



June 30, 2017

Monument Review, MS-1530
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Docket No. DOI-2017-0002
Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996: Sand to Snow

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our more than 1.2 million members and supporters nationwide, including over 150,000 in California, we write to express our continued support for the Sand to Snow National Monument. In addition to the thousands of NPCA members and supporters who submitted comments to the Department of Interior in support of preservation of Sand to Snow during the public comment period (Docket No. DOI–2017– 0002), I write to offer our institutional support the preservation of the current monument designation, boundaries, and uses as properly established by President Obama on February 12, 2016.¹

NPCA, along with our California supporters, has a long history of advocating for what became the Sand to Snow National Monument. NPCA worked for nearly a decade with various California stakeholders to ensure the California desert—with its unique and important natural and cultural resources—gets the protection it deserves, while also allowing for diverse uses.

We have outlined in our comments the reasons why the Department of the Interior (DOI) should not recommend any changes to the Sand to Snow National Monument:

- Sand to Snow is the culmination of a long history of local and regional support. According to results from a study conducted by the Republican polling firm “Public Opinion Strategies,” an overwhelming majority of Californians (75 percent) and desert region residents (80 percent) supported establishing the Sand to Snow National Monument.²
- The California Senate and Assembly—along with a broad coalition of more than eighty business and organizations—recently reaffirmed their support of Sand to Snow as currently designated.³ Notably, not one organization registered support for reducing the current monument designation boundaries. The robust public process and ongoing support for Sand

¹ Proclamation No. 9396, 81 Fed. Reg. 32 (Feb. 18, 2016).

² See Public Opinion Strategies, Public Opinion Poll (Nov. 11, 2015) (“[V]oters both statewide and in the affected area of the state overwhelmingly support the president designating Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountain areas as National Monuments.”), <http://www.vetvoicefoundation.org/CADesertKeyFindingsMemoD1b1.pdf>

³ See Cal. Assem. Jnt. Res. 15, Federal public lands (2017-2018), http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AJR15.

to Snow shows that the concerns of State and local communities and governments were, and continue to be, accounted for in the designation process.

- Sand to Snow provides a much-needed economic benefit to the surrounding region and to small business owners in particular.
- Sand to Snow continues to permit all previously allowed activities within its boundaries.

We have also outlined in our comments the legal reason why changes to Sand to Snow exceed presidential authority:

- The president has no legal authority under the Antiquities Act to rescind or reduce the size of or materially change the management or uses of a monument. Only Congress may do so.
- Sand to Snow meets the requirements and original objectives of the Antiquities Act, including the act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

I. The President Lacks the Authority to Rescind or Reduce the Size of a National Monument.

The Executive Order directs the Secretary of Interior to report back to the president and make recommendations "for such presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order." Section 1 broadly talks about public input, economic growth, the "original objectives" of the Antiquities Act and "appropriately balanc[ing] the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities." Mr. Secretary, you explained at the time of President Trump's Executive Order that the you will be considering whether monuments should be "rescinded, resized, [or] modified." When asked if the president has the power to do so unilaterally, you said it is "untested" whether the president has the unilateral power to rescind a monument but that "it's undisputed the president has the authority to modify a monument."⁴

We urge you to re-examine his understanding of this issue. The president has no power unilaterally to rescind a national monument designation and no power to reduce or "resize" a monument or to modify its management or permitted uses. We attach a memorandum from the law firm of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer ("APKS Memo") and a law review article by four professors (the "Squillace Article"), all of whom conclude that no such power of rescission exists and no such power to make material changes exists. The only result of the current review ordered by the president, therefore, would be to make recommendations to Congress, asking that it make whatever revocations or modifications you and the president believe justified.

In summary, whether or not the president may effectuate a rescission or modification reducing the size of a monument designation or otherwise modifying it does not turn on any power granted the president by the U.S. Constitution. This issue instead concerns administration of federally owned land, and the Constitution gives that power exclusively to Congress.⁵

⁴ "Press Briefing by Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke to Review the Designations Under the Antiquities Act," Office of the Press Secretary, White House, April 25, 2017.

⁵ U.S. Const., Property Clause, Art. IV, § 3.

Thus, the president’s power—if any—unilaterally to revoke a national monument designation depends on whether Congress delegated that power to the president. The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the president to create national monuments on land owned or controlled by the federal government.⁶ The act says nothing about a president’s having the power to abolish a national monument or to reduce the size of a monument. No such power may be implied.

First, the U.S. Attorney General opined long ago that the Antiquities Act could not be interpreted to imply that a president has the power to revoke a national monument’s designation. No president has attempted to revoke such a designation since that Opinion was issued in 1938.⁷

Second, in the more than 100 years since the adoption of the Antiquities Act, Congress has adopted a comprehensive legislative scheme to govern federally owned land, into which the Antiquities Act was folded and in relation to which it must be interpreted. One of those statutes was the FLPMA, adopted in 1976.⁸

- Congress there in effect adopted the Attorney General’s interpretation that no revocation power should be read into the Antiquities Act by implication. When Congress legislates on a subject, “[C]ongress is deemed to know the executive and judicial gloss given to certain language and thus adopts the existing interpretation unless it affirmatively acts to change the meaning.”⁹ Yet in FLPMA, Congress did not “affirmatively act[] to change the meaning” of the Antiquities Act as interpreted by the Cummings Opinion. Congress therefore in effect adopted that interpretation.
- Moreover, the Supreme Court has made clear that, to harmonize different statutes, “a specific policy embodied in a later federal statute should control our construction of [a prior one], even though it had not been expressly amended.”¹⁰ This is particularly so when the later statute is a comprehensive legislative scheme.¹¹ FLPMA was the very sort of “comprehensive legislative scheme” that requires interpreting the Antiquities Act to harmonize with FLPMA. It would not be harmonious with FLPMA to read into the Antiquities Act an implied authorization for a president to revoke a prior monument’s designation because in FLPMA, one of Congress’ purposes was to reassert its own authority over federal land withdrawals and to limit to express delegations the authority of the Executive Branch in this regard. See APKS Memo at 8-14; Squillace Article at 3-5.

Moreover, as to modifying or “resizing” a monument, the president does not have the power to do in part what he cannot do in full. Some presidents modified monument designations before the FLPMA was adopted in 1976, but no modifications have been attempted since. The last occurred in 1963—thirteen-years before the FLPMA was adopted—when President Kennedy issued a Proclamation to remove certain lands from Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.¹² In FLPMA, Congress reasserted its authority over such matters. Congress made clear when it adopted that statute that it

⁶ 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a).

⁷ “Proposed Abolishment of Castle Pinckney Nat’l Monument,” 39 Op. Atty. Gen. 185 (1938)

⁸ 43 U.S.C. 1704 *et seq.*

⁹ *Bledsoe v. Palm Beach County Soil & Water Conservation Dist.*, 133 F.3d 816, 822 (11th Cir. 1998) (addressing legislative action after earlier Attorney General interpretation); *see also, to the same effect, e.g., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. v. Curran*, 456 U.S. 353, 381-82 and n.66 (1982) (considering whether rights should be implied under a statute); *Souter v. Jones*, 395 F.3d 577, 598 (6th Cir. 2005).

¹⁰ *See United States v. Romani*, 523 U.S. 517 (1998).

¹¹ *See Northwest Airlines, Inc. v. Transport Workers Union*, 451 U.S. 77, 97 (1981); *see also Hi-Lex Controls Inc. v. Blue Cross*, 2013 WL 228097 (E.D. Mich. Jan. 22, 2013) at *3.

¹² *Revising the Boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument*, Proclamation No. 3539, 28 Fed. Reg. 5407 (May 27, 1963).

was “specially reserv[ing] to the Congress *the authority to modify* and revoke withdrawals for national monuments created under the Antiquities Act.”¹³

Finally, the Executive Order asks for a review of whether the designations “appropriately balance the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities.” Should a court find that a president may rescind or modify a monument designation, such a power still can be no broader than the Antiquities Act into which the power is implied. No such balancing test is found in the Antiquities Act. The balancing standard in the president’s Executive Order is inapplicable and as Secretary of Interior, you must not rely on it in making his recommendations.

II. The Factors Identified in the Request for Comments Support Sand to Snow’s Designation as a National Monument and Maintenance of Its Existing Boundaries.

Even assuming the president has the power to revoke Sand to Snow’s designation as a national monument or otherwise modify its boundaries, NPCA respectfully submits that the president should not do so. Analysis of the factors identified in your request for comments supports both Sand to Snow’s designation as a national monument and its existing boundaries.

A. Factors (i) and (ii): Sand to Snow’s Designation Reflects the Antiquity Act’s Requirements and Original Objectives.

Secretary Zinke, you have asked for comment on whether the designation of Sand to Snow meets the “original objectives” and requirements of the Antiquities Act, including that the monument be the “smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected,” and whether the designated lands are appropriately classified as those eligible for protection under that act. Both factors support Sand to Snow’s designation.

1. Congress Intended the Antiquities Act to Protect Large Areas Having Historic and Scientific Interest.

The assumption behind the use of the term “original objectives” suggests there has been some change in the objectives over time, but that is not true. Nor is it true that the “original objectives” were limited to protecting small areas, as some have argued and as the review of all monuments of more than 100,000 acres suggests. You stated on April 25, 2017 that the average size of monuments designated in the early years of the Antiquities Act was 442 acres. That is also incorrect.

Congress intended the Antiquities Act, from its inception, to include large areas with historic or scientific interest as well as small areas around archeological ruins. President Theodore Roosevelt, whom you lauded at his press conference, designated monuments of 818,000 acres (1908, Grand Canyon) and 640,000 acres (1909, Mount Olympus). The Supreme Court upheld the Grand Canyon designation in 1920.¹⁴ Indeed, every court to have considered the issue since then has agreed that the act was intended to protect, not just archeological “objects,” but large natural areas having historic or scientific interest, as the act provides.¹⁵ For example, in 1976, the Supreme Court found that a pool of water and the fish which live there are such objects.¹⁶ Additionally, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected an argument that Giant Sequoia National Monument was a violation of

¹³ House Rep. No. 94-1163 (May 15, 1976), at 9 (*emphasis added*).

¹⁴ *Cameron v. United States*, 252 U.S. 459 (1920).

¹⁵ *See, e.g., Caepfert v United States*, 426 U.S. 128 (1976); *Mountain States Legal Foundation v Bush*, 306 F. 3d 1132 (D.C. Cir. 2002).

¹⁶ *Caepfert*, 426 U.S. at 141-42.

the Antiquities Act because it included supposedly non-qualifying objects, explaining “such items as ecosystems and scenic vistas ... did not contravene the terms of the statute.”¹⁷

Given that the act may be used to protect objects as large as the Grand Canyon and objects of natural rather than archeological interest that are of historic or scientific interest, size alone does not make a national monument illegal under the act, nor must the “object” be as constrained as opponents of national monuments argue.

2. *Sand to Snow Is Precisely the Type of Federal Land that Congress Intended the Antiquities Act to Protect.*

The Sand to Snow National Monument is a cultural and ecological microcosm of California history and its desert environment. Sand to Snow encompasses approximately 154,000 acres—roughly 130,000 acres of which is Congressionally-designated wilderness or designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern under the FLPMA.

Sand to Snow rises nearly 10,000 feet from the Sonoran Desert floor to the top of the 11,500-foot San Gorgonio Mountain—the highest mountain in southern California. This topographical gradient includes an unusually wide range of ecosystems, ranging from lowland Mojave and Colorado deserts to scrub and woodlands and Mediterranean chaparral to subalpine and alpine conifer forests.

Sand to Snow’s ecological diversity supports a remarkable species richness, making it one of most biodiverse areas in southern California. The Sand to Snow area is home to 12 federally listed threatened and endangered animal species, such as the peninsular bighorn sheep, San Bernardino Merriam’s kangaroo rat, and desert tortoise. Sand to Snow also includes an incredible diversity of other wildlife, both large—black bears, mountain lions, and bobcats—and small—kit fox, striped skunk, and blacktail jackrabbits. Amphibians, reptiles, and over 240 species of birds frequent the Sand to Snow area, including the endangered Least Bell’s vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and Yuma clapper rail, as well as the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.

The 31,000 acres of the BLM-managed Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and Area of Critical Environmental Concern within Sand to Snow include an internationally recognized desert oasis and marsh that is one of the 10 largest cottonwood and willow riparian (stream) habitats in California.¹⁸ The Audubon Society identifies it as one of the most important avian habitat areas in California.¹⁹ The preserve is designated as an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, the American Birding Association, and the Watchable Wildlife National Program, and is featured in the National Geographic Guide to Bird Watching Sites. Long-term research into the breeding bird diversity has estimated densities of more than 1400 territories per square kilometer, one of the densest concentrations in North America.

Sand to Snow’s diverse habitat and location enables it to provide a critical linkage between the San Gorgonio Wilderness, the little San Bernardino Mountains, Joshua Tree National Park, and the San Bernardino National Forest. This unbroken area serves as a unique resource for not only migratory and transitory animals, but also archaeologists, geologists, and biologists.

Two branches of the San Andreas Fault run through the Sand to Snow area, and the area is the focus of numerous studies of the plate tectonics and geologic rifting of southern California, including studies that examine the impact of earthquakes on fault stability. Sand to Snow’s tectonic activity has

¹⁷ *Tulare County v. Bush*, 306 F. 3d 1138, 1141-42 (D.C. Cir. 2002).

¹⁸ Bureau of Land Management, *Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment* at 16 (Aug. 1996).

¹⁹ Audubon Society, *Important Bird Areas: Big Morongo Canyon*, <http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/big-morongo-canyon> (last visited on Jun. 28, 2017)

exposed some of the oldest exposed rocks in California—nearly 2 billion years old. Geologists study granite, gneiss, and schist in Sand to Snow to better understand the tectonic history of the region.

Sand to Snow’s species diversity and 10,000 foot topographical gradient have made it important to biological and ecological research, as well as studies of climate and land use change, the impact of fires—an increasingly important area of study in California—and invasive species management.

Sand to Snow also includes numerous sacred, archaeological, and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. Many of these are located in the only discontinuous area of the Sand to Snow National Monument—Black Lava Butte.

Black Lava Butte is a 6,400 acre area topped by distinctive basaltic lava flows. It is sacred to the Serrano Tribe and home to a substantial number of archaeological sites, including evidence of habitation, ritual activities, and more than 1,700 petroglyphs, many of which have yet to be studied. Other archaeological sites are located throughout Sand to Snow.

Big Morongo Canyon, for example, also contains at least five previously identified archeological sites, including CA SBR-561—a large (roughly 10 acres) historic Serrano permanent settlement.²⁰ The site contains bedrock mortars, several types of ceramic wares, and evidence of lithic tool stone manufacturing. Human remains were found at the site in 1994.

Sand to Snow also contains the historical remains of early California mining and ranching communities. Old cattle paths, watering holes, and campsites are part of the landscape, along with cabins, mine shafts, prospecting pits, and refuse deposits. They combine to form a unique window through which visitors can see back into California’s past.

Sand to Snow represents the smallest possible footprint necessary to achieve the purpose of protecting the objects of significance identified in the designation. These include the landscape level connections between the high-elevations of the San Bernardino Mountains to the desert wetlands at Big Morongo Preserve and ACEC, and the connection between Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. These corridors are vital for seasonal wildlife movement for species like bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain lion to be able to find food and seasonally available surface water sources. The profound elevational gradients protected in the Sand to Snow National Monument protect a remarkable diversity of habitats, when taken in sum, represent the most botanically diverse range of its size in North America.²¹ The monument also protects critical water sources for Southern California natural and human communities, as it contains the headwaters for the Whitewater and Santa Ana Rivers. The monument protects hundreds of mountain springs, and when considered together with Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Sand to Snow protects some of the most important habitat for listed bird species, migratory birds, and nesting birds in the state.

The intactness, connectivity, elevational diversity, and wildlife habitat provided between existing national park and wilderness areas demonstrate that the monument provides profound ecosystem services for hunters, recreational users, and the consumers of water which flows down from Sand to Snow National Monument. Without the current acreage, the natural, cultural, and historic objects could not be fully protected, and the value provided to local communities and users would not be protected.

The boundaries of Sand to Snow meet the Antiquities Act’s requirement that a monument protects objects of historic or scientific interest and that it reserves land not exceeding “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”

²⁰ Bureau of Land Management, *Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment* at 20.

²¹ http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/conservation_sand.html

B. Factors (iii) and (iv): The Diverse and Abundant Resources Found in Sand to Snow Remain Available for Multiple Uses.

Secretary Zinke, you have requested comment on the effect of the designation on available uses on both Federal and non-Federal Lands within, or in proximity to, the designated lands. Sand to Snow's designation permits existing uses and has allowed surrounding communities to thrive.

The Sand to Snow National Monument designation does not alter or affect valid existing rights of any party, and according to the BLM, "most existing public and commercial activities will continue."²² Significantly, because the vast majority of Sand to Snow is preexisting Wilderness or designated ACEC, existing commercial activities are minimal. The monument designation did not change this. Sand to Snow also supports diverse scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities. The San Geronimo Wilderness in the Sand to Snow National Monument is the number one visited wilderness in Southern California, attracting over 50,000 annual visits. Visitors use the area for camping, hiking, backpacking, climbing, horse packing, bird watching, hunting, fishing, stargazing, and mountain biking.

The University of California and other institutions conduct on-going research projects within Sand to Snow, including those important to understanding the fire regimes of Southern California, and seismic activity. The San Bernardino Co. Museum of Natural History organizes day trips to Sand to Snow to permit patrons to view bird migrations through the California desert. Additionally, the areas of Sand to Snow remain open to hunting, which is managed by the State of California.

Desert communities and the business community supported the Sand to Snow's designation as a national monument due to the potential for the growing destination tourism sector to further grow and expand. The California desert is experiencing rapid growth associated with destination tourism, centered around national parks and national monuments. Joshua Tree National Park, for example, has seen its visitation skyrocket in the past three years, expected to grow to over 3 million visitors this year. This trend is being seen across the California desert, and visitors are being actively routed to and are exploring the new monuments such as Sand to Snow as an alternative to the busiest national parks during peak visitation. Local businesses in the Sand to Snow area are already seeing benefits.²³

C. Factor (v): Support for Sand to Snow Runs Deep.

Secretary Zinke, you have requested comment regarding any concerns by those affected by the designation as well as the effect of the designation on those affected. In this regard, Sand to Snow has robust support.

The area that became the Sand to Snow National Monument was part of Senator Feinstein's 2009 proposed California Desert Protection Act. The proposal involved a thoughtful, lengthy, and wide-ranging stakeholder outreach process that included years of communications to elected officials, local business leaders, and stakeholders. The extensive outreach process disclosed the scope of what

²² See Proclamation No. 9396, 81 Fed. Reg. 32 (Feb. 18, 2016); *Sand to Snow National Monument: Questions & Answers* at <https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/s2s-qas-final-nomap.pdf> (last accessed Jun. 28, 2017)

²³ Eric Dean, who co-owns Rimrock Ranch, a motel near the Sand to Snow National Monument, said his business has benefited greatly from the monument designations in the California desert. See <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2017-06-07/public-lands-wilderness/californians-rally-to-support-their-national-monuments/a58004-1> (visited on June 23, 2017). Also, See *Report: Economic Impacts of Obama Administration Natural National Monuments*, BBC Research & Consulting (Apr. 16, 2016), <https://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/040616-Economic-Impacts-of-Obama-Administration-Natural-National-Monuments.pdf>

would become the Sand to Snow National Monument, provided for feedback from local interests regarding any conflicts or oversights, and engaged local support.

Sand to Snow proponents conducted meetings between 2009 and 2016 throughout the California desert to ensure local awareness of the proposal to protect the Sand to Snow area and to confirm that no conflicts had arisen in the interim. The outreach effort included, but was not limited to: Barstow, Needles, Victorville, Hesperia, Adelanto, Apple Valley, Yucca Valley, Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino, Redlands, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, Banning, La Quinta, and Indio. In addition to engaging local communities and community leaders, the coalition worked with county supervisors in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and Imperial Counties, as well as elected officials at the state and federal level. The public outreach effort included the business community—including chambers of commerce, tourism councils, and small businesses across the California desert—along with the veteran, science, and art communities. The thousands of letters and signatures supporting the creation of Sand to Snow attest to the depth and breadth of the public outreach process that occurred prior to the creation of the Sand to Snow National Monument. Indeed, thousands of acres of what became the Sand to Snow National Monument was purchased by private citizens and the Wildlands Conservancy and donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in anticipation of it becoming part of a national monument.²⁴

NPCA participated in the outreach process. We travelled across the desert to all affected communities, personally met with County Supervisors, Department of Interior leadership at the local, district, state, and national levels, State officials including Assembly members, State Agency leaders, and the Governor’s office, district and DC staff for all affected Members of Congress and met with the White House Council of Environmental Quality. Beyond meetings, we led dozens of tours for stakeholders, elected officials, and media to ensure people experienced these lands and that the broader public was educated about our proposal. At every meeting, we discussed the proposal to protect what would become the Sand to Snow National Monument and ensured that the request was consistent with the administration’s expectations for protection under the Antiquities Act. Beyond meetings, we led dozens of tours for stakeholders, elected officials, and media to ensure people experienced these lands and that the broader public was educated about our proposal. We can attest that the trust the extensive outreach process engendered is a key reason that many communities that had historically opposed conservation efforts supported the creation of Sand to Snow.

This public outreach continued as efforts transitioned from a legislative to an administrative process. In 2016 the community and coalition petitioned for the creation of the Sand to Snow National Monument in a powerful showing of support (See Appendix C). Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell adhered to a thoughtful and thorough process of public input for national monument proposals like Sand to Snow, as laid out by President Obama and her predecessor, Ken Salazar, in the “America’s Great Outdoors Report: A Promise to Future Generations.”²⁵ While there is clearly no legal obligation under the Antiquities Act to consider public input, this report²⁶ stated:

Action Item 8.4a: Implement a transparent and open approach to new national monument designations tailored to engaging local, state, and national interests. (DOI and USDA)

Any recommendations should focus on historic and natural features and cultural sites on federal lands that deserve protection under the 1906 Antiquities Act. In the process of

²⁴ See *Sand to Snow National Monument*, at “The Wildlands Conservancy’s twenty-year-old Sand to Snow Wilderness Interface Project that included more than 60,000 acres of privately-funded land acquisition.”

²⁵ https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/ago_report_-_report_only_2-7-11.pdf

²⁶ See pages 2-4 and page 63, Goal B and Recommendation 8.4

making recommendations, the following should be considered:

- public input from local, state, and national interests;
- transparency in development and execution of the designation;
- valid existing rights on federal lands; and
- criteria enumerated in law.

This guidance set the stage for the Obama Administration's consideration of any and all national monument proposals, including Sand to Snow. As noted above, NPCA's robust participation in the grassroots discussions regarding this proposal ensured the request for permanent protection as a national monument was consistent with the Obama Administration's standards.

As part of the process for consideration, more than 1,000 individuals attended a public meeting hosted by Senator Feinstein in October 2015, and the vast majority supported the designation, including more than 75% of the speakers who chose to share their voices. The Sand to Snow National Monument was designated only after this meeting and demonstration of overwhelming public support and in consideration of the years of public participation that occurred before.

