

From: Angela Miramontes <Angela@AmigosdelosRios.org>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 3:30 PM
To: SCC Public Comment
Cc: Claire Robinson; Sari Stricke; Angela Miramontes
Subject: Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan 2023-2027 - PUBLIC Lands Act

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Dear Coastal Conservancy,

My name is Angela Miramontes, and I am a Community Outreach / Volunteer Coordinator for [Amigos de los Rios](#). We are a nonprofit based in Altadena, CA that has worked for over 20 years to create a natural infrastructure network of green spaces, green schools, parks and trails in underserved communities throughout the LA Basin. We understand the importance of correcting the inequities that underserved communities have faced when trying to access and advocate for green spaces. Our goal is to address the climate crisis by expanding parks in park poor neighborhoods, restore and enhance natural habitats in urban areas, and create a resilient network of environmental organizations that work together to accomplish these goals, not only in the San Gabriel Valley but in California, at large.

In that spirit, Amigos de los Rios, as a member of the [Nature For All](#) Coalition, is actively taking part in a coordinated, statewide campaign to support CA Senator Alex Padilla's ***Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act***. The [PUBLIC Lands Act](#) would protect California's iconic landscapes, provide access to open space, support California's lucrative outdoor recreation economy, and help to mitigate the climate crisis.

We are reaching out to organizations, businesses and leaders in the San Gabriel Valley community and beyond to sign a letter in support of this bill that would expand protections by over 1 million acres of federal public lands throughout Northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles:

- Protection of 600,000 acres of new wilderness areas
- 583+ miles of new [Wild and Scenic Rivers](#) designations
- expansion of an existing national monument by more than 100,000 acres



San Gabriel Mountain National Monument (Angeles National Forest & San Bernardino National Forest)

The San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (Title III of the bill), would increase access and recreational opportunities for the 17 million people living in the Los Angeles area:

- Expand the [San Gabriel Mountains National Monument](#) by over 109,000 acres to include the western section of the Angeles National Forest
- Establish a National Recreation Area along the San Gabriel Valley foothills and the [Rio Hondo](#) and [San Gabriel River](#) corridors
- Designate over 30,000 acres as wilderness and over 45 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the San Gabriel Mountain range

The PUBLIC Lands Act includes protections that have already passed the House. To see movement in the Senate, we must show California's stakeholders' overwhelming support for the PUBLIC Lands Act!



[Black Butte River](#) (Mendocino National Forest), a proposed addition to the Northwest California Wilderness and Recreation and Working Forests Act



[Carrizo Plain National Monument](#) (San Luis Obispo County)

By signing this letter of support, you join the call to urge the U.S. Senate to support the PUBLIC Lands Act and invest in our state's future:

CLIMATE CHANGE: The PUBLIC Lands Act intends to reduce wildfire risk, protect public lands from polluting extractive industries, increase carbon sequestration, protect biodiversity and preserve wildlife corridors.

EQUITY OF ACCESS: The PUBLIC Lands Act plans to expand protections for public lands and rivers near communities that experience barriers to access such as limited transportation, lack of protections for nearby lands, and fewer resources for park maintenance.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the importance of protecting lands that contribute to improved air quality and recreational opportunities to benefit physical, mental, and emotional health.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY: In 2019, California's outdoor recreation economy generated \$57.4 billion and over 575,000 jobs. The PUBLIC Lands Act aims to attract investments in communities across the state. This legislation will also increase immediate environmental stewardship jobs.

[PLEASE SIGN OUR JOINT LETTER TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC LANDS ACT](#)

If you would like to extend your personal support then [PLEASE SIGN OUR LETTER TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC LANDS ACT](#) here!

Please contact me for more information, or visit us at www.ProtectCAPublicLands.org. Your support for the PUBLIC Lands Act, as a part of the Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan, is pivotal in expanding conservation in California by honoring the 30x30 Initiatives set by Governor Newsom. Together, we can help safeguard California's natural resources and expand protections of the Santa Ana River and the Redwood Trails.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Angela Miramontes
Community Outreach / Volunteer Coordinator
Amigos de Los Rios



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