii) a diversity of well-preserved ma-
12 rine and terrestrial paleontological re-
13 sources; and

14 (iii) high biodiversity, including out-
15 standing examples of native grasslands,
16 coastal sage scrub, chaparral, dry conif-
17 erous forests, and alluvian fan sage scrub;
18 and

19 (B) nationally significant cultural re-
20 sources that represent a wide range of themes
21 relating to human use and settlement in the re-
22 gion, including—

23 (i) high concentrations of archeo-
24 logical resources that provide insight into

1 more than 10,000 years of Tribal history;
 2 and

3 (ii) landmarks that represent topics
 4 such as architecture, recreation, and space
 5 exploration; and

6 (3) expanding the Santa Monica Mountains Na-
 7 tional Recreation Area would provide new opportuni-
 8 ties for the National Park Service to serve a broad
 9 range of urban communities, including many com-
 10 munities that are—

11 (A) underrepresented in units of the Na-
 12 tional Park System; and

13 (B) underserved by State and local parks.

14 **SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; LAND ACQUISITION; AD-**
 15 **MINISTRATION.**

16 (a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Section 507(c)(1) of
 17 the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16
 18 U.S.C. 460kk(c)(1)) is amended, in the first sentence, by
 19 striking “‘Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation
 20 Area and Santa Monica Mountains Zone, California,
 21 Boundary Map’, numbered 80,047–C and dated August
 22 2001” and inserting “‘Rim of the Valley Unit—Santa
 23 Monica Mountains National Recreation Area’ and dated
 24 October 2017”.

1 (b) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—Section 507 of the
 2 National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
 3 460kk) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(u) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—

5 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6 “(A) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the
 7 State of California.

8 “(B) UNIT.—The term ‘Unit’ means the
 9 Rim of the Valley Unit included within the
 10 boundaries of the recreation area, as depicted
 11 on the map described in subsection (c)(1).

12 “(C) UTILITY FACILITY.—The term ‘utility
 13 facility’ means—

14 “(i) electric substations, communica-
 15 tion facilities, towers, poles, and lines;

16 “(ii) ground wires;

17 “(iii) communications circuits;

18 “(iv) other utility structures; and

19 “(v) related infrastructure.

20 “(D) WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.—The
 21 term ‘water resource facility’ means—

22 “(i) irrigation and pumping facilities;

23 “(ii) dams and reservoirs;

24 “(iii) flood control facilities;

1 “(iv) water conservation works, in-
 2 cluding debris protection facilities, sedi-
 3 ment placement sites, rain gauges, and
 4 stream gauges;

5 “(v) water quality, recycled water, and
 6 pumping facilities;

7 “(vi) conveyance distribution systems;

8 “(vii) water treatment facilities;

9 “(viii) aqueducts;

10 “(ix) canals;

11 “(x) ditches;

12 “(xi) pipelines;

13 “(xii) wells;

14 “(xiii) hydropower projects;

15 “(xiv) transmission facilities; and

16 “(xv) other ancillary facilities, ground-
 17 water recharge facilities, water conserva-
 18 tion, water filtration plants, and other
 19 water diversion, conservation, groundwater
 20 recharge, storage, and carriage structures.

21 “(2) BOUNDARIES.—Not later than 3 years
 22 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
 23 Secretary shall update the general management plan
 24 for the recreation area developed under subsection
 25 (t) to reflect the boundaries designated on the map

referred to in subsection (c)(1) to include the area known as the ‘Rim of the Valley Unit’.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Unit and any land or interest in land acquired by the United States located within the boundaries of the Unit—

“(A) as part of the recreation area; and

“(B) in accordance with—

“(i) this section; and

“(ii) applicable laws (including regulations).

“(4) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire non-Federal land within the boundaries of the Unit only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

“(B) USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Unit.

“(5) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that certain activities or land uses can be seen or heard from within the Unit shall not preclude the activities or land uses outside the boundary of the Unit.

1 “(6) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this
2 subsection or the application of the applicable man-
3 agement plan to the Unit—

4 “(A) modifies any provision of Federal,
5 State, or local law with respect to public access
6 to, or use of, non-Federal land;

7 “(B) creates any liability, or affects any li-
8 ability under any other law, of any private
9 property owner or other owner of non-Federal
10 land with respect to any person injured on pri-
11 vate property or other non- Federal land;

12 “(C) affects the ownership, management,
13 or other rights relating to any non-Federal land
14 (including any interest in any non-Federal
15 land);

16 “(D) requires any unit of local government
17 to participate in any program administered by
18 the Secretary;

19 “(E) alters, modifies, or diminishes any
20 right, responsibility, power, authority, jurisdic-
21 tion, or entitlement of the State, any political
22 subdivision of the State, or any State or local
23 agency under existing Federal, State, or local
24 law (including regulations);

1 “(F) requires the creation of protective pe-
2 rimeters or buffer zones around the Unit;

3 “(G) requires or promotes the use of, or
4 encourages trespass on, land, facilities, or
5 rights-of-way owned by non-Federal entities, in-
6 cluding water resource facilities and public utili-
7 ties, without the written consent of the owner
8 of the land;

9 “(H) affects the operation, maintenance,
10 modification, construction, or expansion of any
11 water resource facility or utility facility located
12 within or adjacent to the Unit;

13 “(I) terminates the fee title to land, or the
14 customary operation, maintenance, repair, and
15 replacement activities on or under the land,
16 granted to public agencies that are authorized
17 under Federal or State law;

18 “(J) interferes with, obstructs, hinders, or
19 delays the exercise of any right to, or access to
20 any water resource facility or other facility or
21 property necessary or useful to access any
22 water right to operate any public water or util-
23 ity system; or

24 “(K) requires initiation or reinitiation of
25 consultation with the Director of the United

1 States Fish and Wildlife Service under, or the
2 application of provisions of, the Endangered
3 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),
4 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
5 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), or division A of sub-
6 title III of title 54, United States Code, relating
7 to any action or activity affecting water, water
8 rights, water management, or water resource
9 facilities within the Unit.

10 “(7) UTILITY FACILITIES; WATER RESOURCE
11 FACILITIES.—A utility facility or water resource fa-
12 cility shall conduct activities in a manner that rea-
13 sonably avoids or reduces the impact of the activities
14 on the resources of the Unit.”.

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