There is no debate over whether adequate outreach to local communities and those affected by the California desert national monuments took place. NPCA is attaching letters of support from a broad constituency who called for these designations (Appendix C). It is important to understand that these designations are not the product of presidential action. This effort was a grass-roots effort that the president was willing to take action on because of the depth of community vetting and support that took place. The California desert broadly supports our California desert monument, and a proper and thoughtful process took place in order to rightfully designate these national monuments.

III. Conclusion

On May 2, 2017 over 450 organizations signed a letter to your office in support of the Antiquities Act and expressed deep concerns with the April 26th Executive Order from President Trump. In this letter, the community, including NPCA notes:

Since its enactment over a hundred years ago, the Antiquities Act has been one of our nation's most critical conservation tools for preserving our nation's most important public lands and waters. Our national parks and monuments and other protected public lands and waters unite all Americans by protecting our shared American heritage for future generations to enjoy. The sheer diversity of historic, cultural, and natural treasures that have been protected by the Antiquities Act is the reason why hundreds of groups representing sportsmen, cultural heritage organizations, evangelicals, conservation, recreation businesses, historic preservation, social justice, and many others all oppose efforts to undermine our national monuments and view an attack on any one national monument as an attack on them all.

To call into question whether our national heritage is worth protecting will have lasting repercussions on the preservation of our public lands for generations to come. Eight Republican and eight Democratic presidents have designated 157 national monuments under the authority of the Antiquities Act. As noted above, this includes nationally significant cultural, historical, and natural sites such as, the Grand Canyon and Acadia National Parks, Statue of Liberty and Muir Woods National Monuments, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. In fact, many of our nation's most popular and iconic national parks were first protected using the Antiquities Act. More recently, the Antiquities Act has helped safeguard and honor more diverse stories in the National Park System through the designations of Stonewall, Belmont-Paul

Women's Equality, and César E. Chávez National Monuments. We urge you to imagine what our country would be like without these incredible places, protected just as they should be.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and those of our members and supporters. We call on your administration to maintain and support all of our country's national monuments, including the Sand to Snow National Monument to leave a lasting legacy for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Theresa Pierno
President and CEO

Enclosures

Appendix A Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer Memo: The President Has No Power Unilaterally to Abolish or Materially Change a National Monument Designation Under the Antiquities Act of 1906

Appendix B "National monuments: Presidents can create them, but only Congress can undo them" by Nicholas Bryner, Eric Biber, Mark Squillace and Sean B. Hecht

Appendix C Compilation of Letters of Support from Various Stakeholders

Appendix A

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer Memo: The President Has No Power Unilaterally to Abolish or Materially Change a National Monument Designation Under the Antiquities Act of 1906

**The President Has No Power Unilaterally to Abolish
or Materially Change a National Monument
Designation Under the Antiquities Act of 1906**

We have been asked by our client, National Parks Conservation Association, whether a sitting President may unilaterally abolish or materially change a national monument that was established by an earlier President under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The question arises in the context of President Trump’s Executive Order of April 26, 2017 directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a review of all national monuments designated since 1996 which are at least 100,000 acres or which the Secretary determines were designated without adequate public input.¹ The Executive Order directs the Secretary to report back to the President and make recommendations “for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.” Section 1 broadly talks about public input, economic growth, the “original objectives” of the Antiquities Act and “appropriately balance[ing] the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities.”

President Trump stated when he issued the Order that “the Antiquities Act does not give the federal government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it’s time that we ended this abusive practice.”² That review will cover some 25 national monuments designated or expanded since 1996.

President Trump said he was particularly eager to change the boundary of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.³ President Obama designated that monument primarily at the request of Native American tribes, declaring that the “paleontological resources [there] are among the richest and most significant in the United States” and that the area’s “petroglyphs and pictographs capture the imagination with images dating back at least 5,000 years.”⁴ President Trump, however, referred to this monument designation as a “massive federal land grab,”⁵ which suggests that the federal government did not already own the land before that event. However, the federal government has owned that land since long before Utah became a state in 1896. While the federal government made land grants to the new State for various purposes,⁶ the new State’s constitution, as Congress required, “forever disclaim[ed] all right and title” to federal

¹ *Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act*, Exec. Order 13792, 82 Fed. Reg. 20429 (May 1, 2017).

² Juliet Eilperin, “Trump orders a review of newer national monuments,” *Washington Post*, April 27, 2017, at A3.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument*, Proclamation No. 9558, 82 Fed. Reg. 1139 (Jan. 5, 2017).

⁵ Eilperin, at A3.

⁶ See Utah Enabling Act, ch 138, § § 6-12, 28 Stat. 107 (1894), <https://archives.utah.gov/research/exhibits/Statehood/1894text.htm>.

lands within the State’s boundaries.”⁷ Under these circumstances, it is unclear from whom the federal government supposedly “grabbed” this land.

Secretary Ryan Zinke explained at the time of President Trump’s Executive Order that he will be considering whether monuments should be “rescinded, resized, [or] modified.” When asked if the President has the power to do so unilaterally, he said it is “untested” whether the President has the unilateral power to rescind a monument but that “it’s undisputed the President has the authority to modify a monument.”⁸

It is apparent, in part from the President’s terminology (e.g., that Bears Ears was a federal “land grab”) and the Secretary’s description of the law, that they have been influenced by a March 2017 report written for the American Enterprise Institute by John Yoo and Todd Gaziano entitled “Presidential Authority to Revoke or Reduce National Monument Designations.” Those authors argue there that President Trump has the authority to rescind or revoke the creation of national monuments by President Obama and that the President also has the authority to reduce the size of national monuments. They also argue that the Antiquities Act only authorized, or at least that Congress only intended that it be used to designate, relatively small areas as monuments around human archeological sites.

It is beyond the scope of this memorandum to discuss the merits of particular national monument designations or the fact that President Obama established procedures to assure there was significant public outreach and input before each of his monument designations. The purpose of this memorandum is instead to address the Yoo and Gaziano arguments about the scope and nature of the monuments Congress authorized to be designated in the Antiquities Act and their arguments that a President may unilaterally rescind or materially reduce the size of a monument previously established. After evaluating the U.S. Constitution, relevant statutes and other relevant authorities, we have concluded that Yoo and Gaziano are wrong about these matters.

Executive Summary

The authority granted by the Antiquities Act is not limited to small areas around human archeological sites.

President Trump’s Executive Order and accompanying Administration statements suggest that the “original” objective of the Antiquities Act was limited to permitting the President to set aside small areas of land around human archeological sites. Monument designations outside this constrained scope are called “abuses.” This is the view for which Yoo and Gaziano argue and this (“abuses”) is how they describe large monuments protecting natural sites. However, they base their argument - - not on the final language of the statute - - but on early bills rejected by Congress. This is a novel way to understand a statute.

⁷ *Id.*, § 3.

⁸ “Press Briefing by Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke to Review the Designations Under the Antiquities Act,” Office of the Press Secretary, White House, April 25, 2017.

In fact, in the five or six years before the Antiquities Act was adopted, there were two camps seeking such a statute, but they had different concepts of what it should authorize. Archeologists wanted a narrow statute to protect archeological sites. The Department of the Interior wanted a statute authorizing the protection of large scenic areas, this being before creation of the National Park System. In the end, all sides agreed upon compromise language that became the Antiquities Act. The compromise added a clause authorizing protection of areas having “historic or scientific interest” and provided that the monument “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”⁹

Almost immediately after the Act’s adoption, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Grand Canyon National Monument, protecting 818,000 acres, and almost immediately someone challenged the legality of that monument’s designation under the Act. But the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the challenge in *Cameron v. United States*.¹⁰ Referring to the clause which formed the basis of the compromise, the Court explained that the Grand Canyon “is an object of unusual scientific interest” and went on to explain its scientific importance and natural wonders.

Every court thereafter has reached the same conclusion as to other monuments challenged as natural rather than archeological. It is not surprising that larger areas are required to protect natural wonders than the areas required to protect archeological sites. Congress provided flexibility concerning the size of each monument in order to allow for differences based on what is being protected. Referring to larger monuments as “abuses” ignores the text of the statute and the history behind its adoption.

The President has no authority to revoke or materially reduce previously designated monuments.

In our system of Government, Presidents have no power other than that granted to them by the U.S. Constitution or by an Act of Congress. The issue here does not invoke any power granted the President by the U.S. Constitution. The issue instead concerns administration of federally owned land, and the Constitution gives that power exclusively to Congress. U.S. Const., Property Clause, Art. IV, § 3. Whether or not the President has the power unilaterally to revoke a national monument designation therefore depends on whether that power is expressly or by implication delegated to the President by an Act of Congress. The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President to create national monuments on land owned or controlled by the federal government.¹¹ The Act says nothing about a President’s having the power to abolish a national monument or to reduce the size of a monument. The question is therefore whether such a power may be implied.

Contrary to the arguments of Yoo and Gaziano, reading a revocation power into that statute by implication would be improper. This is so for several reasons.

⁹ 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a) and (b).

¹⁰ 252 U.S. 459 (1920).

¹¹ 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a).

First, the U.S. Attorney General opined long ago that the Antiquities Act could not be interpreted to imply that a President has the power to revoke a national monument's designation. No President has attempted to revoke such a designation since that Opinion was issued in 1938.

Second, Yoo and Gaziano fail to recognize that in the more than 100 years since the adoption of the Antiquities Act, Congress has adopted a comprehensive legislative scheme to govern federally owned land, into which the Antiquities Act was folded and in relation with which it must be interpreted. One of those statutes was the Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA"), adopted in 1976.¹² Congress there in effect adopted the Attorney General's interpretation that no revocation power should be read into the Antiquities Act by implication. Thereafter, it would be particularly improper to interpret the Antiquities Act as implying that the President has the power to revoke a monument designation.

Third, as to those national monuments which were made part of the National Park System, Congress has mandated that the power to manage those special places "shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which the System units have been established, except as directly and specifically provided by Congress."¹³ Revoking the designation of such a national monument and pulling it out of the National Park System would certainly be in derogation of the reasons such special places were added to that System.

Secretary Zinke, however, stated that a President has the authority to modify a monument, and President Trump stated he is eager to modify the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument. If they are thinking that the President would have the power to modify that monument in a material way that would undermine the protection of the resources for which it was created, they are wrong. A President does not have the power to do in part what he may not do in full. While there were some instances before 1976 of Presidents changing the boundaries of monuments, no President has attempted to do so after FLPMA was adopted.

The revocation of the designation of a national monument or the material reduction in its size, and particularly a monument that is part of the National Park System, is therefore beyond the power of a President acting without Congress. The interpretation proffered by Yoo and Gaziano would therefore, if acted upon, result in a usurpation of congressional powers by the Executive Branch.

* * * * *

I. The Antiquities Act of 1906.

The Nineteen Century saw substantial western expansion of the United States, and it was the federal government that acquired the land making that expansion possible. While that government had acquired land since its founding, the government substantially increased its holdings by such events as the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Oregon Compromise with

¹² 43 U.S.C. 1704 *et seq.*

¹³ 54 U.S.C. § 100101(b)(2).

England in 1846 and the treaty resolving the Mexican-American War in 1848.¹⁴ No sooner had the public land domain been established in the Eighteenth Century than a policy of disposing of the land had been initiated.¹⁵ The federal government transferred nearly 816 million acres of public domain land to private ownership and 328 million acres to the States as they became established.¹⁶

By late in the Nineteenth Century, however, demands grew to “withdraw” some public lands from that available for sale, grant or other disposition so it could be retained by the federal government for conservation and similar purposes. The first permanent federal land reservation was Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872, and in 1891 the President was given power to withdraw forest lands and prevent their disposal.¹⁷ The federal government retained for the benefit of all Americans a large part of the land that government had acquired, totaling approximately 600 million acres.¹⁸

In recognition of the slow process of enacting federal legislation, Congress adopted the Antiquities Act in 1906 to empower the President to protect some of that federal land promptly. That Act, as now codified, provides:

(a) The President may, in the President’s discretion, declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments.

(b) The President may reserve parcels of land as a part of the national monuments. The limits of the parcels shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.¹⁹

President Theodore Roosevelt was the first to use that Act, establishing 18 national monuments, including Devil’s Tower, Muir Woods, Mount Olympus (the predecessor to Olympic National Park) and the Grand Canyon. Almost every President thereafter has designated additional national monuments. These monuments were created to provide for the enjoyment and use of the federal lands by the American people.

¹⁴ See generally “Natural Resources Land Management Act,” S. Rep. No. 94-583 (hereafter the “Senate Report”) at 27-32; Carol Hardy Vincent et al., Cong. Research Serv., *Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data* 5 (2014), available at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf>.

¹⁵ See Senate Report, at 28.

¹⁶ Kristina Alexander and Ross W. Gorte, Cong. Research Serv. RL34267, *Federal Land Ownership: Constitutional Authority and the History of Acquisition, Disposal, and Retention* 5 (2007), available at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34267.pdf>.

¹⁷ 17 Stat. 326; 26 Stat. 1095.

¹⁸ Alexander and Gorte, at 9.

¹⁹ 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a) and (b).

II. The President's Authority under the 1906 Act is not Limited to Protecting Small Areas Around Archeological Sites, As Yoo and Gaziano Argue and the Administration Claims.

Yoo and Gaziano argue that Congress only intended in the Antiquities Act to authorize the President to create monuments to protect small areas around human archeological sites. They concede that the Act's "final language covered more than antiquities" and that "small scenic areas" were contemplated. But they argue that "the statute's title, drafting history and historical context" should convince Presidents "to follow the text and spirit of the original law."²⁰ And they repeatedly call Presidential proclamations that did not do so "abuses." This is a novel way of understanding a statute passed by Congress, i.e., by looking to earlier versions of a bill not adopted rather than to the "final language" of the act. Contrary to these arguments, the Act by its terms and as understood by Congress at the time authorizes protection of large areas containing natural resources, and the size of the protected area depends on the resources being protected.

It is true that the national monument authority is generally referred to as the "Antiquities Act," but that is so because parts of the statute did in fact address only antiquities, such as by prohibiting their looting.²¹ But the legislative history of the portion of the Act relating to monuments, as well as its text, makes clear that that authority was not limited to protecting antiquities. There was considerable disagreement about what became this part of the Act in the years before its adoption. There were two views: archeologists and the Smithsonian Institution wanted a law providing for the protection only of archeological sites in order to address Western legislators' concerns over the size and scope of protected areas, as Yoo and Gaziano say.²² The Department of the Interior and some members of Congress, on the other hand, wanted a law that would provide protection as well for large "scenic beauties and natural wonders and curiosities".²³ While Yoo and Gaziano say Congress had rejected bills the Department supported, they omit the fact that bills limited as the archeologists wanted had also failed.²⁴ This process went on for 5 years. Finally, Professor Edgar Hewett drafted a compromise bill that was adopted without much further ado and became the relevant part of the Antiquities Act of 1906.²⁵

Yoo and Gaziano rely largely on a work by Ronald Lee for their recital of the history of the Act.²⁶ Here is what he says about the final bill:

Senator Lodge's bill, in its earlier versions, had been limited to historic and prehistoric antiquities and made no provision for protecting natural areas. At some point in his

²⁰ Yoo and Gaziano, at 3.

²¹ See 54 U.S.C. § 32032.

²² See Ronald F Lee, "The Antiquities Act, 1900-1906," in *The Story of the Antiquities Act* (National Park Service, March 15, 2016), www.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/lee/Lee_CH6.htm at 2-3.

²³ *Id.*, at 3.

²⁴ *Id.*, at 4-6.

²⁵ *Id.*, at 7.

²⁶ Yoo and Gaziano, at nn. 3, 5, 6 and 8.

discussions with government departments, Hewett was persuaded, probably by officials of the Interior Department, to broaden his draft to include the phrase “other objects of historic or scientific interest.” ... As it later turned out, the single word “scientific” in the Antiquities Act proved sufficient basis to establish ... national monuments preserving many kinds of natural areas, ...²⁷

One of the first monuments to be designated under that Act was President Theodore Roosevelt’s 1908 creation of Grand Canyon National Monument, which covered 818,000 acres.²⁸ The holder of a mining claim to land on the south rim of the Canyon challenged the legality of the monument designation because it supposedly exceeded the President’s power under the Antiquities Act. In *Cameron v. United States*, the Court rejected that argument.²⁹ The mining claim, the Court explained, included the trailhead of the famous Bright Angel Trail “over which visitors descend to and ascend from the bottom of the canyon.”³⁰

The act under which the President proceeded empowered him to establish reserves embracing “objects of historic or scientific interest.” The Grand Canyon, as stated in his proclamation, “is an object of unusual scientific interest.” It is the greatest eroded canyon in the United States, if not the world, is over a mile in depth, has attracted wide attention among explorers and scientists, affords an unexampled field for geologic study, is regarded as one of the great natural wonders, and annually draws to its borders thousands of visitors.³¹

In 1976, the Supreme Court again was called on to address this issue and again explained that the Antiquities Act is not limited to archeological areas. In *Caepfert v. United States*, the Court upheld President Truman’s creation of a national monument at Devil’s Hole, Nevada, as a habitat for a species of fish found only there. The fish, said the Court, were “objects of historic or scientific interest” within the meaning of that clause in the Antiquities Act.³² Similarly, when President Carter designated several national monuments in Alaska based in part on their natural resources, opponents challenged the designations in court, making the same arguments about the supposedly constrained nature of places that could be so designated. The district court resoundingly rejected those arguments, based in part on *Cameron* and *Caepfert* as well as on the court’s analysis of the Act’s legislative history.³³ Reciting the same legislative history discussed above, the court found that Mr. Hewett’s compromise bill, which contained the clause “other objects of historic or scientific interest” and which had become law, “was indeed intended to enlarge the authority of the President.” Moreover, the court concluded that “matters of scientific

²⁷ Lee, at 9.

²⁸ *Establishment of Grand Canyon National Monument*, Proclamation No. 794, 35 Stat. 2175 (1908).

²⁹ 252 U.S. 459 (1920). President Roosevelt also designated the 60,000 acre Petrified Forest National Monument in 1906, the 10,000 Chaco Canyon National Monument in 1907 and the almost 640,000 acre Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909. See Mark Squillace, *The Monumental Legacy of the Antiquities Act of 1906*, 37 GA. L. Rev. 473, 490 n. 92 (2003).

³⁰ 252 U.S. at 455 and n.1.

³¹ *Id.*, at 455-56.

³² 426 U.S. 128, 141-42 (1976).

³³ *Anaconda Copper Co. v. Andrus*, No. A79-161, civil, 14 ERC 1853 (D, Alaska July 1, 1980).

interest which involve geological formations or which may involve plant, animal or fish life are within this reach of the presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.”³⁴

The Administration’s claims that large monuments are “abuses” of the Antiquities Act and that it was only intended to apply to small areas are simply wrong. In setting limits on the size of areas to be protected, the Act merely imposed the requirement that the president designate the “smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” From the very beginning, that Act was used to protect large areas such as the Grand Canyon and Mount Olympus, which later became Olympic National Park. It is obvious that more land is needed to protect natural resources such as these areas than to protect isolated archeological sites. It is therefore simply not true that the areas protected under the Act in its early years were limited to small areas of a few hundred acres.

III. The President Has No Implied Power to Revoke a National Monument Created under the Antiquities Act.

Because the Antiquities Act does not expressly empower or prohibit Presidents to revoke national monuments, proponents of such a power argue that that power may be read into the Act by implication. Gaziano and Yoo and some members of Congress argue that the President has many implied powers and that this is merely one such power. They are wrong.

Yoo and Gaziano argue for a general proposition that “the authority to execute a discretionary government power usually includes the power to revoke it -- unless the original grant expressly limits the power of revocation.”³⁵ They argue that this supposedly follows from the principle that each “branch of government can reverse its earlier actions using the same process originally used.”³⁶ They point to the President’s power to fire Executive Branch officials even after the Senate has confirmed the appointment and to the President’s power over foreign treaties. The problem with that argument is that it ignores the source of the original power. There is no government-wide general rule on this subject; each source of power must be examined to assess whether a power to revoke previous actions should be implied. As former President and Supreme Court Chief Justice Taft stated:

The true view of the Executive function is, as I conceive it, that the President can exercise no power which cannot be fairly and reasonably traced to *some specific grant of power or justly implied and included within such express grant as proper and necessary to its exercise*. Such specific grant must be either in the Federal Constitution or in an act of Congress passed in pursuance thereof.³⁷

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Yoo and Gaziano, at 7.

³⁶ *Id.*, at 8.

³⁷ William Howard Taft, OUR CHIEF MAGISTRATE AND HIS POWERS 139-40 (1916), available at <https://archive.org/stream/ourchiefmagistra00taftuoft#page/n5/mode/2up> (*emphasis added*).

Accordingly, when Yoo and Gaziano point to the power of the President to fire Executive Branch officers and to revoke treaties with foreign governments, they are pointing to powers found in the Constitution's grant of executive authority to the President. The Constitution provides that "[t]he executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." U.S. Const., Art. II, § 1. It is reasonable to conclude that that broad grant includes the power to revoke what has been done. As Justice Taft explained:

The grants of Executive power are necessarily in general terms in order not to embarrass the Executive within the field of action plainly marked for him, but his jurisdiction must be justified and vindicated by affirmative constitutional or statutory provision, or it does not exist.³⁸

The same may be said of specific powers granted the President, including that to make treaties with foreign countries. *See* U.S. Const., Art. II, § 2.

But here we are not dealing with the scope of the powers granted the Executive Branch under the Constitution. Here, we are dealing instead with the power over federal lands, and the Constitution grants that power, not to the President, but exclusively to the Congress. The Property Clause of the Constitution provides that "[t]he Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States" *Id.*, Art. IV, § 3, Cl. 2.

For the President to have the power to revoke a monument designation under the Antiquities Act, therefore, the issue is whether that Act of Congress, not the Constitution's grant of the executive power to the President, may be interpreted to imply the unstated power to revoke a monument designation thereunder.³⁹

This is a question on which the Attorney General of the United States, Homer S. Cummings, ruled in the negative.⁴⁰ In 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt asked Attorney General Cummings for a formal Legal Opinion as to whether the President could rescind former President Coolidge's designation of the Castle Pinckney National Monument under the Antiquities Act. After careful study, Attorney General Cummings explained that the answer was "no."

A duty properly performed by the Executive under statutory authority has the validity and sanctity which belong to the statute itself, and, unless it be within the terms of the power conferred by that statute, the Executive can no more destroy his own authorized work, without some other legislative

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Yoo and Gaziano also argue as an analogy that the Executive Branch has the power to repeal regulations adopted under discretionary statutory authority. But that authority is recognized, in the words of Justice Taft, as "included within such express grant as proper and necessary to its exercise." *Id.* That says nothing about whether such implied power should also be implied in the Antiquities Act.

⁴⁰ Attorney General Cummings held a PhD and law degree from Yale University. He served from 1933 until 1939. (*See* U.S. Department of Justice, *Attorneys General of the United States*, at <https://www.justice.gov/ag/bio/cummings-homer-still>)

sanction, than any other person can. To assert such a principle is to claim for the Executive the power to repeal or alter an act of Congress at will.⁴¹

The Attorney General’s Opinion explained that under long-standing precedent “if public lands are reserved by the President for a particular purpose under express authority of an act of Congress, the President is thereafter without authority to abolish such reservation.”⁴² Since the Cummings Opinion, no President has attempted unilaterally to rescind a national monument.⁴³ Rather, as contemplated by the Cummings Opinion, when some monuments have been abolished, it has been Congress that has done so by legislation.⁴⁴

Yoo and Gaziano argue that the Cummings Opinion was “poorly reasoned” and “erroneous as a matter of law.”⁴⁵ But their description of that opinion is not a fair characterization of Attorney General Cumming’s reasoning. For example, they claim he found binding an 1862 opinion when he merely relied on its reasoning and they then describe that earlier opinion unfairly. But what Cummings found significant about that earlier case is that, as in the case of the Antiquities Act, the statute in question had authorized the President to reserve lands but had said nothing about his power to undo the reservation made. And the earlier Attorney General had concluded that such power could not be implied. In reaching the same conclusion as to the Antiquities Act, Attorney General Cummings distinguished statutes that expressly authorize the President to revoke reservations.

