

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2011

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3112
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

Thank you for the tremendous work accomplished by the National Park Service (NPS) on the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study, including the release of a draft report on October 17th. We commend NPS for acknowledging the significant natural, cultural, historic and scientific resources of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains, and for recognizing the area as suitable for designation as a unit of the national park system. We write in support of Alternative D as the preferred alternative for managing the resources of this area, which incorporates the feedback previously received from local stakeholders.

In 2009, NPS released three proposed alternatives for the management of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains. At the request of San Gabriel Valley communities, we wrote to you encouraging that NPS combine elements of all three alternatives into a new proposal that involved:

- The creation of a National Recreation Area including lands within the Angeles National Forest;
- The establishment of an extended network of parks and open spaces among the San Gabriel Valley communities based on voluntary participation and local, grassroots interests; and
- A leadership role for NPS in managing resources, providing educational and interpretive services, and forming strategic partnerships with the Angeles National Forest and local jurisdictional entities.


We are pleased to see that NPS' draft report reflects these priorities through the addition of Alternative D. This new proposal calls for the creation of a San Gabriel Region National Recreation Area to provide high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities in the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills and portions of the San Gabriel River watershed. We believe this proposal is important to fulfilling the priorities expressed by the communities in the San Gabriel Valley.

We appreciate NPS' recent efforts to hold public meetings in five local communities in the study region, allowing hundreds of constituents to provide input on the revised proposals. It is our understanding that public comments received at NPS' five public meetings have been predominately in favor of a "National Recreation Area" designation and Alternative D in particular.


With over 15 million people living within a 90-minute drive of the San Gabriel Mountains, demand for new and enhanced recreational space continues to grow. NPS' latest proposal to create a National Recreation Area will enhance public access to the outdoors, preserve the local environment and support the local tourism economy. It will also have broad benefits for the local community, such as providing resources to support healthy lifestyles and new green job opportunities for local youth and returning veterans.

Thank you again for incorporating the vision of a National Recreation Area into the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study. We are pleased to hear of the public's favorable response to Alternative D, and we urge you to continue developing this particular proposal as you complete your final recommendation. We continue to look forward to working with the National Park Service as the study is finalized.


Sincerely,



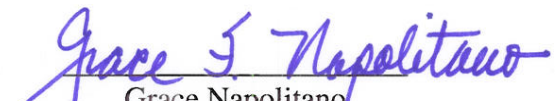
Judy Chu, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



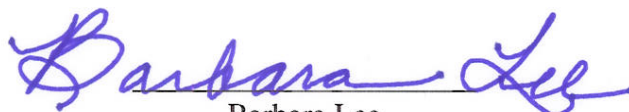
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



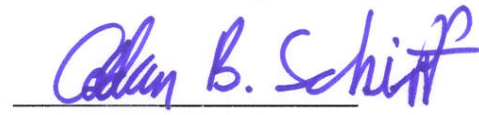
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



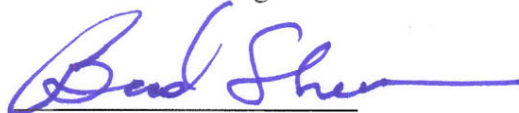
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



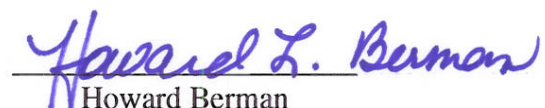
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




Adam Schiff
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Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress

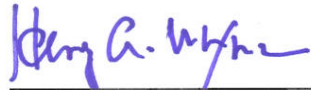



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

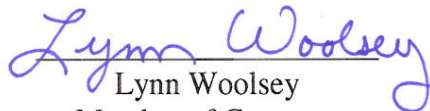



Karen Bass
Member of Congress

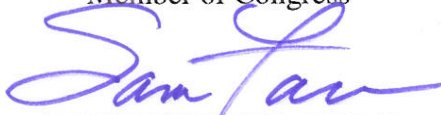

Zoe Lofgren
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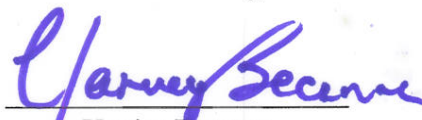

Henry Waxman
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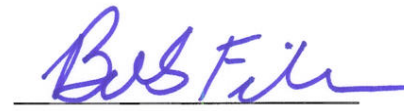

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

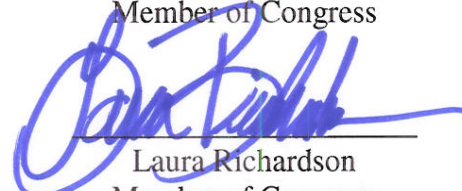

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

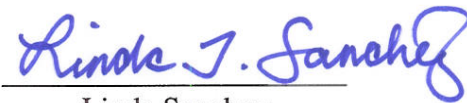

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

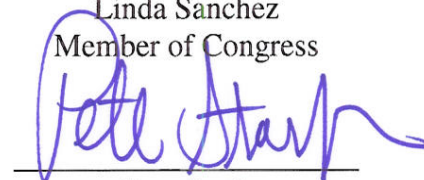

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

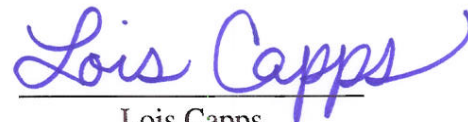

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

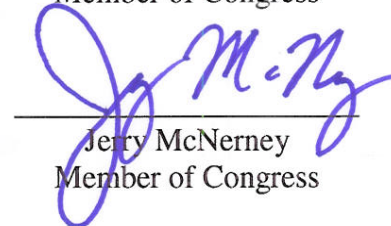

Bob Filner
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Laura Richardson
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Linda Sanchez
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Pete Stark
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Lois Capps
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