H.R. 4871

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT STUDY ACT

FACT SHEET

SPONSORS: Lieu (Co-sponsors Waters, Bass, Hahn, Schiff)

SUMMARY

H.R. 4871 authorizes a 3 year study on the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (or creating a new National Recreation Area) to include all of the beaches of the Santa Monica Bay (adding beaches from Venice to Torrance), as well as adding the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hills and San Pedro coastline. This would include the first National Park Service presence in South Los Angeles and connects the entire Santa Monica Bay from Point Mugu to Rat Beach in Torrance.

WHAT DOES A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA DO?

National Recreation Areas are a unit of the National Park Service that offers, coordinates and provides scientific research and infrastructure support to local entities and federal land holdings to encourage conservation, preservation and recreational use of open space and historic buildings.

DOES THIS AFFECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS OR CREATE UNFUNDED MANDATES ON STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

No. Unlike National Monuments, National Historic Sites or National Parks, National Recreation Areas do not exert control nor do they force private property owners or state/local governments to do anything. They merely make resources available to entities to encourage conservation, preservation, expansion and recreational use of open space and historic buildings.

HOW DOES THE SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY WORK?

Once authorized by Congress, the National Park Service will conduct a three year study in accordance with statutory criteria, including 54 U.S.C. §100507, and consult with state and local government, community groups, nonprofits and residents to determine applicability and borders, if the criteria is met. Recommended borders tend to exclude residential areas, commercial areas and areas currently being used for oil or mineral exploitation.

WHERE IS THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) is part of the Mediterranean Coast Network . It comprises most of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. The SMMNRA stretches across parts of Ventura and Los Angeles counties and spans more than 150,000 acres, making it the world's largest urban national park. The recently released Rim of the Valley Plan Study recommends adding an additional 170,000 acres connecting federal, state and local open space connecting the mountains to the Hollywood Hills and hills surrounding the San Fernando Valley.

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WHAT COMMUNITIES WILL BE CONSULTED UNDER H.R. 4871?



SANTA MONICA BAY NORTH: Santa Monica, Los Angeles (Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Venice)

BALLONA: Culver City, Marina Del Rey, Los Angeles (Palms, Playa Vista, Palms, Del Rey, Westchester)

BALDWIN HILLS: Los Angeles County (Baldwin Hills, Ladera Heights, Windsor Hills), Los Angeles (View Park and Faircrest Heights)

SANTA MONICA BAY SOUTH: El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance)

PORT OF LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles (San Pedro)