The gaping hole in the Yoo and Gaziano arguments, however, is that they ignore or minimize the importance of the fact that, since 1906, Congress has adopted a comprehensive system of laws to govern federally-owned lands, and that the Antiquities Act must be understood and interpreted as part of that legal structure. Statutes covering the same subject matter are interpreted together. *See Food & Drug Admin. v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 529 U.S. 120, 132–33 (2000). Two particular later statutes are relevant here. First, in 1976, Congress adopted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (“FLPMA”).⁴⁶ Second, in 1916,

⁴¹ “Proposed Abolishment of Castle Pinckney Nat’l Monument,” 39 Op. Atty. Gen. 185, 185 (1938), *citing* Opinion by Attorney General Edward Bates to the Secretary of the Interior, 10 U.S. Op. Atty. Gen. 359 (1862). As a general matter, opinions of the Attorney General are binding on the Executive Branch offices that request them until they are overruled or withdrawn. *See Pub. Citizen v. Burke*, 655 F. Supp. 318, 321–22 (D.D.C. 1987) (“As interpreted by the courts, an Attorney General’s opinion is binding as a matter of law on those who request it until withdrawn by the Attorney General or overruled by the courts.” (citation and internal quotations omitted)), *aff’d*, 843 F.2d 1473 (D.C. Cir. 1988); *cf.* Trevor W. Morrison, *Stare Decisis in the Office of Legal Counsel*, 110 Colum. L. Rev. 1448, 1472, 1482–84 (2010).

⁴² 39 Op. Atty. Gen. at 186–87.

⁴³ Squillace, at 553.

⁴⁴ Congress has abolished a number of National Monuments by legislation. *See, e.g.*, Wheeler National Monument in 1950 (64 Stat. 405); Shoshone Cavern in 1954 (68 Stat. 98); Papago Saguaro in 1930 (46 Stat. 142); Old Kasaan in 1955 (69 Stat. 380); Fossil Cyad in 1956 (70 Stat. 898); Castle Pinkney in 1956 (70 Stat. 61); Father Millet Cross in 1949 (63 Stat. 691); Holy Cross in 1950 (64 Stat. 404); Verendrye in 1956 (70 Stat. 730), and Santa Rosa Island in 1946 (60 Stat. 712).

⁴⁵ Yoo and Gaziano, at 5.

⁴⁶ 43 U.S.C. 1704 *et seq.*

Congress adopted the National Park System Organic Act, to which Congress added significant provisions in 1970 and 1978.

When FLPMA was adopted in 1976, Congress legislated against the backdrop of the Antiquities Act providing that the President could create national monuments and the Cummings Opinion that the President could not revoke national monuments. There is evidence that Congress was aware of the Cummins Opinion, which was reported in one of the studies leading to FLPMA's passage.⁴⁷ But in any event, when Congress legislates on a subject, "[C]ongress is deemed to know the executive and judicial gloss given to certain language and thus adopts the existing interpretation unless it affirmatively acts to change the meaning."⁴⁸ Yet in FLPMA, Congress did not "affirmatively act[] to change the meaning" of the Antiquities Act as interpreted by the Cummings Opinion. Congress therefore in effect adopted that interpretation.

Moreover, the Supreme Court has made clear that, to harmonize different statutes, "a specific policy embodied in a later federal statute should control our construction of [a prior one], even though it had not been expressly amended."⁴⁹ This is particularly so when the later statute is a comprehensive legislative scheme.⁵⁰ FLPMA was the very sort of "comprehensive legislative scheme" that requires interpreting the Antiquities Act to harmonize with FLPMA. It would not be harmonious with FLPMA to read into the Antiquities Act an implied authorization for a President to revoke a prior monument's designation because in FLPMA, one of Congress' purposes was to reassert its own authority over federal land withdrawals and to limit to express delegations the authority of the Executive Branch in this regard.

FLPMA was the result of a years-long re-examination and reorganization of laws governing management of federal lands, including the creation of reservations or "withdrawals" of land for particular purposes.⁵¹ In 1964, Congress had created The Public Land Law Review Commission to undertake that reexamination, finding in part that there were many statutes governing federal lands "which are not fully correlated with each other."⁵² The Commission obtained extensive studies and finally issued its report in 1970.⁵³ One of its recommendations was that "[d]elegations of the congressional authority should be specific, not implied,"

⁴⁷ See Charles F. Wheatley, Jr., "Study of Withdrawals and Reservations of Public Domain Lands" (Public Land Law Review Commission 1969), at 17, 264.

⁴⁸ *Bledsoe v. Palm Beach County Soil & Water Conservation Dist.*, 133 F.3d 816, 822 (11th Cir. 1998) (addressing legislative action after earlier Attorney General interpretation); see also, to the same effect, e.g., *Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. v. Curran*, 456 U.S. 353, 381-82 and n.66 (1982) (considering whether rights should be implied under a statute); *Souter v. Jones*, 395 F.3d 577, 598 (6th Cir. 2005).

⁴⁹ See *United States v. Romani*, 523 U.S. 517 (1998).

⁵⁰ See *Northwest Airlines, Inc. v. Transport Workers Union*, 451 U.S. 77, 97 (1981); see also *Hi-Lex Controls Inc. v. Blue Cross*, 2013 WL 228097 (E.D. Mich. Jan. 22, 2013) at *3.

⁵¹ Pub. Law No. 94-579, codified at 43 U.S.C. § 43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.* As the Senate Report accompanying the bill that became FLPMA explained, Congress had long recognized "a need to review and reassess the entire body of law governing Federal lands." Senate Report, at 34.

⁵² See 78 Stat. 982 (Sept. 19, 1964).

⁵³ Public Land Law Review Commission, "One Third of the Nation's Land: A Report to the President and the Congress" (1970); see also Senate Report, at 32-36.

Congress followed that recommendation, declaring in FLPMA that “it is the policy of the United States that ... the Congress exercise its constitutional authority to withdraw or otherwise designate or dedicate Federal lands for specified purposes and that Congress delineate the extent to which the Executive may withdraw lands without legislative action.”⁵⁴ Accordingly, Congress expressly repealed a large number of statutes previously authorizing the Executive Branch to make withdrawals of federal land and overturned a court decision implying such power.⁵⁵ But FLPMA did not repeal the Antiquities Act. This was no oversight; the decision to leave that Act in effect was noted in the House Report.⁵⁶ And while Congress gave the Secretary of the Interior some powers to make, modify or revoke withdrawals, FLPMA provided that the Secretary did not have power to “revoke or modify” any Antiquities Act monument designation.⁵⁷

The House Report made clear that there were to be no more implied powers to withdraw lands or to revoke previous withdrawals; only Congress was to have those powers except as expressly delegated.

With certain exceptions [including under the Antiquities Act], H.R. 13777 will repeal all existing law relating to executive authority to create, modify, and terminate withdrawal and reservations. It would reserve to the Congress the authority to create, modify, and terminate withdrawals for national parks, national forests, the Wilderness System, *It would also specially reserve to the Congress the authority to modify and revoke withdrawals for national monuments created under the Antiquities Act* These provisions will insure that the integrity of the great national resource management systems will remain under the control of the Congress.”⁵⁸

Specifically as to national monuments, therefore, just as Attorney General Cummings concluded, while the President would continue to have the power to establish national monuments under that Act, only Congress would be empowered to revoke a monuments designation. Any other understanding of the Antiquities Act would be contrary to Congress’

⁵⁴ *Id.*, codified at 43 U.S.C. § 1704(a)(4).

⁵⁵ See Pub. Law No. 74-597, § 704 (“Effective on and after the date of approval of this Act, the implied authority of the President to make withdrawals and reservations resulting from acquiescence of the Congress (*U.S. v. Midwest Oil Co.*, 236 U.S. 459) and the following statutes and parts of statutes are repealed: ...”).

⁵⁶ “The exceptions, which are not repealed, are contained in the Antiquities Act (national monuments),” House Report, at 29.

⁵⁷ 43 U.S.C. §1714 and § 1714(j). Those sections speak in terms of the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to make, modify or revoke withdrawals, but it is relevant to note in understanding that section that at the time of FLPMA’s adoption, the President had delegated to the Secretary of the Interior all of the President’s “authority ... vested in him to withdraw or reserve lands of the public domain and other lands owned or controlled by the United States in the continental United States or Alaska for public purposes, including authority to modify or revoke withdrawals and reservations of such lands heretofore or hereafter made.” *Delegating to the Secretary of the Interior the Authority of the President to Withdraw or Reserve Lands of the United States for Public Purposes*, Exec. Order 10355, 17 Fed. Reg. 4831 (May 28, 1952); Wheatley, at 379 (that Executive Order, as of 1969, “is now the controlling authority”).

⁵⁸ House Report, at 9 (*emphasis added*).

purpose and comprehensive legislative scheme in FLPMA to eliminate all implied delegations of authority to the Executive Branch to withdraw or revoke withdrawals.

Yoo and Gaziano nevertheless suggest that a President could revoke a prior designation if the later President determines it was based on a factual error, is no longer a valid designation due to changed circumstances, or is “illegally or inappropriately large.”⁵⁹ But there already exists a remedy under such circumstances; those same arguments can be made to Congress.⁶⁰

The conclusion that only Congress may revoke a national monument designation applies doubly to those national monuments created under the Antiquities Act and administered by the National Park Service (“NPS”).⁶¹ Ten years after adoption of the Antiquities Act, Congress adopted the Organic Act of 1916 creating the National Park System.⁶² Congress there mandated that the fundamental purpose of the System is to “conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and the wild life in the System units ... [and] leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”⁶³ In 1970, Congress adopted amendments to that Organic Act which made clear that national monuments administered by NPS are part of that System and are to be protected as such.⁶⁴ And Congress provided that the entire National Park System is a “cumulative expression[] of a single national heritage.”⁶⁵ In 1978, not satisfied that the Executive Branch had gotten the message, Congress returned to this subject and added the mandate that

the protection, management, and administration of the System units shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which the System units have been established, *except as directly and specifically provided by Congress.*⁶⁶

Congress clearly did not intend that a President could unilaterally revoke the designation of a national monument that is part of the National Park System without Congress’ directly and

⁵⁹ Yoo and Gaziano, at 9, 10.

⁶⁰ As described in noted 4 above, on several occasions Congress has abolished national monuments by legislation.

⁶¹ For example, recent Proclamations establishing national monuments as part of the National Park System have provided “The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall manage the monument through the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation.” *Establishment of the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument*, Proclamation No. 9423, 81 Fed. Reg. 22505 (Apr. 15, 2016).

⁶² Now codified at 54 U.S.C. §100101(a).

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ See Pub. L. No. 91-383 (National Park System General Authorities Act), codified in this regard at 54 U.S.C. §§ 100102(2), 100501 (defining “National Park System” to include any area administered by the Director of NPS, including for “monument” purposes). Those monuments are as fully covered by general regulations protecting the entire System as are any national parks created by Congress. See 36 C.F.R. §1.2 (NPS regulations apply to federally owned land administered by NPS).

⁶⁵ 54 U.S.C. § 100101(b)(1)(B).

⁶⁶ *Id.*, § 100101(b)(2) (*emphasis added*).

specifically so providing. Such an act would certainly be in derogation of the values and purposes for which the monument had previously been established.⁶⁷

All of this simply goes further to establish that in the 1970s Congress adopted the Cummins Opinion's conclusion that no President may unilaterally revoke the establishment of any national monument. Such a revocation would require an act of Congress.

IV. For the Same Reasons, No President May Unilaterally Materially Reduce the Size of a National Monument.

President Trump's Executive Order of April 26, 2017 and Secretary Zinke's comments also raise the issue whether a President may unilaterally reduce the size of a national monument. Yoo and Gaziano argue that that power is to be implied into the Antiquities Act even if the President does not have the power to revoke a monument's designation.⁶⁸ But there is no merit to this claim, which is simply an alternative formulation of the baseless argument that a President may unilaterally abolish a national monument. Any attempts by the President to remove land or features that would undermine the purposes and values for which the monument was originally created would be a partial revocation of the monument. The President does not have the power to do in part what he cannot do in full.

Yoo and Gaziano rely on the fact that Presidents have issued a handful of proclamations that reduced the size of some national monuments. Whatever the understanding of this power might have been before the 1970s legislation discussed above, however, they cite not one example of any such reduction after FLPMA was adopted in 1976. The last time such a thing happened was in 1963, when President Kennedy issued a Proclamation to remove certain lands from Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.⁶⁹ In FLPMA, Congress reasserted its authority over such matters. As discussed above, Congress made clear that it was "specially reserv[ing] to the Congress *the authority to modify* and revoke withdrawals for national monuments created under the Antiquities Act."⁷⁰

It is unclear whether a President could make non-material adjustments to monument boundaries without congressional authorization. But President Trump does not appear to be planning to test that question when he says he is eager to change the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument. It is at least clear that any reduction in the size of the monument or other modification that undermines the purpose and values for which it was created could be made only by Congress.

⁶⁷ For example, the Presidential Proclamation designating Bears Ears National Monument explains that it is intended to preserve features of the lands that are sacred to Native Americans, paleontological resources, and a wide variety of vegetation. *Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument*, Proclamation No. 9558, 83 Fed. Reg. 1139 (Jan. 5, 2017).

⁶⁸ Yoo and Gaziano, at 14-17.

⁶⁹ *Revising the Boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument*, Proclamation No. 3539, 28 Fed. Reg. 5407 (May 27, 1963).

⁷⁰ House Report, at 9 (*emphasis added*).

V. Conclusion.

For over one hundred years, the Antiquities Act has allowed Presidents to create national monuments and preserve worthy lands for the enjoyment of all Americans and future generations. There are today national monuments in 31 states. For all Americans, they offer recreational opportunities and preserve a heritage of beauty, scientific marvels, and human achievement. But the Antiquities Act and subsequent legislation reserved to Congress, which has Constitutional authority over public lands, the sole power to revoke such a designation or materially to reduce the monument's size.

Robert Rosenbaum, Andrew Shipe, Lindsey Beckett, Andrew Treaster, Jamen Tyler

May 3, 2017

Appendix B

“National monuments: Presidents can create them, but only Congress can undo them” by Nicholas Bryner, Eric Biber, Mark Squillace and Sean B. Hecht

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair



National monuments: Presidents can create them, but only Congress can undo them

April 27, 2017 9.49pm EDT

Bears Ears National Monument, Utah. Bob Wick, BLM/Flickr, CC BY

On April 26 President Trump issued an executive order calling for a review of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. This law authorizes presidents to set aside federal lands in order to protect “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.”

Since the act became law in 1906, presidents of both parties have used it to preserve 157 historic sites, archaeological treasures and scenic landscapes, from the Grand Canyon to key landmarks of the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama.

President Trump calls recent national monuments “a massive federal land grab,” and argues that control over some should be given to the states. In our view, this misrepresents the law. National monuments can be designated only on federal lands already owned or controlled by the United States.

The president’s order also suggests that he may consider trying to rescind or shrink monuments that were previously designated. Based on our analysis of the Antiquities Act and other laws, presidents do not have the authority to undo or downsize existing national monuments. This power rests with Congress, which has reversed national monument designations only 10 times in more than a century.

Contests over land use

Authors



Nicholas Bryner

Emmett/Frankel Fellow in Environmental Law and Policy, University of California, Los Angeles



Eric Biber

Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley



Mark Squillace

Professor of Law, University of Colorado



Trump's executive order responds to opposition from some members of Congress and local officials to national monuments created by Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. It calls for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review certain national monuments created since 1996 and to recommend "Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions," presumably to shrink or eliminate these monuments. The order applies to monuments larger than 100,000 acres, as well as others to be identified by Secretary Zinke.

Sean B. Hecht

Professor of Policy and Practice; Co-Executive Director, Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment; and Co-Director, UCLA Law Environmental Law Clinic, University of California, Los Angeles

When a president creates a national monument, the area is "reserved" for the protection of sites and objects there, and may also be "withdrawn," or exempted, from laws that would allow for mining, logging or oil and gas development. Frequently, monument designations grandfather in existing uses of the land, but prohibit new activities such as mineral leases or mining claims.

Zinke said that he will examine whether such restrictions have led to "loss of jobs, reduced wages and reduced public access" in communities around national monuments. Following Secretary Zinke's review, the Trump administration may try either to rescind monument designations or modify them, either by reducing the size of the monument or authorizing more extractive activities within their boundaries.



Opponents of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument in Monticello, Utah during a visit by then-Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, July 14, 2016. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Two of the most-contested monuments are in Utah. In 1996 President Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a region of incredible slot canyons and remote plateaus. Twenty years later, President Obama designated Bears Ears National Monument, an area of scenic rock formations and sites sacred to Native American tribes.

Utah's governor and congressional delegation oppose these monuments, arguing that they are larger than necessary and that presidents should defer to the state about whether to use the Antiquities Act. Local officials have raised similar complaints about the Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada and the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, both designated by Obama in late 2016.

What the law says

The key question at issue is whether the Antiquities Act gives presidents the power to alter or revoke decisions by past administrations. The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to decide what happens on "territory or other property belonging to the United States." When Congress passed the Antiquities Act, it delegated a portion of that authority to the president so that administrations could act quickly to protect resources or sites that are threatened.

Critics of recent national monuments argue that if a president can create a national monument, the next one can undo it. However, the Antiquities Act speaks only of designating monuments. It says nothing about abolishing or shrinking them.

Two other land management statutes from the turn of the 20th century – the Pickett Act of 1910 and the Forest Service Organic Act of 1897 – gave the president authority to withdraw other types of land, and also specifically stated that the president could modify or revoke those actions. These laws clearly contrast with the Antiquities Act's silence on reversing past decisions.



Ruins at Chaco Culture National Historic Park, New Mexico, originally protected under the Antiquities Act by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907 to prevent looting of archaeological sites. Steven C. Price/Wikipedia, CC BY-SA

In 1938, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered abolishing the Castle-Pinkney National Monument – a deteriorating fort in Charleston, South Carolina – Attorney General Homer Cummings

advised that the president did not have the power to take this step. (Congress abolished the monument in 1951.)



Congress enacted a major overhaul of public lands law in 1976, the **Federal Land Policy and Management Act**, repealing many earlier laws. However, it did not change the Antiquities Act. The House Committee that drafted the 1976 law also made clear in legislative reports that it intended to prohibit the president from modifying or abolishing a national monument, stating that the law would “specifically reserve to the Congress the authority to modify and revoke withdrawals for national monuments created under the Antiquities Act.”

The value of preservation

Many national monuments faced vociferous local opposition when they were declared, including Jackson Hole National Monument, which is now part of **Grand Teton National Park**. But over time Americans have come to appreciate them.

Indeed, Congress has converted many monuments into national parks, including **Acadia**, the **Grand Canyon**, **Arches** and **Joshua Tree**. These four parks alone attracted over 13 million visitors in 2016. The aesthetic, cultural, scientific, spiritual and economic value of preserving them has long exceeded whatever short-term benefit could have been derived without legal protection.

As Secretary Zinke begins his review of Bears Ears and other national monuments, he should heed that lesson, and also ensure that his recommendations do not overstep the president’s lawful authority.

 [Federalism](#) [national monuments](#) [Trump administration](#) [Antiquities Act](#) [public lands](#) 

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Appendix C

Compilation of Letters of Support from Various Stakeholders

MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS



Photo: John Dittli

SUPPORT FOR
MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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Calimesa Mayor Pro Tem Ella Zanowic (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Stan Henry (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis (D)
Cathedral City Councilman Shelley Kaplan (D)
Cathedral City Councilman John Aguilar (D)
Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez (D)
Coachella City Manager David Garcia Desert
Hot Springs Mayor Adam Sanchez, Sr. (D)
Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts (D)
Desert Hot Springs City Councilmember Jan Pye (R)
Indian Wells City Councilmember Douglas Hanson (R)
Indio Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller (R)
Indio City Councilmember Troy Strange (D)
La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans (R)
Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Paul Lewin (D)
Palm Springs City Councilmember Ginny Foat (D)
Rancho Mirage Mayor G. Dana Hobart (R)
Yucaipa City Councilmember Dick Riddell (R)

Desert Hot Springs City Councilperson Joe McKee

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

City of Los Angeles

Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department

Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

TRIBES / TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

Native American Land Conservancy

San Manuel Tribe

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

FAITH LEADERS

Assemblies of God's Southern Pacific District (sign on letter from 100 clergy members)

Pastor Sergio Navarrete, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District Assemblies of God,
La Puente

Rev. Silvano Elias, Iglesia Centro Ebenezer, La Puente

Rev. Freddie Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier

Rev. Yanina Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier

Rev. Lesly Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach

Rev. Jose Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach

Rev. Claudio Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita

Rev. Sara Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita

Rev. Ruth Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello

Rev. Elmer Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello

Rev. Lidia España, Director de Misiones, La Puente

Rev. Carlos España, Director de Misiones, La Puente

Rev. Rigoberto Digeiro, Asistente de Misiones, La Puente

Rev. Lilian Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower

Rev. Raymes Mesa, Ministro de SPD, La Puente

Rev. Lupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley

Rev. Guadalupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley

Rev. Daniel Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine

Rev. Martha Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine

Rev. Enoc Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower

Rev. Pedro Vega, Southern Pacific District (SPD) Presbyter, Corona

Rev. Raul Castro, S.P.D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga

Rev. Antonina Arroyo, S.P.D Womens director, La Puente

Rev. Silvia Carrizo, S.P. D. Excecutive, La Puente

Rev. Blanca Castro, S.P.D. Women in ministry Director, Rancho Cucamonga

Rev. Juanita Cruz, S.P. D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga

Rev. William Rodriguez, Iglesia Pentecostal Esmirna, Los Angeles

Rev. Miriam Paredes, S.P.D Missions assistant, La Puente

Rev. Mario Procopio, Newport Beach

Rev. Blandina Tamara, S.P.D Presbyter, Santa Ana

Rev. Fernando Tamara, Primera Asamblea de Orange County, Irvine

Rev. Daniel de Leon, Templo Calvario, Tustin

Rev. Jesse Villarreal, Templo La Hermosa of the A/G, Coachella

Rev. Mike Neciuk, El Redentor, Brawley

Rev. Lalo Guerrero, S.P.D Presbyter, Ontario

Rev. Saul Rios, Centro Evangelistico Rios de Agua Viva, Santa Ana

Rev. Ana Rivera, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster

Rev. Sylvia Hoover,Templo el Salvador, Thousand Oaks

Rev. Rolando Barahona, Iglesia Cristiana Tabernaculo de Fe, Los Angeles

Rev. Manuel Montes, Nueva Vida en Cristo, South Gate

Rev. Jack Miranda, Living Faith, La Mirada

Rev. Felix Garcia, Centro Esperanza, City of Industry
Rev. Manny Rodriguez, Tailor's House, Covina Rev. Jesus Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas,
Carlsbad
Rev. Esther Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Edwin Mota, Iglesia Alfarero de las asambleas de Dios, Fallbrook
Rev. Maria Elia Guzman, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles
Rev. Simon Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Martha Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Alex Lainez, S.P.D Royal Ranger Director, Baldwin Park
Rev. Urias Mendoza, Mision el Redentor, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Luis Castro, S.P.D Kings Kastle Director, Los Angeles
Rev. Cecilia Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Demetrio Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Joshua Pinto, Centro Evangelistico Faro a las Naciones, Lake Forest
Rev. Melesio Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Raymond Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Francisco Vasquez, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles
Rev. Heber Porras, Iglesia del Señor, Long Beach
Rev. Mario Ramirez, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster
Rev. Magdalena Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas, San Diego
Rev. Refugio Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Vicky Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Lucia Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Nora Landaverde, S.P.D Girls Ministries Director, La Puente
Rev. Denis Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Carmen Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Marcos Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Zoila Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Alfredo Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Lilian Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Estuardo Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Gabriela Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Lucy Saavedra, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Jose Luis Bonilla, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Roberto Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Edilu Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Herbert Diaz, Iglesia Mision Cristiana de rescate, Las Vegas
Rev. Mizrahim Ramirez, Centro Cristiano Fresca Uncion, Lynwood
Rev. Dimas Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Juanita Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Javier Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Rosy Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Ernesto Ambriz, Templo Ebenezer, Riverside
Rev. Carlos Gamez, Familia del Nuevo Nacimiento, Lake Elsinore

Rev. Leonzo Moralez, Hija de Saron, Murrieta
Rev. Rodolfo Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer, Tustin
Rev. Becky Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenzer, Tustin
Rev. Moises Lecca, Iglesia Vida Abundante Nternacional, Los Angeles
Rev. Manuel Prado, 100 Por Ciento Vida, Lancaster
Rev. Miguel Duarte, Iglesia Evangelica Sol de Justicia, Reseda
Rev. Francisco Duarte, Iglesia Betania, Maywood
Rev. Eliseo Ruelas, Iglesia el Eden, Los Angeles
Rev. Marcos Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. Elsa Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. John Perea, Bethel Community of Barstow, Barstow
Rev. Felipe Guiza, Centro Misionero Siloe, San Diego
Rev. Isaac Rangel, Iglesia del Rey San Diego, San Diego
Rev. Angel Palma, Life Church-Iglesia Viva, Corona
Rev. Oscar Amaya, Ministerio Emanuel Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles

Por La Creacion Sign On Letter

Frank Ruiz, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Indio CA
Enrique Orellana, Sr. Pastor, Fuente de Vida Christian Center, Coachella CA
Jesse Villarreal, Sr. Pastor, Templo La Hermosa, Coachella CA
Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno CA
Raul Velazquez, Pastor, El Nuevo Comienzo, Adelanto CA
Javier Moreno, Co-Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville CA
Raymundo Ortiz, Pastor, Iglesias Amiavi, Victorville CA
Cecilia Ruano, Pastor, Rosa de Saron Asembla de Dios Church, Caldwell ID
Dr. Sergio Navarette, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District of the Assemblies of God
Jorge Quintanilla, Pastor, Iglesia Divino Salvador, Reseda CA
Juan Manuel Almanza, Pastor, Centro de Adoracion Familiar, Las Vegas NV
Joseito Velasquez, Sr. Pastor, Healing Waters Family Center, Denver CO
Martin Martinez, Youth Pastor, Impacto Juvenil, Covina CA
Absalon Duran, Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville CA
Hector Manzo, Centro Cristiano de Fe, Victorville CA

BUSINESSES AND CHAMBERS

Calimesa Chamber of Commerce
Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Route 66 Chamber of Commerce
California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunities
Outdoor Recreation Business Sign on Letter (17 businesses)
Belinda Sanda Sales
Brook Hopper Consulting
Camelback

The Conservation Alliance
Eagle Creek
Elemental Herbs
The Forest Group
Good Solutions
Klean Kanteen
Juniper Ridge
The Mountain Lab
The North Face
Patagonia
Smartwool
Timberland
Vans
Vapur

Adventure 16

Awakened Wisdom Experiences
Bardwell Case and Associates Inc, Architects
Blue Prairie Productions
Cannon Brand Design
Desert Decorating
Dr. Alan Hedman
Instant Karma Yoga, Joshua Tree
Pioneertown Properties
Pipes Canyon Lodge
Spin and Margie's Desert Hide-A-Way
Sweet Rock Ranch
Two Bunch Palms

Victorville Business Sign on Letter

Belle's Best Beef Jerky
Buenowill International
Casa de Yermo Handmade Soaps
Zlux Skin Care

Local Business Sign on Letter_1

Arcadia Bookstore
Cactus Mart
Carla's Route 62 Diner
Coyote Corner
Del's Shoes
Grateful Desert
Greater Palm Springs
Convention & Visitor Bureau
Hi Desert Water Transport

Homestead Modern No. 1
Hoodoo (records)
Hoof and Horn
Joshua Tree Adventures
Joshua Tree Bicycle Shop
Joshua Tree Certified Farmers'
Market
Joshua Tree Health Foods
Joshua Tree Saloon

La Copine Kitchen
Le Haut Desert Aerie
Pappy and Harriet's
Patricia Knight Photography
Pioneer Crossing Antiques
Ma Rouge Café
Mike's Liquor
Morongo Valley Hardware
The Olive Adobe
Rainbow Stew
Rock Reach House

Route 62 Vintage Market
Ruin Venue
Rustic Modern Rentals
Sam's Market
Sam's Pizza
Smoke n' More
Stoker Construction
Swarat Signs
Tamara's at Home, Inc.
Tamma's Magic Mercantile
Unique Gardens Nursery

Local Business Sign on Letter_2

Joshua Tree Realty
Bird on a Wire Art and Collectibles
BKB Ceramics
Safari Motor Inn
Country Kitchen
Joshua Tree Excursions
JT Lilypad, LLC
Starlite
Yokozuna Japanese Restaurant and
Night Club
Yucca Valley Tobacco Mart
Ikon Beauty
Quiznos
Joshua Tree Family Dentistry
Joshua Tree Mini Storage
Decal Depot
Desert Oracle
Natural Sisters Café
Pie for the People

Crossroads Café,
Moonlight Mesa Retreats
and Vacation Rentals
Broadview
Benchmark Studios
Holmes Health
Holmes Ecological Design
and Construction
Doctorhunters.com
Decal Depot/Mercy Codes
Ruth's Rabbit Trail Tours
Dan O'Dowd Productions
Grow with Lauren Ell
Online Marketing Consultant
Stitch Art Studios
Radio Free Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Music Festival
Buck Buckley, Solar Contractor

Local Business Sign on Letter_3

Computer Zone
Uhaul, Yucca Valley
Black Luck Vintage
Cool Daddy O's Ice Cream and
Grill
Starr's Tool Box
Country Market
Cactus Flower
Pho 85 Restaurant

The Cactus Wren Book
Exchange
Hairr's Johnny Barber Shop
Holly's Trading Post
Morongo Valley Café
Aki Sushi
Fins and Fangs
Enterprise, Yucca Valley

Southern Inyo Business Sign On Letter

Crowbar Café and Saloon
Tecopa Hot Springs Resort
Shoshone Museum Association
Death Valley Chamber of Commerce
Xanterra Death Valley
Tecopa Hot Springs Campground and Pools

Shoshone Inn
Second Wind Hot Water Retreat and
Campground
New Light Foto Design
Desert Mesquite Products
Amargosa Conservancy

Palm Springs Business Sign On Letter

Olive A'Sudden
Bagg Spot
Smoke Tree Greetings
Q Trading
Imageville
Find Your Fun Maps
Stewart Galleries
La Plaza Shoe Repair
L'Atelier Café
Bazar
Bearfoot Inn
Etcetera
Blue Coyote Grill
Serious Food and Drink
Café Europa

Ooh LaLa de Paris
Distinctive Home
Oasis Tours and Activities
Elena Bulatova Fine Art
Desert Landscape and Design
Desert Painter Studio Gallery
Lapper's Ice Cream
Marv-N- Stewart
Oscars Bar and Café
R & R Menswear
Sammy G's Restaurant
Kaiser Grille
Cold Nose Warm Heart
Hats Unlimited
Matchbox

La Quinta Business Sign On Letter

As Time Goes By
Blown Away
Boutique
Casa Mendoza Mexican
Restaurant and Bar
CJ's Stir it Up Mongolian Grill
Divas of the Desert
Gracie's Emporium
Joe A Oakes Atelier Painting
Classes and Gallery
Jule's Market, La Quinta
La Quinta Brewing Co.

Legacy Jewelry Company
Old Town Coffee Company
Pedego Electric Bikes
Premier Properties
Realty Executives Desert
Lifestyles
Salon Montana
South West Concepts
Stone Ridge Realty and
Investment Inc
Stuff Pizza Bar and Grill
Yogurt Island U-Create

Barstow Business Sign On Letter

Furry Friends Dog Grooming &
Supplies
Last Call Insurance
Economy Inn

Jenny's Grill
Lola's Kitchen
Route 66 Motel
H & R Block

Viola's Vision Hair Salon
Best Western Desert Villa Inn
Ramada inn
Fitness MD
Idle Spurs Steakhouse

Swiss Liquor
Desert Inn
Del Taco #236
Los Domingos Restaurant

Desert Hot Springs Business Sign On Letter

Glossy Boutique
Desert Eyecare Center
Childres Antiques
Paul M. Ross, DC, Chiropractor
Unisex Hair Salon
IGGM Retail Clothing Store
Meine Hair Salon
El Morocco Inn & Spa

Desert Hot Springs Spa Hotel
Miracle Springs Resort & Spa
Nurturing Nest Mineral Springs
Retreat and Spa
Sandra Gune, DC, Chiropractor
Living Waters Spa
Lido Palms Resort & Spa

Victorville Business Sign On Letter

Armando's Furniture
Auto Fashion Upholstery and
Supplies
Cameo Beauty Center
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Crown and Sword
Jackies Gift Shop

La Quinta Inn
Red Roof Inn,
Sky's Beauty Supply
Shabby Confections
Sport Bike USA
The Tanning Saloon,
Victorville Pawn Shop

EDUCATORS, HISTORIANS, SCIENTISTS AND OTHER EXPERTS

Astronomy Organization, Scientist and Enthusiast Sign on Letter

Craig Weatherwax
Scott Feierabend
James Gee
Dean Arvidson
Thomas A. Meneghini
Wally Pacholka
Tim Hunter

Farah Payan
James Yuen, Past Secretary
Douglas Kegard
Dick Pantoja, President
Scott Kardel
Diana Umpierre
Tom O'Key

Paul Delaney, PhD. Copper Mountain College

Curt Duffy, Instructor, Los Angeles Pierce College

Historians, Archaeologists, Ethnographers, Other Scientists/Experts/Leaders Sign On Letter
(107 signatories)

Scientist Sign On Letter

MILITARY: VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

Active Duty Service Member Sign on Letter

Veterans Sign On Letter (49 signatories)

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Mark Butler
Belinda Faustinos
Michael Fleming
Lyn and Norman Lear
James Redford
Michelle and Rob Reiner
Jim Steyer
David F. Welch

COMMUNITY GROUPS & CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Audubon Sign On Letter
 Palos Verdes/South Bay
 Audubon
 San Fernando Valley Audubon
 Buena Vista Audubon Society
 Laguna Hills Audubon Society
California Desert Coalition
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Coalition to Protect America's Parks
Defenders of Wildlife
Desert Trails Coalition
The Friends of the Big Morongo Basin Preserve
Friends of Pioneertown
Great Outdoors Palm Springs
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Conservation Alliance:
 Green Latinos
 Hispanic Access Foundation
 Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)
 Hispanic Federation
 La Madre Tierra
 Latino Outdoors
Morongo Basin Conservation Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
San Gabriel Mountains Forever
Summer Tree Institute
Vet Voice

San Bernardino Valley
 Audubon Society
Los Angeles Audubon Society
Pasadena Audubon Society
Palomar Audubon Society

ARTIST COMMUNITY

Art and Cultural Leaders for the California Desert Sign On Letter

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSTITUENTS

Joanna Clyde-Findlay
Sam Goldman
Sarah Kennington & Steve Bardwell
Carla Lindquist
Christina MacInnes
Warren & Mary Molton
Mark Stratton
Jim Swindell
Randi Swindell
Bryan Wynwood

Victorville, CA Resident Sign on Letter

Linda Lee Chevalier
Juanita Marts
Larry Marts
John Chevalier
Thomas Atkins
Andrew Redfeather Corona
Priscilla Frema
Ashley Sanchez
Britney Velasco
Hannah Rios
Don Sherman
Alana Pratt
Ronner Williams
Leo Ruiz
Patricia R. Dilday

Mike Mendoza
Evan Ramirez
Arthur Benitez
Marlena Carabajal
Kimberly Nguyen
Yesenia Free
Matthew Cookson
Carlos A. P. Ortiz
Arianna Villa
Ashley Morua
Dalila Guillen
Karen Barahona
Patrick Jones
Roman A. Crisistom

Palm Springs Sign On Letter

Stakeholder Sign On Letter (more than 600 signers)

III. PRESS

Social Media
Press Releases
Press Clips

SUPPORT FOR
MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SUPPORTER LIST

ELECTED OFFICIALS & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
City of Los Angeles
Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Beaumont City Councilman Mark Orozco (D)
Calimesa Mayor Pro Tem Ella Zanowic (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Stan Henry (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis (D)
Cathedral City Councilman Shelley Kaplan (D)
Cathedral City Councilman John Aguilar (D)
Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez (D)
Coachella City Manager David Garcia Desert
Hot Springs Mayor Adam Sanchez, Sr. (D)
Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts (D)
Desert Hot Springs City Councilmember Jan Pye (R)
Desert Hot Springs Councilperson Joe McKee
Indian Wells City Councilmember Douglas Hanson (R)
Indio Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller (R)
Indio City Councilmember Troy Strange (D)
La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans (R)
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Paul Lewin (D)
Palm Springs City Councilmember Ginny Foat (D)
Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael
Rancho Mirage Mayor G. Dana Hobart (R)
Yucaipa City Councilmember Dick Riddell (R)

TRIBES / TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

Native American Land Conservancy
San Manuel Tribe
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

FAITH LEADERS

Assemblies of God's Southern Pacific District (sign on letter from 100 clergy members)
Pastor Sergio Navarrete, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District Assemblies of God,
La Puente
Rev. Silvano Elias, Iglesia Centro Ebenezer, La Puente
Rev. Freddie Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier

Rev. Yanina Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier
Rev. Lesly Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach
Rev. Jose Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach
Rev. Claudio Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita
Rev. Sara Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita
Rev. Ruth Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello
Rev. Elmer Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello
Rev. Lidia España, Director de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Carlos España, Director de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Rigoberto Digeiro, Asistente de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Lilian Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower
Rev. Raymes Mesa, Ministro de SPD, La Puente
Rev. Lupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley
Rev. Guadalupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley
Rev. Daniel Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine
Rev. Martha Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine
Rev. Enoc Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower
Rev. Pedro Vega, Southern Pacific District (SPD) Presbyter, Corona
Rev. Raul Castro, S.P.D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Antonina Arroyo, S.P.D Womens director, La Puente
Rev. Silvia Carrizo, S.P. D. Excecutive, La Puente
Rev. Blanca Castro, S.P.D. Women in ministry Director, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Juanita Cruz, S.P. D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. William Rodriguez, Iglesia Pentecostal Esmirna, Los Angeles
Rev. Miriam Paredes, S.P.D Missions assistant, La Puente
Rev. Mario Procopio, Newport Beach
Rev. Blandina Tamara, S.P.D Presbyter, Santa Ana
Rev. Fernando Tamara, Primera Asamblea de Orange County, Irvine
Rev. Daniel de Leon, Templo Calvario, Tustin
Rev. Jesse Villarreal, Templo La Hermosa of the A/G, Coachella
Rev. Mike Neciuk, El Redentor, Brawley
Rev. Lalo Guerrero, S.P.D Presbyter, Ontario
Rev. Saul Rios, Centro Evangelistico Rios de Agua Viva, Santa Ana
Rev. Ana Rivera, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster
Rev. Sylvia Hoover,Templo el Salvador, Thousand Oaks
Rev. Rolando Barahona, Iglesia Cristiana Tabernaculo de Fe, Los Angeles
Rev. Manuel Montes, Nueva Vida en Cristo, South Gate
Rev. Jack Miranda, Living Faith, La Mirada
Rev. Felix Garcia, Centro Esperanza, City of Industry
Rev. Manny Rodriguez, Tailor's House, Covina Rev. Jesus Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas,
Carlsbad
Rev. Esther Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Edwin Mota, Iglesia Alfarero de las asambleas de Dios, Fallbrook
Rev. Maria Elia Guzman, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles

Rev. Simon Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Martha Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Alex Lainez, S.P.D Royal Ranger Director, Baldwin Park
Rev. Urias Mendoza, Mision el Redentor, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Luis Castro, S.P.D Kings Kastle Director, Los Angeles
Rev. Cecilia Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Demetrio Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Joshua Pinto, Centro Evangelistico Faro a las Naciones, Lake Forest
Rev. Melesio Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Raymond Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Francisco Vasquez, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles
Rev. Heber Porras, Iglesia del Señor, Long Beach
Rev. Mario Ramirez, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster
Rev. Magdalena Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas, San Diego
Rev. Refugio Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Vicky Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Lucia Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Nora Landaverde, S.P.D Girls Ministries Director, La Puente
Rev. Denis Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Carmen Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Marcos Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Zoila Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Alfredo Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Lilian Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Estuardo Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Gabriela Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Lucy Saavedra, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Jose Luis Bonilla, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Roberto Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Edilu Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Herbert Diaz, Iglesia Mision Cristiana de rescate, Las Vegas
Rev. Mizrahim Ramirez, Centro Cristiano Fresca Uncion, Lynwood
Rev. Dimas Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Juanita Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Javier Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Rosy Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Ernesto Ambriz, Templo Ebenezer, Riverside
Rev. Carlos Gamez, Familia del Nuevo Nacimiento, Lake Elsinore
Rev. Leonzo Morales, Hija de Saron, Murrieta
Rev. Rodolfo Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer, Tustin
Rev. Becky Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenzer, Tustin
Rev. Moises Lecca, Iglesia Vida Abundante Nternacional, Los Angeles
Rev. Manuel Prado, 100 Por Ciento Vida, Lancaster
Rev. Miguel Duarte, Iglesia Evangelica Sol de Justicia, Reseda

Rev. Francisco Duarte, Iglesia Betania, Maywood
Rev. Eliseo Ruelas, Iglesia el Eden, Los Angeles
Rev. Marcos Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. Elsa Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. John Perea, Bethel Community of Barstow, Barstow
Rev. Felipe Guiza, Centro Misionero Siloe, San Diego
Rev. Isaac Rangel, Iglesia del Rey San Diego, San Diego
Rev. Angel Palma, Life Church-Iglesia Viva, Corona
Rev. Oscar Amaya, Ministerio Emanuel Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles

California Council of Churches IMPACT

Por La Creacion:

Frank Ruiz, Pastor, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Indio CA
Enrique Orellana, Sr. Pastor, Fuente de Vida Christian Center, Coachella CA
Jesse Villarreal, Sr. Pastor, Templo La Hermosa, Coachella CA
Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno CA
Raul Velazquez, Pastor, El Nuevo Comienzo, Adelanto CA
Javier Moreno, Co-Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville CA
Raymundo Ortiz, Pastor, Iglesias Amiavi, Victorville CA
Cecilia Ruano, Pastor, Rosa de Saron Asembla de Dios Church, Caldwell ID
Dr. Sergio Navarette, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District of the Assemblies of God
Jorge Quintanilla, Pastor, Iglesia Divino Salvador, Reseda CA
Juan Manuel Almanza, Pastor, Centro de Adoracion Familiar, Las Vegas NV
Joseito Velasquez, Sr. Pastor, Healing Waters Family Center, Denver CO
Martin Martinez, Youth Pastor, Impacto Juvenil, Covina CA
Absalon Duran, Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville CA
Hector Manzo, Centro Cristiano de Fe, Victorville CA

BUSINESSES AND CHAMBERS

Calimesa Chamber of Commerce
Death Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau
Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce
Latino Business Association
Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Route 66 Chamber of Commerce
California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunities
Outdoor Recreation Businesses
Belinda Sanda Sales
Brook Hopper Consulting
Camelback
The Conservation Alliance

Eagle Creek
Elemental Herbs
The Forest Group
Good Solutions
KEEN Footwear
Klean Kanteen
Juniper Ridge
The Mountain Lab
The North Face
Patagonia
Smartwool
Timberland
Vans
Vapur

A Stylish Affair, Yucca Valley
Adventure 16, San Diego
Aki Sushi, Yucca Valley
Arcadia Bookstore, Wisconsin
Armando's Furniture, Victorville
As Time Goes By, La Quinta
Auto Fashion Upholstery and Supplies, Victorville
Awakened Wisdom Experiences
Bagg Spot, Palm Springs
Bardwell Case and Associates Inc. Architects, Sherman Oaks
Bazar, Palm Springs
Bearfoot Inn, Palm Springs
Belle's Best Beef Jerky
Benchmark Studios, Joshua Tree
Best Western Desert Villa Inn, Barstow
Bird on a Wire Art and Collectibles, Joshua Tree
Bird Watcher's Digest, Marietta OH
BKB Ceramics, Joshua Tree
Black Luck Vintage, Yucca Valley
Blown Away, La Quinta
Blue Coyote Grill, Palm Springs
Blue Prairie Productions, New York and Pioneertown, CA
Boutique, La Quinta
Broadview, Twenty Nine Palms
Buck Buckley, Solar Contractor, Joshua Tree
Buenowill International, Barstow
Cactus Flower, Yucca Valley
Cactus Mart, Morongo Valley
The Cactus Wren Book Exchange, Yucca Valley
Café Europa, Palm Springs
Cameo Beauty Center, Victorville

Carla's Route 62 Diner, Yucca Valley
Casa de Yermo Handmade Soaps, Yermo
Casa Mendoza Mexican Restaurant and Bar, La Quinta
Childres Antiques, Desert Hot Springs
CJ's Stir it Up Mongolian Grill, La Quinta
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Victorville
Cold Nose Warm Heart, Palm Springs
Colorado River Medical Center, Needles
Computer Zone, Yucca Valley
Cool Daddy O's Ice Cream and Grill, Yucca Valley
Country Kitchen, Joshua Tree
Country Market and Deli, Morongo Valley
Coyote Corner, Joshua Tree
Crossroads Café, Joshua Tree
Crowbar Café and Saloon, Shoshone
Crown and Sword, Victorville
Dan O'Dowd Productions, Joshua Tree
Decal Depot, Joshua Tree
Del's Shoes, Yucca Valley
Del Taco #236, Barstow
Desert Decorating, Pioneertown
Desert Eyecare Center, Desert Hot Springs
Desert Hot Springs Spa Hotel, Desert Hot Springs
Desert Inn, Barstow
Desert Landscape and Design, Palm Springs
Desert Mequite Products, Tecopa
Desert Oracle, Joshua Tree
Desert Painter Studio Gallery, Palm Springs
Distinctive Home, Palm Springs
Divas of the Desert, La Quinta
Doctorhunters.com, Joshua Tree
Economy Inn, Barstow
Elena Bulatova Fine Art, Palm Springs
El Morocco Inn & Spa, Desert Hot Springs
Enterprise, Yucca Valley
Etcetera, Palm Springs
Find Your Fun Maps, Palm Springs
Fins and Fangs, Yucca Valley
Furry Friends Dog Grooming & Supplies, Barstow
Glossy Boutique, Desert Hot Springs
Gracie's Emporium, La Quinta
Grateful Desert, Joshua Tree
Green Tree Inn, Victorville
Grow with Lauren Ell, Online Marketing Consultant, Joshua Tree
Hairr's Johnny Barber Shop, Yucca Valley

Hats Unlimited, Palm Springs
Dr. Alan Hedman
Hi Desert Water Transport, Joshua Tree
HK Lane Real Estate, Palm Spring
Holly's Trading Post, Morongo Valley
Holmes Health, Joshua Tree
Holmes Ecological Design and Construction, Joshua Tree
Homestead Modern No. 1, Pioneertown
Hoodoo (Records), Yucca Valley
Hoof and Horn, Yucca Valley
Idle Spurs Steakhouse, Barstow
IGGM Retail Clothing Store, Desert Hot Springs
Ikon Beauty, Yucca Valley
Imageville, Palm Springs
Instant Karma Yoga, Joshua Tree
Jackies Gift Shop, Victorville
Jenny's Grill, Barstow
Joe A Oakes Atelier Painting Classes and Gallery, La Quinta
John Dittli Photography, Crowley Lake
Joshua Tree Adventures, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Bicycle Shop, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Certified Farmers' Market, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Excursions, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Family Dentistry, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Health Foods, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Mini Storage, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Music Festival, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Realty, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Rustic Modern Rentals, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Saloon, Joshua Tree
JT Lilypad, LLC, Joshua Tree
Jule's Market, La Quinta
Kaiser Grille, Palm Springs
Lapper's Ice Cream, Palm Springs
L'Atelier Café, Palm Springs
La Plaza Shoe Repair, Palm Springs
La Quinta Brewing Co., La Quinta
La Quinta Inn, Hesperia
Legacy Jewelry Company, La Quinta
Le Haute Desert Aerie, Pioneertown
Lido Palms Resort & Spa, Desert Hot Springs
Living Waters Spa, Desert Hot Springs

Lola's Kitchen, Barstow
Los Domingos Restaurant, Barstow
Ma Rouge Café, Yucca Valley
Marv-N-Stewart, Palm Springs
Matchbox, Palm Springs
Meine Hair Salon, Desert Hot Springs
Mike's Liquor, Joshua Tree
Miracle Springs Resort & Spa, Desert Hot Springs
Moonlight Mesa Retreats and Vacation Rentals, Joshua Tree
Morongo Valley Café, Morongo Valley
Morongo Valley Hardware, Morongo Valley
Natural Sisters Café, Joshua Tree
New Light Foto Design, Tecopa
Nurturing Nest, Desert Hot Springs
Oasis Tours and Activities, Palm Springs
Olive A'Sudden, Palm Springs
Old Town Coffee Company, La Quinta
The Olive Adobe, Pioneertown
Ooh LaLa de Paris, Palm Springs
Oscars Bar and Café, Palm Springs
Pappy and Harriet's, Pioneertown
Pato's Dream Date Gardens, Thermal
Patricia Knight Photography, Joshua Tree
Paul M. Ross, DC, Chiropractor, Desert Hot Springs
Pedego Electric Bikes, La Quinta
Pho 85 Restaurant, Yucca Valley
Pie for the People, Joshua Tree
Pioneer Crossing Antiques, Yucca Valley
Pioneertown Properties, Pioneertown
Pipes Canyon Lodge, Pioneertown
Premier Properties, La Quinta
Q Trading, Palm Springs
Quiznos, Yucca Valley
R & R Menswear, Palm Springs
Radio Free Joshua Tree, Joshua Tree
Rainbow Stew, Yucca Valley
Ramada Inn, Barstow
Ranger Enterprises, Morongo Valley
Realty Executives Desert Lifestyles, La Quinta
Red Roof Inn, Victorville
Rieman Sculpture, Yucca Valley
Rock Reach House, Yucca Valley

Route 62 Vintage Market, Yucca Valley
Route 66 Motel, Barstow
The Ruin Venue, Pioneertown
Ruth's Rabbit Trail Tours, Yucca Valley
Safari Motor Inn, Joshua Tree
Salon Montana, La Quinta
Sam's Market, Joshua Tree
Sam's Pizza, Joshua Tree
Sammy G's Restaurant, Palm Springs
Sandra Gune, DC, Chiropractor, Desert Hot Springs
Second Wind Hot Water Retreat and Campground, Tecopa
Serious Food and Drink, Palm Springs
Shabby Confections, Victorville
Shoshone Inn, Shoshone
Shoshone Museum Association, Shoshone
Sky's Beauty Supply, Victorville
Smoke n' More, Joshua Tree
Smoke Tree Greetings, Palm Springs
South West Concepts, La Quinta
Sport Bike USA, Victorville
Starlite, Joshua Tree
Starr's Tool Box, Yucca Valley
Stewart Galleries, Palm Springs
Stitch Art Studios, Joshua Tree
Stoker Construction, Yucca Valley and Indio
Stone Ridge Realty and Investment Inc, La Quinta
Stuff Pizza Bar and Grill, La Quinta
Swarat Signs, Morongo Valley
Sweet Rock Ranch, Yucca Valley
Sun Runner Magazine, Joshua Tree
Tamara's at Home Inc., Yucca Valley
Tamma's Magic Mercantile, Yucca Valley
The Tanning Saloon, Victorville
Tecopa Hot Springs Campground and Pools, Tecopa
Tecopa Hot Springs Resort, Tecopa
Two Bunch Palms, Desert Hot Springs
Uhaul, Yucca Valley
Unique Gardens Nursery, Yucca Valley
Unisex Hair Salon, Desert Hot Springs
Victorville Pawn Shop, Victorville
Viola's Vision Hair Salon, Barstow
Xanterra Death Valley, Furnace Creek

Yogurt Island U-Create, La Quinta
 Yokozuna Japanese Restaurant and Night Club, Yucca Valley
 Yucca Valley Tobacco Mart, Yucca Valley
 Zaks, LLC-Route 66 Memorabilia, St. Claire, MO
 Zlux Skin Care

EDUCATORS, HISTORIANS, SCIENTISTS, AND OTHER EXPERTS

Craig Weatherwax	Michele Salzman, Ph.D.	Nicole Johnson, J.D.
Scott Feierabend	Inés Hernández-Avila, Ph.D.	Lee Ann Smith-Trafzer, J.D.
James Gee	Jonathan Ritter, Ph.D.	Joan Schneider, Ph.D.
Dean Arvidson	Donna L. Akers, Ph.D.	James Andre, Ph.D.
Thomas A. Meneghini	Victoria Haskins, Ph.D.	T. Robert Przeklasa, Ph.D.
Wally Pacholka	Barry Alan Joyce, Ph.D.	Kurt Russo, Ph.D.
Tim Hunter	Richard D. Scheurman, Ph.D.	Jay Lewis Cravath, Ph.D.
Farah Payan	Devra Weber, Ph.D.	Diane Pearson, Ph.D.
James Yuen	Michelle Raheja, Ph.D.	Julia Coates, Ph.D.
Douglas Kegard	Barbara Alice Mann, Ph.D.	Michelle Lorimer, Ph.D.
Dick Pantoja, President	Fariba Zarinebaf, Ph.D.	Robert D. Miller, Ph.D.
Scott Kardel	K. D. Motes, Ph.D.	Richard Hanks, Ph.D.
Diana Umpierre	Rebecca Kugel, Ph.D.	Philip M. Klasky, M.A.
Tom O'Key	Jason Weems, Ph.D.	Edward Gomez, Ph.D.
Paul Delaney, Ph.D.	David Biggs, Ph.D.	candidate
Curt Duffy	Alexander Haskell, Ph.D.	Dean Pieper, Ph.D.
Clifford E. Trafzer	Dana Simmons, Ph.D.	candidate
Gary Nash, Ph.D.	Juliet McMullin, Ph.D.	Ben Jenkins, Ph.D.
LeAnne Howe	Jennifer Hughes, Ph.D.	candidate
Steven Gould Axelrod, Ph.D.	Catherine Gudis, Ph.D.	Andrew Shaler, Ph.D.
Renard Strickland	Brendan Lindsay, Ph.D.	candidate
Thomas C. Patterson, Ph.D.	Richard Griswold del Castillo, Ph.D.	Alfred Flores, Ph.D.
Christopher Chase-Dunn, Ph.D.	Scott L. Fedick, Ph.D.	candidate
Margaret Connell-Szasz, Ph.D.	David Adams, Ph.D.	Nicolette Rohr, Ph.D.
Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, Ph.D.	Edward D. Castillo	candidate
Carole Goldberg, J.D.	David Whitehorse, Ph.D.	Alfred Flores, Ph.D.
Margaret Jacobs, Ph.D.	Jean Keller, Ph.D.	candidate
Richard Olds, M.D.	Ruth Nolan	Caroline Schwartz, Ph.D.
Duane Champagne, Ph.D.	Joseph Herring, Ph.D.	candidate
Steven A. Leibo, Ph.D.	William Medina, Ph.D.	Natalie Anderson-Patch, Ph.D. candidate
	Angela Mooney D'Arcy, J.D.	Jennifer Brown, Ph.D.
		candidate

Sarah Wolk, Ph.D. candidate	Amanda K. Gomes Robin Laska	R. Dave Evans Scott Cashen
Lisa C. Haws	Victoria A. Gemmill	Robin Kobaly, Botanist/Wildlife Biologist
Lynette Russell, Ph.D.	Jackie Olds	James M. Andre
Larry Myers	Robin Hanks	Paul Beier
Katherine I. Gordon	Celeste Nava	Dr. Timothy Krantz
Connie Striplen	Irma Flores	Duncan Bell
Maria Baranowski	Sally Ake	Terry Root
William Mungary	James Fenelon, Ph.D.	David S. Wilcove
Terri Jacquemain	Tom Long, Ph.D.	Glenn Stewart, Ph.D.
Beverly Todd	Robert McCoy, Ph.D.	Matthew Dietz, Ph.D.
Dusti Rose Bacon	Kevin Whalen, Ph.D.	Gregory H. Aplet, Ph.D.
Robert Fulwider	Cary Collins, Ph.D.	R. Travis Belote, Ph.D.
Leanne Thomas	Gregory Cummings, Ph.D.	Dr. William Rainey
Carol Ray	Frazier Haney	Dr. Patricia Brown, Ph.D.
Vivienne Jake	Amanda Wixon	Dr. Allan Muth
Fred S. Vallo, Sr.	Louise Smith	Dr. James Malcolm
Dusti Bacon	Barry Sinervo	Edith B. Allen
Henry Vasquez	Frank W. Davis, Ph.D.	Dr. Cameron Barrows
Matthew Hanks Leivas	Wayne D. Spencer	Dan Klooster
Darlene Burton	Wendy McIntyre, Ph.D.	Tasha LaDoux, Ph.D.
Carolina C. Butler	Sam Sweet	Michael Allen
Carol Underhill	Paula Schiffman, Ph.D.	

MILITARY: VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

Active Duty Service Members:

First Sergeant Arzola, Mohammad A., U.S. Marine Corps	Sergeant Franquez Jr, Oscar, U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Baldridge, Michael M., U.S. Marine Corps	Staff Sergeant Gallardo, Jaime A., U.S. Marine Corps
Captain Bombaci, Jared E., U.S. Marine Corps	Staff Sergeant Garside, Mark J., U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Borja, Marvin J., U.S. Marine Corps	Sergeant Garst, Matthew D., U.S. Marine Corps
Captain Brooks, Daniel L. U.S. Marine Corps	Staff Sergeant Gibson, Daniel G., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Buchanan, David R., U.S. Marine Corps	Staff Sergeant Hackett, Jonathan W., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Campoamor, Andrew R., U.S. Marine Corps	Sergeant Hall, William P., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Carpenter, Dereck L., U.S. Marine Corps	Master Sergeant Halterman, Michael G., U.S. Marine Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Harless, Bradley A., U.S. Marine Corps
Corporal Holbert, Corey D., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Hoppe, Andrew P., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Huerta, Theodore S., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Huls, Wyatt D., U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Jacklin, Brian C., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant James, Seth C., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Kelsaw, Steven J., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Kopta, Justin P., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Lappin IV, John M., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Manibog III, Benjamin M., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant McCormick, Christophe M., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Meleski II, Timothy M., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Mendiola, West, U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Perkins, Tyler A., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Questell, Derek J., U.S. Marine Corps
Corporal Ruiz, Alex, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Wagner, Cameron A., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Stoner, Christophe D., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Urso, Rocco A., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Vargas, Giovanni, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Vieyra Jr, Alejandro, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Wiener, Eric D., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Worth, Nickolas F., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Carey, Eric C., U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Castille, Mark R., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Culpepper, Lee M., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Erickson, Adam W., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Fuller, Zachary M., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Brabowski, Wojciech A., U.S. Marine Corps
Master Sergeant Guerra, Ralph E., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Ingram, Alan R., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Merstrand, Ulrik R., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Salgado, Juanjose R., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Sells, Austin M., U.S. Marine Corps

Veterans

Hank Alvarez, Corona
U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant

Gilbert Archuleta, Vallejo
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Larry Branson, Pomona
U.S. Army, Colonel

Ron Bridges, Rancho Cucamonga
U.S. Marine Corps, Private 1st Class

Joshua Bunce, Riverside
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Christina Burton, Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Kim Coleman, Highland
U.S. Marines, Sergeant

Gary Martin, Yucaipa
U.S. Navy, Captain

Phillip Cripps, Cathedral City
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

Rebecca Martin, Riverside
U.S. Marine Corps, Staff Sergeant

Paul Davis, Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Specialist

David Marinsk, Santa Rosa
U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel

Tom Derusha, Temecula
U.S. Army, Corporal

Stephen McDaniel, Riverside
U.S. Air Force, Captain

Donald Dible, Murrieta
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Stephen McKeand, Running Springs
U.S. Army/Marine Corps, Sergeant

Joseph DiFrancesco, Chino
U.S. Air Force, Senior Airman

John McKee, San Jacinto
U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel

Keith Ferrer, El Verano
U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant

Frances Miller, Rancho Mirage
U.S. Army, Specialist

Kermit Franklin, Antelope Valley
U.S. Marine, Sergeant

Andrew Morgan, Palm Desert
U.S. Navy, Seaman

James Ewing, Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel

Tom Mullen, Riverside
U.S. Army, Captain

Daniel Ferra, Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Specialist

James Ouimet, Mammoth Lakes
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

James Jackson, Beaumont
U.S. Army, Specialist

Mark Porras, Palm Desert
U.S. Marines, Sergeant

Allen Gildard, Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Captain

Philip Power, Lake Arrowhead
U.S. Navy, Seaman

Pamela Lacey, Rialto
U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant

Ray Quinto, Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Staff Sergeant

William Lansville, Barstow
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Steven Raihl, Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Corporal

Martin Ledezma, Redlands
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Dave Raley, Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Colonel

Bob Leyba, Newberry Springs
U.S. Navy, Seaman 1st Class

Billie Ridgway, Phelan
U.S. Army, Corporal

Robert Rippetoe, Rancho Mirage
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Carlos Simental, Victorville
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Scott Roney, Temecula
U.S. Army, Captain

David Smith, Cathedral City
U.S. Army, Private First Class

Curt Sanders, Lee Vining
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

Robert Stune, Whitewater
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Marvin Sawyer, Yucca Valley
U.S. Army, Sergeant

William Taylor, Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Colonel

John Schricker, Loma Linda
U.S. Army, Private First Class

Melinda Tremaglio, Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Captain

Mark Zellmer, Lucerne Valley
U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Mark Butler
Belinda Faustinos
Michael Fleming
Lyn and Norman Lear
James Redford
Michelle and Rob Reiner
Jim Steyer
David F. Welch

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Akebulan African American Cultural Center
Amigos del Los Rios
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)
Audubon Society Chapters:
 Palos Verdes/South Bay
 San Fernando Valley
 Buena Vista
 Laguna Hills
 San Bernardino Valley
 Los Angeles
 Pasadena
 Palomar
California Desert Coalition
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Coalition to Protect America's Parks
Compton High School – Nature Club
Desert Trails Coalition
Diverse Outdoor Leadership Institute
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps

Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Pioneertown
Great Outdoors Palm Springs
James O Jessie Unity Center
John Muir High School Social Justice Academy
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Conservation Alliance:
 Green Latinos
 Hispanic Access Foundation
 Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)
 Hispanic Federation
 La Madre Tierra
 Latino Outdoors
Los Angeles Land Trust
Los Angeles Leadership Academy
Los Angeles Environmental Charter School
Morongo Basin Conservation Association
Neighbors Acting Together Helping All (NATHA)
North East Trees
Outward Bound Adventures
Pacific Crest Trail Association
City of Pasadena, Villa Park Community Center
Pasadena NAACP
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
San Gabriel Mountains Forever
Social Justice Humanitis
Summer Tree Institute
Vet Voice Foundation

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Amargosa Conservancy
California Wilderness Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservation Lands Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Mojave Desert Land Trust
National Parks Conservation Association
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Sierra Club
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Conservancy

ARTIST COMMUNITY

Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency

Art and Cultural Leaders for the California Desert

Kim Stringfellow, Guggenheim Fellow 2015. Director, The Mojave Project. Joshua Tree, CA.

Rhonda Coleman, Director, Curator, 29 Palms Art Gallery. Twentynine Palms, CA.

Bernard Leibov, Director, BoxoProjects. Former Deputy Director, Judd Foundation. New York, NY & Joshua Tree, CA.

Eva Soltes, Executive Director, Harrison House for Music, Arts and Ecology. Joshua Tree, CA.

Phillip K. Smith III, Light Artist. Indio, CA.

Frederick Fulmer, Director Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency. Joshua Tree, CA.

Andrea Zittel, Director, A-Z West. Founding Director, High Desert Test Sites. Joshua Tree, CA.

Mary-Austin Klein, Landscape painter. California Wilderness Coalition. Joshua Tree, CA.

Carolyn Young, Director, West of the Moon Gallery. Flagstaff, AZ.

Pamela Madsen, Sound Artist, Curator. Professor Cal State Fullerton School of Music. Fullerton, CA.

Cheryl Younger, Director of the American Photography Institute at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Former Chair, Society for Photographic Education. New York, NY.

Alita VanVliet, Board of Directors, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Director, Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours. Joshua Tree, CA.

Robert Johnson, Professor, Cypress College. Director, The Legacy Project. CA.

Roy Dietrich, Fine Artist. CA.

Edwin Vasquez, Photojournalist AV MEDIA. Fine Artist. Rosamond, CA.

Millie Wilson, Artist. CalArts. TX.

Melanie Walker, Artist. Professor of Fine Art, University of Colorado. Boulder, CO.

Bobby Furst, Director, FURSTWORLD Gallery / Performing Arts. Joshua Tree, CA.

Paula Jean Rice, Artist. Professor of Art Emeritus, Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, AZ.

Melissa J. Armstrong, Director, Interdisciplinary Global Programs, Center for International Education, Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, AZ.

Stevie Love, Artist. Director, Lancaster Museum and Public Art Foundation. Lancaster, CA.

Sant Khalsa, Professor Emeritus Department of Art. Founding Faculty Water Resources Institute, CA State University San Bernardino. San Bernardino, CA & Joshua Tree, CA.

Danny Frankel, Musician. Joshua Tree, CA.

Diane Best, Filmmaker, Painter, Photographer. Joshua Tree, CA.

Robin Rosenthal, Filmmaker. Producer, Pony Highway Productions. Littlerock, CA.

James Hammons, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Paul Klopfenstein, President, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Joshua Tree, CA.

Steve Rieman, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Ruth Rieman, Board of Directors, Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency. Joshua Tree, CA.

Catherine Svehla, Cultural Mythologist/Director, Mythic Mojo. Joshua Tree, CA.

Mindy Kaufman, Director, Joshua Tree Art Gallery. Joshua Tree, CA.

Joella Jean Mahoney, Fine Artist. Professor Emeritus, Art Department Chair, University of Laverne. La Verne, CA.

Nancy Campbell, Poet, Desert Poets. Palm Springs, CA.
 Andree Mendenhall Mahoney, Fine Artist. Professor Emeritus, Art Department Chair,
 Chaffee Community College. Alta Loma, CA.
 Gillian Spedding, Poet, Desert Poets. Palm Springs, CA.
 Julia Buckley, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.
 Rebecca Trawick, Director, Wagnall Museum of Contemporary Art. Alta Loma, CA.
 Jacobine Van der Meer, Van der Meer Studio. The Arts Council of San Bernardino. Los
 Angeles, CA & Landers, CA.
 Phillip Rosenberg, Musician, Rags and Bones Music. Joshua Tree, CA.
 Phyllis Schwartz, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.
 Renna Shesso, Book Author. Denver, CO.
 Joe Garcia, Musician, Urban Desert Cabaret. Landers, CA.
 Joanna Fodczuk, Painter/Art Instructor. Los Angeles, CA & Landers, CA.
 Noreen Lawlor, Artist, Painter, Poet. Joshua Tree, CA.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSTITUENTS*

Fred Archer	Sarah Kennington	Attias Rzeznik
Paul Backovich	Nancy Klein	Nina Shine
Steve Bardwell	Robin Kobaly	Michael Smith
Pauline Bedford	Jesse Laird	Theresa Smith
Pamela Berry	Allyson Lavender	Max Stein
Steven Blosssey	Andrea Lavender	Lewis Stewart
Courtney Brandt	Ed Lavender	Mark Stratton
Missy Buce	Elzina Lavender	Jim Swindel
Jacqueline Budd	Anne Leewis	Randi Swindel
Joan Clark	Michael Barus LeMay	Emilio Vegel
Chris Clarke	Susan LeMay	Deborah Vincent
Joann Clyde Findley	Carla Lindquist	Donna Vincent
Catherine Colella	Raul Lopez, Yucaipa	Jacquelyn Webster
Madeline Dace	Marilyn Lutz	Stephanie Weigel
Faith Donovan	Christina MacInnes	Bryan Wynwood
Nancy Dopp	S Marling	E. Janelle Zarato
Chris Dougherty	Jack Meyers	Joseph Zine
Phillip Ferranti	Warren & Mary Molton	Delia B. Sanchez
Ernesto Fortin	Dale Mondary	Robin Robb
Sam Goldman	Danette Mondary	Bonnie Henry
Paul Goff	Doug Powell	Theresa Orchanian
Mizuki Hanford	Kevin Powell	Robert Walters
Marcene Hills	Daisy Ramirez	Martha Walters
Arthur Huebner	Steve Rieman	Robert Henry
Spencer Hunt	Ruth Rieman	Kirk Taylor
Tom Kayne	Ashley Robles	Mary Burrows
Jean Kenna	Lara Rozzell	Carl Leever

Serena Chow	Cindy Austin	Penne Curey
Mary Leever	Valerie Aversa	Marylou Curry
Richard Roosman	Essence Bacon	Richard Curry
Mark Freeman	Lisa Baldwin	Mackenzie Curtiss
Amy Taylor	Steve Bardwell	Mary Darden
Renee Hicks	Rowland Bellorini	Marissa Dedios
John Greene	Mary Best	Julian Degoede
Robyn R. Kohr	Cheryl Blankenship	Jayr Delatorre
Vendela Martin	Jylan Boggs	Dylan Deluna
Erika Henry	Jennifer Bolande	Kathleen Demaray
Sara Sakurai	Kalli Bolanis	Jaed Demorrow
Timothy Anderson	Gretchen Bolin	Megan Dennis
Kathryn Anderson	Andrew Bolucci	Charlotte Desantis
Tommie Ann Freeman	Nate Bolucci	Ruben Destinee
Philip Wojtkowski	Cheyenne Bonnell	Mariah Diaz
Sam Anderson	Harry Bowkley	Jorge Diaz
Thomas Carson	Morgan Brafford	Jasmine Dlagass
Chenoa Neiberger	Dudley Branco	Sierra Duckin
Erick Cronkhite	Syble Breihan	Christin Dupin
Tiffany Adair	Jayden Brown	Edgar Eckhart
Jade Adair	Connie Cabrillo	Barbara Eckhart
Jeff Adair	Stephanie Cambell	Cari Ensley
Toni Adair	Alexis Campos	Pamela Erwin
Larry Adroll	Gabe Canteras	Tricia Etheridge
Angelica Agredano	Alexandra Castaneda	Cristo Eydel
Larry Akell	Jason Catlin	Aaron Fagan
Maryjane Alaniz	Kenny Caudill	Tattance Fatelle
Marijane Alaniz	Ismael Chavez	Vinny Ferraro
Reanna Alder	Marc Chea	Marisk Ferrer
Aleneula Alenaula	Linde Chubak	Marya Fields
Jane Allingham	David Chubak	Robert Fisher
Carmen Alvarez	Phebe Cisneros	Maya Fleursey
Ida Alwin	Joshua Cole	Hilde Fonda
Ida Alwin	Katherine Cook	John Frakes
Gayle Anderson	Paul Cooley	Emilia Frasher
Sierra Anderson	Colton Cooper	Boyd Frialet
Linda Anderson	Jay Corbin	Daniel Friend
Barbara Andreasen	Susan Corbin	Chris Frum
Jazmin Angeles	Alexander Courtney	Gionanni Fuller
Briauna Archer	Jilyn Crawford	Robert Furst
David Archer	Natalie Cressy	Kelsey Gaarder
Rebecca Arellano	Hannah Cross	Andrew Gamboa
Dan Armitage	Amanda Cruz	Quentin Gamboa
Dale Armitage	Shyann Cully	Ray Garcia

Jessica Garcia	Jamie Haney	Genevieve Kelley
Eveleyn Garcia	Yolanda Hansen	Allison Kennedy
Ceillo Garcia	Andrew Hardin	Katherine Kennedy
Rudy Garcia	Allan Harniet	Jeanne Kennington
Luis Garcia	Dale Harnitz	Sarah Kennington
Sharon Garcia	Deeann Harvey	Daniel Kernodle
Mariana Garcia	Jolie Harwick	Josephine Kim
David Garry	Frankie Harwood	Katherine King
Ann Garry	Harmony Hayes	Kiersten King
Dellia Gastelia	Dianne Hayward	Val Kiri
Amy Gattuso	Megan Hearne	Charity Kirkendall
Tyler Geeson	Mary Henderson	Alyssa Knupp
Thomas Geiger	Marcy Henderson	Alexandria Koedel
Garrett George	Sheyenne Henkhaus	Gary Koger
Alan Gilbert	Shawn Hennes-Lam	Lakey Kolb
Gregory Glenn	Elenne Herrera	Leslie Kooy
Mariah Goddard	Gauge Hill	Ellen Lamotte
Daniel Goddard	Amir Hmirian	James Lamotte
Samuel Goldman	Chelsee Hobbs	Lori Landry
Beth Gonzales	Ethan Hodder	Virginia Landry
Jayden Gonzalez	Kylie Howell	Billee Larson
Kaitlin Goodpaster	Cannon Hudson	Morgan Larson
Betsy Goza	Brenden Hughes	Ann Lawson
Kayla Graham	Lesley Hughes	Lorraine Leach
Lynette Graham	Kai Hyn	Brian Leatart
Jan Grandi	Toni Jackson	Khaleel Leforce
Colton Gray	Curtis Jacobs	Kaylee Leforce
Melanie Greco	Penny Jacobs	Faith Legocki
Douglas Green	Karly Jacobs	Nathen Lester
Ed Greenshields	Curtis Jacobs	Darlene Lester
Vicki Greenshields	Adrian Jimenez	Kathy Lewis
Bryan Grijatow	Ruben Jimenez	Tania Leysen
Aislinn Gueltzow	Liana Jimenez	Stacy Liechti
Tabitha Guevara	Luana Johnson	Lofa Lillern
Tristan Guevara	Briana Johnson	Jared Lindley
Richard Gunning	Lise Jones	Marissa Lindley
Leslie Gunning	Jennifer Jungwirth	James Lindley
Vanessa Gutierrez	John Kahrs	Pamela Lindley
Pamela Hagedorn	Sharlene Kahrs	Carla Lindquist
Greg Hagedorn	Sierra Kahrs	Elenne Lisbon
Kayla Hall	Griffin Kater	Marsha Lona
Janet Hamilton	Mindy Kaufman	Deserie Lopez
James Hammons	Ashley Keely	Andrew Lopez
Jonathan Hancock	Harry Keen	Daniela Lopez

Camryn Maeinello	Maryssa Mullens	Mekeilah Rogers
Sarah Mahan	Logan Naylor	Robert Rolak
Travis Mahan	Logan Naylor	Savannah Romero
Laci Malin	Annie Nelson	Caitlin Rowe
Parish Malle	Kate Nelson	Estelle Rubenstein
Hailey Manter	Arrington Nevitt	Destinie Rubenstein
Gia Marie	Samson Nunez	Caitlyn Ruggiero
Camryn Marinella	Charlotte Ohnsted	Mike Ruggiero
Amanda Marroquin	Chelsea Oliver	Gretchen Ruggiero
Janice Martin	Angela Olivores	Vincenzo Ruggiero
Alden Martin	Erelin Ortiz	Mark Russell
Taylor Martin	Tamara Ottosen	Uluan Salen
Katie Mason	Ken Pace	Creig Samith
Susan Masterson	Kelly Padilla	Nancy San
Johnny May	Lewis Parker	Yadier Sanshez
Kaitlyn Mcallen	Bryan Parker	Chris Scali
Anthony Mccall	Gene Parsons	Sierra Scali
Wendy Mceuen	Brian Peters	Sierra Scali
Donovan Mckeever	Gina Peters	Angelina Schoenberger
Chatel Mckettrick	Bob Peterson	John Schoenberger
Frankie Mcwood	Lily Peterson	Maraus Schrimshaw
Gudrun Mecham	James Pizza	John Schuler
Arvel Mecham	Norma Pizza	Cornelia Schulz
Stephanie Mecham	Juanita Prezell	Phyllis Schwartz
Michelle Mecham	Kerry Puckett	Ashley Schwartz
Sadie Mecham	Audrey Pushkar	Stephen Scigliano
Diane Medina	Sherry Rand	Timothy Scott
Pilleure Meduele	Barbara Rasmussen	Trevor Scott
Steven Mejia	Markie Rauschenberg	Carol Seddon
Gregory Mendoza	Makayla Rauskin	Lina Segura
Gina Mercer	Makayla Rauskin	Kai Sehr
Haley Miller	Elena Ray	Linda Seick
Adina Mills	Drew Reese	Nicolette Serrano
Alexia Missett	Victoria Reiser	Sitara Shah
Elizabeth Mitchell	Florent Renucci	Kayla Shaw-Fryer
Paul Montgomery	Jocelyn Resendez	Shelly Sheckler
Kieth Morgan	Chris Ressler	Jesse Sheckler
Lynnelle Morningstar	Arturo Reyes	Emily Sheckler
Chris Morningstar	Dawn Rich	Frank Sheckler
Jordan Morrow	Madison Rideout	Theresa Simmons
Richard Morton	Megan Rieman	Kirsty Singer
Karen Morton	Rebecca Roark	Suzen Smallwood
Richard Morton	April Robinett	Douglas Smith
Karen Morton	Gary Roger	Roch Smith

Megan Smith	Julian Valenzuela	Andrew Redfeather
Curtis Snyder	Janice Vanderpol	Corona
Jake Sommers	Jennifer Vanness	Priscilla Frema
Liza Sommers	Betty Vasquez	Ashley Sanchez
Manny Souza	Richard Vasquez	Britney Velasco
Cindi Specht	Elena Vasquez	Hannah Rios
Bill Spiller	Olivia Vasquez	Don Sherman
Donald Sprague	Michele Vasquez	Alana Pratt
Heather Stafford	Damian Vasquez	Ronner Williams
Justin Stainbrook	Maurice Vickers	Leo Ruiz
Devin Stanovich	Mark Vikdal	Patricia R. Dilday
Teresa Stemen	Nichole Vikdal	Mike Mendoza
Lynn Stephens	Madison Vikdal	Evan Ramirez
Elisabeth Stewart	Claire Wadsworth	Arthur Benitez
Christina Stewart	Jenny Wagner	Marlena Carabajal
Johnathan Stewart	David Walker	Kimberly Nguyen
Catherine Stillwell	Charlie Wallace	Yesenia Free
Jon Stone	Randall Walters	Matthew Cookson
Erica Stone	Joshua Warren	Carlos A. P. Ortiz
Skyler Stone	Tomas Wastar	Arianna Villa
Patricia Stoner	Alexis Watkins	Ashley Morua
Nichole Sugita	Lisa Watson	Dalila Guillen
William Sullivan	Kaeliegh Watson	Karen Barahona
John Summers	Jaelynn Watson	Patrick Jones
Randy Swindel	Randel Watters	Roman A. Crisistomo
Jim Swindel	Caitlyn White	Nancy Nowack
Allisa Taleires	Amanda Whiting	William Choplin
Enrique Tanello	Richard Wiesner	Sharon Speich
Kristina Tareila	Angelica Williams	Nancy Bone
Allisa Taucures	Faith Williams	Oliver James Laffrey
William Taylor	Stephanie Wilson	Marjorie Bernheim
Virginia Thayer	Mark Wilson	Jessa Bell
Frank Thomas	Mikinzie Wilson	Ruth Nolan
Matthew Thomas	Holly Wright	Jennifer Cole
Donna Thomason	Bryan Wynwood	Joan Cole
Patricia Thompson	Nicole Zeitz	Holly Sharp
Daniel Thompson	Derrick Zietz	Peter Swatz
Maya Toccata	Diars Zooliag	David Keeps
Amber Tolbert	Monica Zuniga	Mark Rose
Vera Topinka	Linda Lee Chevalier	Erik Garant
Katie Traeger	Juanita Marts	Adriana Parier
Yenny Tran	Larry Marts	Eric Nash
Alaina Trofler	John Chevalier	John Ugan
Meghan Udell	Thomas Atkins	Cathleen Armstrong

A Dean Caldwell
A. Frick
Patricia Mutz
Wendy Bowman
David Bowman
Annette Mutz

Carolyn Curran
Jim Misiak
Nancy McDonald
Lynda Misiak
Kathy Thurow
Rachelle Buck

James Thurow

* Includes more than 17,000 petition signers

September 11, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Beaumont City Councilman Mark Orozco (D)
Calimesa Mayor Pro Tem Ella Zanowic (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Stan Henry (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis (D)
Cathedral City Councilman Shelley Kaplan (D)
Cathedral City Councilman John Aguilar (D)
Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez (D)
Coachella City Manager David Garcia
Desert Hot Springs Mayor Adam Sanchez, Sr. (D)
Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts (D)
Desert Hot Springs City Councilmember Jan Pye (R)
Indian Wells City Councilmember Douglas Hanson (R)
Indio Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller (R)
Indio City Councilmember Troy Strange (D)
La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans (R)
Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Paul Lewin (D)
Palm Springs City Councilmember Ginny Foat (D)
Rancho Mirage Mayor G. Dana Hobart (R)
Yucaipa City Councilmember Dick Riddell (R)

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

December 18, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write in support of the designation of three proposed national monuments in the California desert: the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument. I am dedicated to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for all people in Los Angeles, and this includes protecting unique open space throughout the region.

The California desert is a haven for Angelenos and wildlife. On any given weekend, large numbers of L.A. residents head out of the city to hike, rock climb, enjoy hot springs, mountain bike, and commune with nature. The wild expanse of public lands provides an opportunity to experience solitude, night skies and a space free from human development — a rarity in Southern California. In their undeveloped state, these lands provide a valuable buffer to help desert ecosystems, wildlife, and communities adjust to a changing climate.

The effort to protect these areas has been ongoing for nearly a decade. Now is the time to protect these places that hold rich historical, cultural, ecological, and economic value. In the broad bipartisan tradition of designating monuments under the Antiquities Act, you can ensure that these landscapes are forever protected and accessible for my constituents, their children, and visitors to the great state of California for generations to come.

Mr. President, I respectfully request that you designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains as National Monuments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Garcetti", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

September 10, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians urges you to take action now to protect a portion of the desert region in California, which is among the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty in the southern California desert region.

Since time immemorial, San Manuel, a federally-recognized Indian tribe based in southern California and one of several clans of the greater Serrano Indian Nation, has executed on our responsibility to protect the plants, animals, land, air, and waters throughout our aboriginal territory and beyond as a part of our covenant with the Creator to be good stewards of the Earth.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has proposed that certain unique, undeveloped, culturally important, and ecologically significant scenic areas of public land within the California Desert Conservation Area be preserved as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, and National Park and Preserve additions as well as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. These areas face significant threats to cultural, biological, and recreational resources in the California Desert Conservation Area with new threats arising every day.

It is in the interest of the Tribe to preserve nearby open space, wild areas, and culturally significant sites for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. These areas are also critical for helping to maintain the genetic flow of wildlife as corridors for population movement. This is why we support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains as national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas of the California desert - one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California and we must do so without delay. Communities surrounding these areas have worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains as national monuments.

We also ask that you include the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians as a member of the Advisory Council for the development of a management plan specifically for the Sand to Snow and the Mojave Trails prospective national monument designations as these areas lie within our Serrano Indian aboriginal territories. We have been working closely with Senator Feinstein on this important matter and were included in her legislation with a role on the Advisory Council. As our past cooperation with Senator Feinstein's efforts demonstrate, our expertise and input on cultural resources elements will be a key asset in developing an overall management plan.

Finally, with the designation as national monuments, we urge your Administration to work closely with Congress to provide sufficient funding to support these national monuments and national parks under the oversight of the Department of the Interior given that they are chronically underfunded despite their mandate to protect the heritage of the nation.

Sincerely,



Lynn R. Valbuena
Chairwoman

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



TWENTY-NINE PALMS BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

46-200 Harrison Place . Coachella, California . 92236 . Ph. 760.863.2444 . Fax: 760.863.2449

November 12, 2015

United States Senator Diane Feinstein
San Diego Office
880 Front Street
Suite 4236
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Designation of Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains as National Monuments

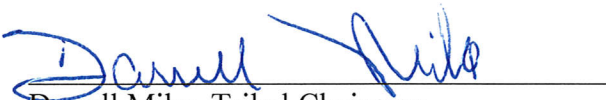
Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians was pleased to participate in a Tribal Listening Session and Public Meeting on October 13th, 2015 at the Whitewater Preserve in Whitewater, California. The discussion emphasized the benefits of protecting and preserving public lands as National Monuments under the Antiquities Act and the drawbacks of lacking congressional support. This event was informative on the diverse issues surrounding the designation.

Although the Tribe was made aware and was able to participate in this event through informal correspondence from the Native American Land Conservancy and other tribal contacts, the Tribe was not given formal notice of the Public Meeting or Tribal Listening Session. Furthermore, this National Monuments effort has been ongoing for decades, as was indicated at the Public Meeting in Whitewater, without input from the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. We would appreciate formal notification in the future of such meetings that potentially impact tribal ancestral lands and cultural resources to facilitate tribal participation.

The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians supports the designation of Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains as National Monuments. The preservation of these lands is the first step in safeguarding critical cultural landscapes and natural resources for future generations. The public agencies charged with managing these areas will need ample funding to appropriately implement protection programs on National Monument lands. We look forward to an update on programmatic funding efforts for these landscapes.

Best regards,


Darrell Mike, Tribal Chairman
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

cc: Anthony Madrigal, Jr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer – 29 Palms BOMI
Shawn Muir, Environmental Coordinator – 29 Palms BOMI
Michael Madrigal, President of the Board of Directors - Native American Land Conservancy



December 8, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As leaders of Assemblies of God's Southern Pacific District, we embrace our moral obligation to protect God's creation and recognize the need to further protect the California desert, which is why we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to preserve the California desert and designate three new national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

Palms 24:1-2

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. For He laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths."

These places provide grand opportunities for individuals to connect with their spirituality, family and culture. Many of us have led trips and outings with families, youth and community leaders into the California desert – from trips to Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve to San Jacinto Mountains, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and most recently Amboy Crater. The California desert is a way of life for many of us, but it needs your help.

The desert is facing many threats — proposals to export groundwater from desert aquifers, air pollution, rapid community development and encroachments from renewable energy developments — that risk the future of this region and could have irreversible consequences. As pastors from the California desert, we appreciate not only the natural beauty that surrounds our communities, but we also acknowledge the need to care and protect these areas for future generations.

Each of the proposed national monuments will greatly benefit the region: Mojave Trails provides vital habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is also steeped in historical significance as it includes irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites. Sand to Snow features one of the most diverse habitats in the country, which includes stunning cultural sites and rare species. Castle Mountain features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert Mountain ranges.

Our clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. Our land, water, and wildlife are gifts from God, and it is our moral responsibility to care for these gifts. We should respect and live in harmony with all of God's creation. Please help us protect the California desert and fulfill our nation's moral responsibility in protecting God's creation.



Sincerely,

Pastor Sergio Navarrete, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District Assemblies of God, La Puente
Rev. Silvano Elias, Iglesia Centro Cristiano Ebenezer, La Puente
Rev. Freddie Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier
Rev. Yanina Espinoza, Centro Cristiano de Whittier, Whittier
Rev. Lesly Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach
Rev. Jose Merlos, New Generation Army, Newport Beach
Rev. Claudio Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita
Rev. Sara Lapidus, Centro Cristiano Familiar Vida Abundante, Santa Clarita
Rev. Ruth Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello
Rev. Elmer Valverde, Iglesia Fraternidad Cristiana, Montebello
Rev. Lidia España, Director de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Carlos España, Director de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Rigoberto Digeiro, Asistente de Misiones, La Puente
Rev. Lilian Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower
Rev. Raymes Mesa, Ministro de SPD, La Puente
Rev. Lupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley
Rev. Guadalupe Navar, Iglesia Poder de Dios, Simi Valley
Rev. Daniel Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine
Rev. Martha Perez, Ministerios Extendiendo una Mano Amiga, Irvine
Rev. Enoc Paredes, Templo Vision Misionera, Bellflower
Rev. Pedro Vega, Southern Pacific District (SPD) Presbyter, Corona
Rev. Raul Castro, S.P.D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Antonina Arroyo, S.P.D Womens director, La Puente
Rev. Silvia Carrizo, S.P. D. Excecutive, La Puente
Rev. Blanca Castro, S.P.D. Women in ministry Director, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Juanita Cruz, S.P. D. Excecutive, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. William Rodriguez, Iglesia Pentecostal Esmirna, Los Angeles
Rev. Miriam Paredes, S.P.D Missions assistant, La Puente
Rev. Mario Procopio, Newport Beach
Rev. Blandina Tamara, S.P.D Presbyter, Santa Ana
Rev. Fernando Tamara, Primera Asamblea de Orange County, Irvine
Rev. Daniel de Leon, Templo Calvario, Tustin
Rev. Jesse Villarreal, Templo La Hermosa of the A/G, Coachella
Rev. Mike Neciuk, El Redentor, Brawley
Rev. Lalo Guerrero, S.P.D Presbyter, Ontario
Rev. Saul Rios, Centro Evangelistico Rios de Agua Viva, Santa Ana
Rev. Ana Rivera, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster
Rev. Sylvia Hoover, Templo el Salvador, Thousand Oaks
Rev. Rolando Barahona, Iglesia Cristiana Tabernaculo de Fe, Los Angeles
Rev. Manuel Montes, Nueva Vida en Cristo, South Gate
Rev. Jack Miranda, Living Faith, La Mirada
Rev. Felix Garcia, Centro Esperanza, City of Industry



Rev. Manny Rodriguez, Tailor's House, Covina
Rev. Jesus Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas, Carlsbad
Rev. Esther Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Edwin Mota, Iglesia Alfarero de las asambleas de Dios, Fallbrook
Rev. Maria Elia Guzman, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles
Rev. Simon Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Martha Melendrez, Templo Roca Firme, Riverside
Rev. Alex Lainez, S.P.D Royal Ranger Director, Baldwin Park
Rev. Urias Mendoza, Mision el Redentor, Rancho Cucamonga
Rev. Luis Castro, S.P.D Kings Kastle Director, Los Angeles
Rev. Cecilia Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Demetrio Escobar, Ministerio Cristiano Jesus es el Señor, Las Vegas
Rev. Joshua Pinto, Centro Evangelistico Faro a las Naciones, Lake Forest
Rev. Melesio Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Raymond Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Francisco Vasquez, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion, Los Angeles
Rev. Heber Porras, Iglesia del Señor, Long Beach
Rev. Mario Ramirez, Iglesia Iberoamerica del Valle, Lancaster
Rev. Magdalena Campa, Las Buenas Nuevas, San Diego
Rev. Refugio Tejada, Templo Betania, San Diego
Rev. Vicky Florian, Iglesia Nueva Vida, North Hills
Rev. Lucia Ontiveros, Iglesia Monte Sion, Oxnard
Rev. Nora Landaverde, S.P.D Girls Ministries Director, La Puente
Rev. Denis Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Carmen Rivera, Ministerio Vida Nueva de las Asambleas de Dios, Covina
Rev. Marcos Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Zoila Donis, Iglesia Evangelica Nueva, Las Vegas
Rev. Alfredo Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Lilian Hernandez, Amistad Cristiana de Upland, Upland
Rev. Estuardo Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Gabriela Escobar, Ministerio internacional Adonai, Las Vegas
Rev. Lucy Saavedra, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Jose Luis Bonilla, Centro Evangelistico Palabra Viva, Las Vegas
Rev. Roberto Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Edilu Flores, Iglesia las Vegas, Las Vegas
Rev. Herbert Diaz, Iglesia Mision Cristiana de rescate, Las Vegas
Rev. Mizrahim Ramirez, Centro Cristiano Fresca Uncion, Lynwood
Rev. Dimas Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Juanita Flores, Iglesia Faro de Esperanza, Lynwood
Rev. Javier Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Rosy Muñoz, Templo del Evangelio, Perris
Rev. Ernesto Ambriz, Templo Ebenezer, Riverside
Rev. Carlos Gamez, Familia del Nuevo Nacimiento, Lake Elsinore
Rev. Leonzo Morales, Hija de Saron, Murrieta
Rev. Rodolfo Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer, Tustin



Rev. Becky Esteban, Iglesia Cristiana Ebenzer, Tustin
Rev. Moises Lecca, Iglesia Vida Abundante Nternacional, Los Angeles
Rev. Manuel Prado, 100 Por Ciento Vida, Lancaster
Rev. Miguel Duarte, Iglesia Evangelica Sol de Justicia, Reseda
Rev. Francisco Duarte, Iglesia Betania, Maywood
Rev. Eliseo Ruelas, Iglesia el Eden, Los Angeles
Rev. Marcos Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. Elsa Atencio, Iglesia Esmirna Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles
Rev. John Perea, Bethel Community of Barstow, Barstow
Rev. Felipe Guiza, Centro Misionero Siloe, San Diego
Rev. Isaac Rangel, Iglesia del Rey San Diego, San Diego
Rev. Angel Palma, Life Church-Iglesia Viva, Corona
Rev. Oscar Amaya, Ministerio Emanuel Asambleas de Dios, Los Angeles

CC: Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
Honorable Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
Honorable US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
Christina Goldfuss, Acting Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality



POR LA CREACIÓN

FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

September 25, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Por la Creación Faith-based Alliance, which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation by educating and engaging this generation to leave a legacy for the future, respectfully encourages you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the California desert and designate three new national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails, which includes 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity, the largest land gift of its kind in American history, is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife and includes unspoiled desert vistas and important Native American cultural sites. Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities. The Castle Mountains protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The California desert is facing many threats — proposals to export groundwater from desert aquifers, air pollution, rapid community development and encroachments from renewable energy developments — that risk the future of this region and could have irreversible consequences. As pastors from the California desert, we appreciate not only the natural beauty that surrounds our communities, but we also acknowledge the need to care and protect these areas for future generations.

Our clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. Our land, water, and wildlife are gifts from God, and it is our moral responsibility to care for these gifts. We should respect and live in harmony with all of God's creation.



POR LA CREACIÓN

FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

The California desert is crucial to the majority of local economies, to the health and quality life of Latinos, to our cultural heritage, and to the spiritual well-being of the community. This is why we have been active in educating our communities about protecting this region. In the past two years, we have led hikes, events and camping trips for Latino community leaders, youth and families at Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, San Jacinto Mountains and The Living Desert.

Mr. President, you have the opportunity to protect these special, inspiring places in the desert and help our nation fulfill its moral responsibility in protecting God's creation.

Thank you,

Frank Ruiz, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Indio, CA
Enrique Orellana, Sr. Pastor, Fuente de Vida Christian Center, Coachella, CA
Jesse Villarreal, Sr. Pastor, Templo La Hermosa, Coachella, CA
Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin, TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno, CA
Raul Velazquez, Pastor, El Nuevo Comienzo, Adelanto, CA
Javier Moreno, Co-Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville, CA
Raymundo Ortiz, Pastor, Iglesias Amiavi, Victorville, CA
Cecilia Ruano, Pastor, Rosa de Saron Asembla de Dios Church, Caldwell, ID
Dr. Sergio Navarette, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District of the Assemblies of God
Jorge Quintanilla, Pastor, Iglesia Divino Salvador, Reseda, CA
Juan Manuel Almanza, Pastor, Centro de Adoracion Familiar, Las Vegas, NV
Joseito Velasquez, Sr. Pastor Healing Waters Family Center, Denver, CO
Martin Martinez, Youth Pastor, Impacto Juvenil, Covina, CA
Absalon Duran, Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville, CA
Hector Manzo, Centro Cristiano de Fe, Victorville, CA

CC: Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
Honorable Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
Honorable US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
Christina Goldfuss, Acting Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

October 2, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. The undersigned businesses support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Peter Spurr, Broker Associate
Joshua Tree Realty
Joshua Tree, CA

Tony Cipolla, Broker Associate
Joshua Tree Realty
Joshua Tree, CA

Bonnie Brady, Owner
Bird on a Wire Art and Collectibles
Joshua Tree, CA

Brian Bosworth, Owner
BKB Ceramics
Joshua Tree, CA

Ravi Bagga, Owner
Safari Motor Inn
Joshua Tree, CA

Mareine Uy, Owner
Country Kitchen
Joshua Tree, CA

Kelly Crawford, Owner
Joshua Tree Excursions
Joshua Tree, CA

Bob Maling, President
JT Lilypad, LLC
Joshua Tree, CA

John Schuster, Owner
Starlite
Joshua Tree, CA

Leonard L. Hice, Owner
Yokozuna Japanese Restaurant and
Night Club
Yucca Valley, CA

Sam Hababa, Owner
Yucca Valley Tobacco Mart
Yucca Valley, CA

Frank Molnar, Owner
Ikon Beauty
Yucca Valley, CA

Sukhder Samra, Owner
Quiznos
Yucca Valley, CA

Dr. Jinnam Baek
Joshua Tree Family Dentistry
Joshua Tree, CA

Joan White, Owner
Joshua Tree Mini Storage
Joshua Tree, CA

Deb Mallants and Stevie Brear
Decal Depot
Joshua Tree, CA

Ken Layne, Publisher
Desert Oracle
Joshua Tree, CA

Christy Lopez, Owner
Natural Sisters Café
Joshua Tree, CA

Ryon Weber, Owner
Pie for the People
Joshua Tree, CA

Levon Kazarian, Owner
Crossroads Café,
Joshua Tree, CA

Christa and Mark Cranston, Owners
Moonlight Mesa Retreats and Vacation
Rentals
Joshua Tree, CA

Ann and Michael Congdon, Owners
Broadview
Twentynine Palms, CA

Lori and Brian Rennie, Owners
Benchmark Studios
Joshua Tree, CA

Jenny Holmes, Owner
Holmes Health
Joshua Tree, CA

Nicholas Holmes, Owner
Holmes Ecological Design and
Construction
Joshua Tree, CA

Bill Vincent, Owner
Doctorhunters.com
Joshua Tree, CA

Steve Brear and Deb Mallants, Owners
Decal Depot
Mercy Codes
Joshua Tree, CA

Ruth Junge, Owner
Ruth's Rabbit Trail Tours
Yucca Valley, CA

Levon Kazarian, Owner
Crossroads Café
Joshua Tree, CA

Dan O'Dowd, Owner
Dan O'Dowd Productions
Joshua Tree, CA

Lauren Ell, Owner
Grow with Lauren Ell
Online Marketing Consultant
Joshua Tree, CA

Christy Lopez, Owner
Natural Sisters
Joshua Tree, CA

Cheryl Kandell, Owner
Stitch Art Studios
Joshua Tree, CA

Ted Quinn, Founder
Radio Free Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree, CA

Barnett English, Organizer
Joshua Tree Music Festival
Joshua Tree, CA

Buck Buckley
Distributed Solar Contractor
Joshua Tree, CA

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As owners and representatives of businesses in greater Barstow, we understand the vital contribution that public lands make to our quality of life and our prosperity. That is why we are writing to urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate three new national monuments in the California desert: Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains. By establishing these monuments you will ensure that these landscapes continue to be world class attractions that benefit visitors and residents alike.

Tourism is a major economic contributor to California's desert communities and protected public lands are an important reason for this. In 2014, Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, and Mojave National Preserve attracted 3.2 million visitors. Those visitors spent \$194 million and supported over 2,700 jobs. If the 4.2 million visitors to areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management (2013), are included, the economic impact is even greater.

Many of those visitors travelled through Barstow, eating at our restaurants, staying at our hotels, and visiting heritage sites like the renovated Harvey House and Main Street, a section of Route 66 which is lined with historic motels, houses, and commercial buildings. The establishment of these monuments will raise the profile of the surrounding desert as a tourist destination. Mojave Trails, which will protect one of the most spectacular remaining stretches of Route 66, will position Barstow as a gateway community to the new Monument.

It is the accessibility of pristine public lands surrounding our community that makes them attractive places to live, establish businesses, and visit. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular stretches of these desert public lands. We urge you to designate Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Russell, Owner
Furry Friends Dog Grooming & Supplies
Barstow, CA 92311

Julie Fuentes, Insurance Broker
Last Call Insurance
Barstow, CA 92311

Sam Patel, Owner
Economy Inn
Barstow, CA 92311

Guillimine Brooks, Manager
Jenny's Grill
Barstow, CA 92311

Alberto Gullegos-Cordiro, Manager
Lola's Kitchen
Barstow, CA 92311

Ved Shandil, Owner
Route 66 Motel
Barstow, CA 92311

Theresa Dingman, Owner
H & R Block
Barstow, CA 92311

Viola Basulta, Owner
Viola's Vision Hair Salon
Barstow, CA 92311

Brett Hobbs, General Manager
Best Western Desert Villa Inn
Barstow, CA 92311

Rakesh S. Mehta, Owner
Ramada inn
Barstow, CA 92311

Kris Okamuro, Owner
Fitness MD
Barstow, CA 92311

Mark Zimmerman, General Manager
Idle Spurs Steakhouse
Barstow, CA 92311

Saed Kamel, Owner
Swiss Liqour
Barstow, CA 92311

Son Seng Chen, Owner
Desert Inn
Barstow, CA 92311

Christopher Guardado, Manager
Del Taco #236
Barstow, CA 92311

Maxim Atalla, Owner
Los Domingos Restaurant
Barstow, CA 92311

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

October 2, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned astronomy organizations, scientists and dark sky enthusiasts respectfully request that you use the powers vested in you by the 1906 Antiquities Act to create the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments. Time is running out to create these new National Monuments and we need your help.

We believe that the new National Monuments will protect invaluable and increasingly threatened night sky resources in California's Colorado and Mojave Deserts. The protection of the night sky is of paramount importance to human health, ecology and ecosystems, and our tourism economy. The designation of the proposed National Monuments will help protect this resource in perpetuity for future generations.

Dark skies are an increasingly precious and scarce commodity throughout the globe and the United States. Artificial light at night harms wildlife by disorienting animals, adversely impacting mating, altering predator and prey behavior, and confusing migratory animals. It even influences animal physiology in species as diverse as birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates. It has also been linked to an increase risk of cancer in humans, and in 2009 the American Medical Association voted unanimously to support light pollution abatement measures as a matter of public health. Finally, the dollar and carbon cost of producing the energy wasted to light pollution is high. The International Dark Sky Association estimates that at least six billion dollars' worth of electricity is wasted each year as a consequence of lighting U.S. residential properties alone.

We ask that you work quickly to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments

Sincerely,

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Craig Weatherwax
"Boss"
Oceanside Photo and Telescope
Oceanside, CA

Scott Feierabend, Executive Director
International Dark-Sky Association
and Associate Board of Directors
Tucson, AZ

James Gee, Manager
Yerkes Observatory
Williams Bay, WI

Dean Arvidson
Professor of Astronomy
Los Angeles City College

Thomas A. Meneghini
Acting Executive Director
Mount Wilson Observatory
Mount Wilson Institute
Pasadena, CA

Wally Pacholka
Astrophotographer
Astropics.com
Five time Time Life Magazine award winner
Astronomy Picture of the Day awarded 45 times
TWAN Astronomy Photographer
Torrance, CA

Tim Hunter
Co Founder
International Dark-Sky Association
Tucson, AZ

Farah Payan
President of Woodland Hills Telescopes
Woodland Hills, CA

James Yuen ,Past Secretary
Ventura County Astronomical Society
Santa Cruz, CA

Douglas Kegard
Publicity Director
Ventura County Astronomical Society
Ventura, CA

Dick Pantoja , President
Andromeda Astronomical Society
Yucca Valley, CA

Scott Kardel
Associate Professor of Astronomy
Palomar College
San Marcos, CA

Diana Umpierre
Board of Directors
International Dark-Sky Association
Pembroke Pines, FL

Tom O'Key
IDA Chapter Leader
San Bernardino County High Deserts Region
Founder
Southern California Desert Video Astronomers
Joshua Tree, CA

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President

RE: Scientific value of California desert national monument proposals

The undersigned scientists include biologists, ecologists, conservation scientists, botanists, and others who strongly support the designation of three proposed California desert national monuments: Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains. We are writing to urge you to designate these special places as National Monuments through use of the Antiquities Act. Together, these monuments provide incredible scientific value and protection of these lands in perpetuity will ensure this value is not lost.

California's desert region includes the Mojave, Colorado and Great Basin deserts, which account for 29 million acres in the eastern third of the state, or 28% of California's land area, with elevations ranging from 250 feet below sea level to nearly 12,000 feet at the highest peaks. Consisting primarily of federal public lands, largely unpopulated and still mostly unfragmented by development, the Mojave desert is of immense global significance. The abiotic extremes that characterize the California desert have resulted in a landscape that is teeming with life; over 2,500 native plant and vertebrate species have been documented with new discoveries happening regularly. Species richness would increase by a factor of 10 or more if native species of soil bacteria, fungi, protozoans, insects, algae, lichens and mosses were included. Intact desert soils and vegetation protected in the proposed national monuments will allow for continued – and even increased – carbon sequestration as carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise. Recent studies have shown that intact desert soils increase storage as carbon dioxide levels increase in the atmosphere, a discovery that could make deserts an important part of a comprehensive carbon mitigation program.

Protection of California desert lands through designation of these proposed national monuments will result in enhanced conservation value of all lands in the area. These monuments will conserve key connections between landscapes and allow for species to adapt to a changing climate and ensure nature remains resilient in this land of extremes. Below we provide additional information with regard to the important scientific values that would be protected within each of the three proposed monuments.

Mojave Trails:

The proposed Mojave Trails National Monument is home to the iconic and federally threatened desert tortoise. As recently as 50 years ago, the Mojave desert tortoise occupied the Mojave desert in significantly higher densities than it does now. The desert tortoise is threatened by drought, disease, predation, climate change and loss of habitat. Protecting 1.4 million acres of prime desert tortoise habitat within Mojave Trails National Monument would significantly protect and preserve crucial occupied habitat and essential linkages. Mojave Trails would provide additional protection for 750,000 acres of critical habitat, 220,000 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service connectivity habitat, and would connect three out of six of the tortoise's recovery units.

Additionally, the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument would provide permanent protection for desert bighorn sheep inter-mountain connectivity habitat; foraging habitat for golden eagles, prairie falcons and other birds; and over 12 identified wildlife linkages connecting 15 wilderness areas, six Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Preserve. The area is a botanical frontier with more than half of the 330 new species added to the California flora over the past two decades. Lastly, the proposed additions of the Cadiz and Pisgah Valleys provide critical connectivity and habitat for desert tortoise and bighorn sheep as well as new protections for rare plants.

Sand to Snow:

The proposed Sand to Snow National Monument connects the Mojave and Sonoran deserts, and southern California montane ecosystems. It provides important habitat for both wide-ranging species such as bighorn sheep, bears and mountains lions as well as endemic plants. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife State of California has documented close to one-hundred statewide rare, sensitive, threatened or endangered plant and animal species that occur within, or adjacent to the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument: 66 plants, five insects, nine birds, 11 reptiles and amphibians, and 17 mammals. The proposed Sand to Snow National Monument would protect essential wildlife corridors between the desert and the mountains and allow for migration and colonization under predicted climate changes. Furthermore, the San Bernardino Mountains included in the proposal are some of the most botanically diverse in the lower 48 states.

Castle Mountains:

The proposed Castle Mountains National Monument will protect some of the finest Joshua tree, pinyon pine and juniper forests in the entire California desert. The area is characterized by intact native desert grassland and is thus targeted by federal and state agencies as a location to reintroduce pronghorn, the second fastest land mammal in the world. The area also offers opportunities to protect and study wildlife movement between the Piute Mountains and the New York Mountains. Biodiversity protected in this area includes desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, jack rabbit, bats, desert woodrat and a variety of mice that make their homes in remote canyons and on steep slopes.

In conclusion, we would like to re-iterate the importance of providing permanent protection to lands in the unique and biodiverse California desert. You have the opportunity to show leadership in the protection of large, intact landscapes and their scientific values through the designation of these monuments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry Sinervo
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary
Biology
University of California, Santa Cruz

Frank W. Davis, Ph.D.
Santa Barbara, CA

Wayne D. Spencer
Director of Conservation Assessment and
Planning
Conservation Biology Institute

Wendy McIntyre, Ph.D.
Department of Environmental Studies
University of Redlands

Sam Sweet
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine
Biology
University of California, Santa Barbara

Paula Schiffman, Ph.D.
Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge

R. Dave Evans
School of Biological Sciences
Washington State University

Scott Cashen
Independent Biological Resources Consultant

Robin Kobaly, Botanist/Wildlife Biologist
Executive Director
The SummerTree Institute

James M. Andre
Director, Granite Mountains Desert Research
Center
UC Natural Reserve System
UC Riverside Dept. of Biology

Paul Beier
Regents' Professor, School of Forestry,
Northern Arizona University,

Dr. Timothy Krantz
Professor of Environmental Science
University of Redlands, California

Duncan Bell
Conservation Botanist

Terry Root
Senior Fellow, Emerita
Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

David S. Wilcove
Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology
Woodrow Wilson School
Princeton University

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and Environmental Science
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Pomona

Matthew S. Dietz, Ph.D.
San Francisco, CA

R. Travis Belote, Ph.D.
Bozeman, MT

Gregory H. Aplet, Ph.D.
Denver, CO

Dr. William Rainey

Dr. Patricia Brown, Ph.D.
Bat Biologist
Bishop, CA

Dr. Cameron Barrows
Center for Conservation Biology
UC Riverside

Dr. Allan Muth
Director Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research
Center
University of California, Riverside

Dan Klooster, Professor and Chair
Department of Environmental Studies
University of Redlands

Dr. James Malcolm
Professor of Biology
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Tasha La Doux, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Univ. California Natural Reserve System
Granite Mtns Desert Research Center

Edith B. Allen
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
and Center for Conservation Biology
University of California. Riverside

Michael Allen
Center for Conservation Biology
University of California, Riverside

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



October 13, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our support for the designation of three National Monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains. The Vet Voice Foundation, is a non-profit organization, with a national network of nearly five-hundred thousand Veterans dedicated to engaging in issues of civic importance, particularly in conservation.

Designating these National Monuments will help ensure the continued protection of our public lands' heritage – to ensure proper stewardship of invaluable cultural, biological, and scientific resources; to ensure continued recreational access and enjoyment; to benefit our economy; and to ensure that future generations can enjoy these lands as we can today. It will also help to protect the quality of life of the region's residents which includes many veterans, active-duty armed forces personnel, and their families. The proximity to such beautiful and awe inspiring places is high on the list of many people's reasons to live in this area.

Perhaps more importantly for us, this is about protecting opportunities for Veterans, active duty servicemen and women who find that the desert public lands offer places to recuperate from the stresses of overseas service (such as PTSD), to reconnect with family and friends, and reintegrate into civilian life after completing overseas missions.

We are committed to doing what we can to preserve and protect this special place. Please know that we at the Vet Voice Foundation will continue to offer our unfailing support to your efforts, and continue to make our voices heard for this designation to happen. Thank you so much for focusing your attention on the protection of these unique public lands.

Sincerely,

Hank Alvarez
Corona
U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant

David Marinsk
Santa Rosa
U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel

Gilbert Archuleta
Vallejo
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Stephen McDaniel
Riverside
U.S. Air Force, Captain

Larry Branson
Pomona
U.S. Army, Colonel

Stephen McKeand
Running Springs
U.S. Army/Marine Corps. Sergeant

Ron Bridges
Rancho Cucamonga
U.S. Marine Corps., Private 1st Class

John McKee
San Jacinto
U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel

Joshua Bunce
Riverside
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Frances Miller
Rancho Mirage
U.S. Army, Specialist

Christina Burton
Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Andrew Morgan
Palm Desert
U.S. Navy, Seaman

Kim Coleman
Highland
U.S. Marines, Sergeant

Tom Mullen
Riverside
U.S. Army, Captain

Phillip Cripps
Cathedral City
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

James Ouimet
Mammoth Lakes
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

Paul Davis
Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Specialist

Mark Porras
Palm Desert
U.S. Marines, Sergeant

Tom Derusha
Temecula
U.S. Army, Corporal

Philip Power
Lake Arrowhead
U.S. Navy, Seaman

Donald Dible
Murrieta
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Ray Quinto
Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Staff Sergeant

Joseph DiFrancesco
Chino
U.S. Air Force, Senior Airman

Steven Raihl
Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Corporal

Keith Ferrer
El Verano
U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant

Dave Raley
Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Colonel

Kermit Franklin
Antelope Valley
U.S. Marine, Sergeant

Billie Ridgway
Phelan
U.S. Army, Corporal

James Ewing
Yucaipa
U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel

Robert Rippetoe
Rancho Mirage
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Daniel Ferra
Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Specialist

Scott Roney
Temecula
U.S. Army, Captain

James Jackson
Beaumont
U.S. Army, Specialist

Curt Sanders
Lee Vining
U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

Allen Gildard
Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Captain

Marvin Sawyer
Yucca Valley
U.S. Army, Sergeant

Pamela Lacey
Rialto
U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant

John Schricker
Loma Linda
U.S. Army, Private First Class

William Lansville
Barstow
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Carlos Simental
Victorville
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Martin Ledezma
Redlands
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

David Smith
Cathedral City
U.S. Army, Private First Class

Bob Leyba
Newberry Springs
U.S. Navy, Seaman 1st Class

Robert Stune
Whitewater
U.S. Navy, Petty Officer

Gary Martin
Yucaipa
U.S. Navy, Captain

William Taylor
Apple Valley
U.S. Army, Colonel

Rebecca Martin
Riverside
U.S. Marine Corps., Staff Sergeant

Melinda Tremaglio
Palm Springs
U.S. Army, Captain

Mark Zellmer
Lucerne Valley
U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant

cc:

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of Interior

The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As service members, we have pledged to protect America, the land that we love. This includes protecting its public lands so that we, and our fellow Americans and visitors from around the world can experience the beauty, history, and culture of our great country. The California desert is one of our country's most pristine and unique lands, and people have long been drawn to its stark beauty. The Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force all have major bases in the California desert, from Edwards Air Force Base to Fort Irwin and China Lake to Twentynine Palms. These are not just the places we train, they are also the places we live, play, raise families, shop, attend school, and volunteer in the community. They are places we care about. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most ecologically intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contains exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes; the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66; the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains; the perennial river in Afton Canyon; and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity for the American people.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., 23-miles of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing

opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. These monuments will preserve the vibrant, but fragile desert ecosystem and protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66. Finally, these monuments will provide peace and respite for the honored veterans – the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have come before us, have sacrificed so much for this land that we love, and have left us this legacy to protect and preserve.

I urge you to seize this unique opportunity to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

First Sergeant Arzola, Mohammad A., U.S.
Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Baldridge, Michael M., U.S.
Marine Corps

Captain Bombaci, Jared E., U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Borja, Marvin J., U.S. Marine
Corps

Captain Brooks, Daniel L. U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Buchanan, David R., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Campoamor, Andrew R., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Carpenter, Dereck L., U.S.
Marine Corps

Sergeant Franquez Jr, Oscar, U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Gallardo, Jaime A., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Garside, Mark J., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Garst, Matthew D., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Gibson, Daniel G., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Hackett, Jonathan W., U.S.
Marine Corps

Sergeant Hall, William P., U.S. Marine Corps
Master Sergeant Halterman, Michael G., U.S.
Marine Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Harless, Bradley A., U.S.
Marine Corps

Corporal Holbert, Korey D., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Hoppe, Andrew P., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Huerta, Theodore S., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Huls, Wyatt D., U.S. Marine
Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Jacklin, Brian C., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant James, Seth C., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Kelsaw, Steven J., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Kopta, Justin P., U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Lappin IV, John M., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Manibog III, Benjamin M., U.S.
Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant McCormick, Christophe M., U.S.
Marine Corps

Sergeant Meleski II, Timothy M., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Mendiola, West, U.S. Marine
Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Perkins, Tyler A., U.S.
Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Questell, Derek J., U.S. Marine
Corps

Corporal Ruiz, Alex, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Stoner, Christophe D., U.S. Marine
Corps

Staff Sergeant Urso, Rocco A., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Vargas, Giovanni, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Vieyra Jr, Alejandro, U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Wiener, Eric D., U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Worth, Nickolas F., U.S. Marine
Corps

Sergeant Carey, Eric C., U.S. Marine Corps
Gunnery Sergeant Castille, Mark R., U.S.
Marine Corps

Sergeant Culpepper, Lee M., U.S. Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Erickson, Adam W., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Fuller, Zachary M., U.S. Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Brabowski, Wojciech A., U.S. Marine Corps

Master Sergeant Guerra, Ralph E., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Ingram, Alan R., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Merstrand, Ulrik R., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Salgado, Juanjose R., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Sells, Austin M., U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Wagner, Cameron A., U.S. Marine Corps

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

September 23, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Subject: Designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the California desert.

Dear President Obama,

As a retired National Park Superintendent – and a career civil servant who worked for thirty-seven years for the National Park Service – I’ve had the privilege and honor during my working career to study, plan for, and manage some of our nation’s most treasured western lands, including those located in the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains, and lands located in the incredibly scenic and ecologically unique California desert. During the final three years of my career, I served as the Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, which is located in the California desert.

Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to helping visitors to National Parks discover the wonders of wild places, and to connect with their heritage. My varied work experience for the National Park Service includes: Park Superintendent, Project Management Chief, Planning and Compliance Manager, Physical Science Specialist, American Indian Consultation Supervisor, Accessibility Program Supervisor, Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act Manager, Search and Rescue Incident Commander, Hazardous Materials and Oil Spill Response Coordinator, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Logistics Crew Supervisor, and Public Involvement and Outreach Coordinator. Through these work experiences, I came to deeply understand the importance and value of natural areas, open spaces, and traditional properties to our society and culture.

It is within this context that I am writing to strongly urge you to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the California desert.

The California desert is home to some of the most pristine and unique natural landscapes remaining in our country, and according to many, it is the site of one of the few remaining functional and “intact” ecological regions in the lower continental United States. From painted mountains and archaeological treasures, to world-famous wildflowers and herds of bighorn

sheep, Americans have long been drawn to this desert region for recreation, nature study and wilderness solitude. Its no surprise that the special characteristics of the region were widely recognized and appreciated when the National Geographic Society independently concluded that California's Mojave Desert is one of the 100 most scenic places in the world. Now, with literally millions of tourists and visitors enjoying these lands each year – and providing tens of millions of dollars in benefits to the local economies of the region – these natural, cultural and social treasures are just too important to loose.

At the same time – due to inadequate legal protection – there is continual loss of vital ecological regions of the California desert from ongoing incremental impact, as well as from large-scale development and industrialization. Consequently, these lands are now disappearing at an incredible rate before our very eyes. Due to these conditions, the decision to conserve these lands will not be one for future generations, for they will be lost; it is a decision for today, it is a decision for you and of your time.

That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert – one of the most ecologically intact and unique landscapes remaining in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contains exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking the Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park, and to other nearby designated Wilderness areas. Consequently, it provides vital habitat linkages for sensitive wildlife species, and it protects unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable cultural resources, including numerous archeological sites, and remnants of prehistoric trails and trade routes sacred to Native Americans. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater (North America's youngest volcano), the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

The Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Mountains and Wilderness area to the western side of Joshua Tree National Park, and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this proposed monument contains one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa will protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. With this incredible range in elevation and ecology, Sand to Snow is also home to the most botanically diverse mountain region in the contiguous U.S. It includes a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, as

well as the majestic and ecologically diverse Whitewater River – a river treasured by local, statewide, national and tribal communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, Piñon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grasslands, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada’s Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are an array of rich Native American archaeological sites, and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

With the nearby southern California metropolitan areas consisting of a population of nearly 20 million people, the establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing sustainable economic benefits and long lasting jobs to the surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. With close proximity to multiple military training facilities, they will provide an important opportunity for peace and respite for our honored active duty military and our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history in connection with Native American’s traditional cultural properties, homesteader’s settlement, General Patton’s World War II training sites, and the western migration along Route 66 – America’s storied “Mother Road.”

President Obama, for the American people, you have an unprecedented opportunity to protect what remains of the most spectacular, ecologically intact, and diverse stretches of desert in California. We must not wait. The local communities near these proposed national monuments have worked steadily for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is now time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mark Butler
Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park (retired)

File
S

August 19, 2015

Senator Dianne Feinstein
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Dear Senator Feinstein,

There is no greater champion for California's pristine desert landscape than you, and I want to celebrate the recent step you took in elevating the need for its future protection to President Obama's attention.

In our current partisan political environment, it's important to take decisive action to ensure that our treasured natural resources are protected for generations to come. As this gridlocked Congress continues its partisan bickering at the expense of our future, I applaud your leadership in finding a lasting solution to protect the Mojave and Joshua Tree deserts.

I stand behind you as you work to convince President Obama to use his executive authority to expand the environmental protections for the California desert. Much like our redwood forests and stunning coastline, our desert is a critical and iconic part of the California spirit. I, along with many other Californians, wholeheartedly support your efforts to ensure that common sense and stewardship prevail.

Executive action offers a unique opportunity to achieve your vision for the California Desert. California thanks you for all that you have done to get us to this point, and I look forward to celebrating this victory with you soon.

Sincerely,


Michael F. Fleming
Executive Director

November 12, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments through the Antiquities Act and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

We comprise Audubon chapters in Southern California who share a collective mission to protect wildlife and natural habitats, as well as share the importance and an enjoyment of our natural resources with diverse citizens who live in this region. Our chapters believe that protecting the California desert is key in maintaining vital habitats and wildlife linkages between the coast, mountains and desert areas of southern California.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

David Quadhamer, President
Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
dquadhamer@yahoo.com

Rose Leibowitz, President
San Fernando Valley Audubon
roselbirds@gmail.com

Andy Mauro, President
Buena Vista Audubon Society
Akamauro1@gmail.com

Eva Lydick, Conservation Chair
Laguna Hills Audubon Society
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Drew Feldmann, Conservation
Chair
San Bernardino Valley Audubon
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Margot Griswold, President
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Deni Sinnott, President
Pasadena Audubon Society
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Richard Fowler, Conservation
Chair
Palomar Audubon Society
rcfowl@cox.net



The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience - Advocating The Protection of America's National Park System

September 30, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why we support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments through the Antiquities Act and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks represents nearly 1,100 members; most are former employees of the National Park Service and have over 30,000 years of combined experience stewarding America's most precious natural and cultural resources. Our members' lives were spent studying wolves in Yellowstone National Park; teaching children about the Native Americans that came before us at Mesa Verde; patrolling the backcountry at Glacier National Park to keep hikers safe; and celebrating the civil rights of all Americans along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Simply put, we are among the keepers of what the eminent writer Wallace Stegner called "America's best idea"—the national parks.

Each of the proposed national monuments contains exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Mohave Desert floor to

Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this area is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. Inclusion of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa would protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is among the most botanically diverse landscapes in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

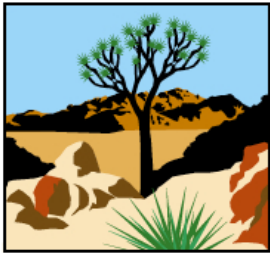
Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Finnerty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen Finnerty
Chair, Coalition To Protect America's National Parks



Mojave Desert Land Trust

Preserving land to enjoy forever

P.O. Box 1544 • 60124 29 Palms Hwy • Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Ph (760) 366-5440 Fax (888) 869-4981 www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org

November 16, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Artists and Cultural Leaders for the California Desert Monuments

Dear President Obama,

For the past ten years, arts professionals and cultural leaders have been working tirelessly to unite people across disciplines and cultural groups to solve environmental challenges in the desert Southwest. We are an expansive group of visual and performing artists, designers, art administrators, museum directors, historians and curators that care deeply for the unique American west, especially the iconic California Desert. We are united in our commitment to protect the California Desert, the largest remaining intact ecosystem in the lower 48 states, and fully support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. We urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas under the Antiquities Act.

The California Desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains, sweeping vistas and other-worldly rock formations to world-famous wildlife, wildflowers and hiking trails, people have long been drawn to its vast beauty. As artists, inventors and creative visionaries, this part of the Desert Southwest feeds our imaginations and ensures our ability to create new bodies of work and new forms of culture while celebrating the historically significant traditions embedded in these lands. Opportunities for outdoor access and recreation in these areas further enhance our health and wellbeing and bring economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. Collectively, we depend upon the health of this starkly beautiful landscape for our economic vitality as well as for our human spirit.

Designating the three California Desert monuments will further reinforce the globally revered legacy of American land stewardship and conservation, a legacy that is deeply rooted in the arts. The artists and scientists who sent paintings, drawings, photographs, maps and dispatches from the wilds of the west during the 1800s made westward expansion visible to the public and catalyzed one of the greatest environmental campaigns in our history: the establishment of the National Parks System and the Antiquities Act. Like the painters, photographers, naturalists and

storytellers before us who accompanied early explorers and surveyors of the great unknown west, we continue to make the experiences of this wild landscape visible to the public through our work today. We are committed to the ongoing awareness and preservation of this frontier of discovery that has yet to be fully experienced, studied or revealed in its natural state.

Not only that, as artists living and working in the western deserts under the pressures of a warming climate, we recognize firsthand that our global future depends on the science that comes from studying these last and largest remaining intact ecosystems. The increasing knowledge that the California Desert plays an essential role in carbon sequestration (Evans, et al. 2014) further fuels our commitment to its protection. Without the ability to study complete, protected ecosystems we lose the opportunity to gain the knowledge that could assist us in managing and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife and unspoiled desert vistas. Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest, and is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. Castle Mountains protects a critical junction for hundreds of desert species and some of the finest Joshua tree, piñon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. All three weave together a rich tapestry of landscapes, habitats, historical and cultural treasures and a vast storied history of our nation. Designation of these three National Monuments will complement the naming of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by helping to link vital habitats from the mountains to the desert.

The California Desert is an icon of creative inspiration for the artists, musicians, and cultural leaders that are represented in these signatures below. These signatures are testament to the passion and leadership that bring people together in grassroots causes to ensure that our environment is cared for in perpetuity, for all generations to come. We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to help preserve these treasured landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to make the final designation as a fitting action for protecting our American legacy.

Sincerely,

Kim Stringfellow, Guggenheim Fellow 2015. Director, The Mojave Project. Joshua Tree, CA.

Rhonda Coleman, Director, Curator, 29 Palms Art Gallery. Twentynine Palms, CA.

Bernard Leibov, Director, BoxoProjects. Former Deputy Director, Judd Foundation. New York, NY & Joshua Tree, CA.

Eva Soltes, Executive Director, Harrison House for Music, Arts and Ecology. Joshua Tree, CA.

Phillip K. Smith III, Light Artist. Indio, CA.

Frederick Fulmer, Director Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency. Joshua Tree, CA.

Andrea Zittel, Director, A-Z West. Founding Director, High Desert Test Sites. Joshua Tree, CA.

Mary-Austin Klein, Landscape painter. California Wilderness Coalition. Joshua Tree, CA.

Carolyn Young, Director, West of the Moon Gallery. Flagstaff, AZ.

Pamela Madsen, Sound Artist, Curator. Professor Cal State Fullerton School of Music. Fullerton, CA.

Cheryl Younger, Director of the American Photography Institute at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Former Chair, Society for Photographic Education. New York, NY.

Alita VanVliet, Board of Directors, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Director, Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours. Joshua Tree, CA.

Robert Johnson, Professor, Cypress College. Director, The Legacy Project. CA.

Roy Dietrich, Fine Artist. CA.

Edwin Vasquez, Photojournalist AV MEDIA. Fine Artist. Rosamond, CA.

Millie Wilson, Artist. CalArts. TX.

Melanie Walker, Artist. Professor of Fine Art, University of Colorado. Boulder, CO.

Bobby Furst, Director, FURSTWORLD Gallery / Performing Arts. Joshua Tree, CA.

Paula Jean Rice, Artist. Professor of Art Emeritus, Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, AZ.

Melissa J. Armstrong, Director, Interdisciplinary Global Programs, Center for International Education, Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, AZ.

Stevie Love, Artist. Director, Lancaster Museum and Public Art Foundation. Lancaster, CA.

Sant Khalsa, Professor Emeritus Department of Art. Founding Faculty Water Resources Institute, CA State University San Bernardino. San Bernardino, CA & Joshua Tree, CA.

Danny Frankel, Musician. Joshua Tree, CA.

Diane Best, Filmmaker, Painter, Photographer. Joshua Tree, CA.

Robin Rosenthal, Filmmaker. Producer, Pony Highway Productions. Littlerock, CA.

James Hammons, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Paul Klopfenstein, President, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Joshua Tree, CA.

Steve Rieman, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Ruth Rieman, Board of Directors, Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency. Joshua Tree, CA.

Catherine Svehla, Cultural Mythologist/Director, Mythic Mojo. Joshua Tree, CA.

Mindy Kaufman, Director, Joshua Tree Art Gallery. Joshua Tree, CA.

Joella Jean Mahoney, Fine Artist. Professor Emeritus, Art Department Chair, University of Laverne. La Verne, CA.

Nancy Campbell, Poet, Desert Poets. Palm Springs, CA.

Andree Mendenhall Mahoney, Fine Artist. Professor Emeritus, Art Department Chair, Chaffee Community College. Alta Loma, CA.

Gillian Spedding, Poet, Desert Poets. Palm Springs, CA.

Julia Buckley, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Rebecca Trawick, Director, Wagnall Museum of Contemporary Art. Alta Loma, CA.

Jacobine Van der Meer, Van der Meer Studio. The Arts Council of San Bernardino. Los Angeles, CA & Landers, CA.

Phillip Rosenberg, Musician, Rags and Bones Music. Joshua Tree, CA.

Phyllis Schwartz, Artist. Joshua Tree, CA.

Renna Shesso, Book Author. Denver, CO.

Joe Garcia, Musician, Urban Desert Cabaret. Landers, CA.

Joanna Fodczuk, Painter/Art Instructor. Los Angeles, CA & Landers, CA.

Noreen Lawlor, Artist, Painter, Poet. Joshua Tree, CA.

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

R. D. Evans; A. Koyama, et al. (2014) [Greater ecosystem carbon in the Mojave Desert after ten years exposure to elevated CO₂](#) Nature Climate Change 4, 394–397. doi:10.1038/nclimate2184

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. The undersigned businesses support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contains exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

In addition to enhancing tourism and recreation, the designation of national monuments will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Linda Lee Chevalier, Firearm Instructor, National Rifle Association
Juanita Marts, Member, National Rifle Association
Larry Marts, Navy Veteran, Instructor, National Rifle Association

John Chevalier, Marine Corps Veterans, Instructor, National Rifle Association
Thomas Atkins. Member, American Civil War Society
Andrew Redfeather Corona, Artists, Dineh Navajo Nation Tribal Member
Priscilla Frema
Ashley Sanchez
Britney Velasco
Hannah Rios
Don Sherman
Alana Pratt
Ronner Williams
Leo Ruiz
Patricia R. Dilday
Mike Mendoza
Evan Ramirez
Arthur Benitez
Marlena Carabajal
Kimberly Nguyen
Yesenia Free
Matthew Cookson
Carlos A. P. Ortiz
Arianna Villa
Ashley Morua
Dalila Guillen
Karen Barahona
Patrick Jones
Roman A. Crisistomo

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

2015

Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

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Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

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Sincerely,

Fred Archer, Banning
Paul Backovich
Dr. Clarice Barret
Pauline Bedford
Pamela Berry
Steven Blossey
Courtney Brandt
Missy Buce
Jacqueline Budd
Joan Clark
Chris Clarke
Catherine Colella
Madeline Dace
Faith Donovan
Nancy Dopp
Chris Dougherty
Phillip Ferranti
Ernesto Fortin
Robert Furst
Paul Goff Mizuki
Hanford
Marcene Hills
Arthur Huebner
Spencer Hunt
Tom Kayne

Jean Kenna
Nancy Klein
Robin Kobaly
Jesse Laird, DeVore
Allyson Lavender
Andrea Lavender
Ed Lavender
Elzina Lavender
Anne Leewis
Michael Barus LeMay
Susan LeMay
Raul Lopez
Marilyn Lutz
S Marling
Jack Meyers
Dale Mondary
Danette Mondary
Evangeline Montville
Doug Powell
Kevin Powell
Daisy Ramirez
Steve Rieman
Ruth Rieman
Ashley Robles
Lara Rozzell

Attias Rzeznik
Nina Shine
Michael Smith
Theresa Smith
Max Stein
Lewis Stewart
Emilio Vogel
Deborah Vincent
Donna Vincent
Jacquelyn Webster
Stephanie Weigel
E. Janelle Zarato
Joseph Zine
Delia B. Sanchez
Robin Robb
Bonnie Henry
Theresa, Orchanian
Robert Walters
Martha Walters
Robert Henry
Kirk Taylor
Mary Burrows
Carl Leever
Serena Chow
Mary Leever

Richard Roosman
Mark Freeman
Amy Taylor
Renee Hicks
John Greene
Robyn R. Kohr
Vendela Martin
Erika Henry
Sara Sakurai
Timothy Anderson
Kathryn Anderson
Tommie Ann Freeman
Philip Wojtkowski
Sam Anderson
Thomas Carson
Chenoa Neiberger
Erick Cronkhite
Tiffany Adair
Jade Adair
Jeff Adair
Toni Adair
Larry Adroll
Angelica Agredano
Larry Akell
Maryjane Alaniz
Marijane Alaniz
Reanna Alder
Aleneula Alenaula
Jane Allingham
Carmen Alvarez
Ida Alwin
Ida Alwin
Gayle Anderson
Sierra Anderson
Linda Anderson
Barbara Andreasen
Jazmin Angeles
Briauna Archer
David Archer
Rebecca Arellano
Dan Armitage
Dale Armitage
Cindy Austin
Valerie Aversa

Essence Bacon
Lisa Baldwin
Steve Bardwell
Rowland Bellorini
Mary Best
Cheryl Blankenship
Jylan Boggs
Jennifer Bolande
Kalli Bolanis
Gretchen Bolin
Andrew Bolucci
Nate Bolucci
Cheyenne Bonnell
Harry Bowkley
Morgan Brafford
Dudley Branco
Syble Breihan
Jayden Brown
Connie Cabrillo
Stephanie Cambell
Alexis Campos
Gabe Canteras
Alexandra Castaneda
Jason Catlin
Kenny Caudill
Ismael Chavez
Marc Chea
Linde Chubak
David Chubak
Phebe Cisneros
Joshua Cole
Katherine Cook
Paul Cooley
Colton Cooper
Jay Corbin
Susan Corbin
Alexander Courtney
Jilyn Crawford
Natalie Cressy
Hannah Cross
Amanda Cruz
Shyann Cully
Penne Curey
Marylou Curry

Richard Curry
Mackenzie Curtiss
Mary Darden
Marissa Dedios
Julian Degoede
Jayr Delatorre
Dylan Deluna
Kathleen Demaray
Jaed Demorrow
Megan Dennis
Charlotte Desantis
Ruben Destinee
Mariah Diaz
Jorge Diaz
Jasmine Dlagass
Sierra Duckin
Christin Dupin
Edgar Eckhart
Barbara Eckhart
Cari Ensley
Pamela Erwin
Tricia Etheridge
Cristo Eydel
Aaron Fagan
Tattance Fatelle
Vinny Ferraro
Marisk Ferrer
Marya Fields
Robert Fisher
Maya Fleursey
Hilde Fonda
John Frakes
Emilia Frasher
Boyd Frialet
Daniel Friend
Chris Frum
Gionanni Fuller
Robert Furst
Kelsey Gaarder
Andrew Gamboa
Quentin Gamboa
Ray Garcia
Jessica Garcia
Eveleyn Garcia

Ceillo Garcia
Rudy Garcia
Luis Garcia
Sharon Garcia
Mariana Garcia
David Garry
Ann Garry
Dellia Gastelia
Amy Gattuso
Tyler Geeson
Thomas Geiger
Garrett George
Alan Gilbert
Gregory Glenn
Mariah Goddard
Daniel Goddard
Samuel Goldman
Beth Gonzales
Jayden Gonzalez
Kaitlin Goodpaster
Betsy Goza
Kayla Graham
Lynette Graham
Jan Grandi
Colton Gray
Melanie Greco
Douglas Green
Ed Greenshields
Vicki Greenshields
Bryan Grijatow
Aislinn Gueltzow
Tabitha Guevara
Tristan Guevara
Richard Gunning
Leslie Gunning
Vanessa Gutierrez
Pamela Hagedorn
Greg Hagedorn
Kayla Hall
Janet Hamilton
James Hammons
Jonathan Hancock
Jamie Haney
Yolanda Hansen

Andrew Hardin
Allan Harniet
Dale Harnitz
Deeann Harvey
Jolie Harwick
Frankie Harwood
Harmony Hayes
Dianne Hayward
Megan Hearne
Mary Henderson
Marcy Henderson
Sheyenne Henkhaus
Shawn Hennes-Lam
Elenne Herrera
Gauge Hill
Amir Hmirian
Chelsee Hobbs
Ethan Hodder
Kylie Howell
Cannon Hudson
Brenden Hughes
Lesley Hughes
Kai Hyn
Toni Jackson
Curtis Jacobs
Penny Jacobs
Karly Jacobs
Curtis Jacobs
Adrian Jimenez
Ruben Jimenez
Liana Jimenez
Luana Johnson
Briana Johnson
Lise Jones
Jennifer Jungwirth
John Kahrs
Sharlene Kahrs
Sierra Kahrs
Griffin Kater
Mindy Kaufman
Ashley Keely
Harry Keen
Genevieve Kelley
Allison Kennedy

Katherine Kennedy
Jeanne Kennington
Sarah Kennington
Daniel Kernodle
Josephine Kim
Katherine King
Kiersten King
Val Kiri
Charity Kirkendall
Alyssa Knupp
Alexandria Koedel
Gary Koger
Lakey Kolb
Leslie Kooy
Ellen Lamotte
James Lamotte
Lori Landry
Virginia Landry
Billee Larson
Morgan Larson
Ann Lawson
Lorraine Leach
Brian Leatart
Khaleel Leforce
Kaylee Leforce
Faith Legocki
Nathen Lester
Darlene Lester
Kathy Lewis
Tania Leysen
Stacy Liechti
Lofa Lillern
Jared Lindley
Marissa Lindley
James Lindley
Pamela Lindley
Carla Lindquist
Elenne Lisbon
Marsha Lona
Deserie Lopez
Andrew Lopez
Daniela Lopez
Camryn Maeinello
Sarah Mahan

Travis Mahan
Laci Malin
Parish Malle
Hailey Manter
Gia Marie
Camryn Marinella
Amanda Marroquin
Janice Martin
Alden Martin
Taylor Martin
Katie Mason
Susan Masterson
Johnny May
Kaitlyn Mcallen
Anthony Mccall
Wendy Mceuen
Donovan Mckeever
Chatel Mckettrick
Frankie Mcwood
Gudrun Mecham
Arvel Mecham
Stephanie Mecham
Michelle Mecham
Sadie Mecham
Diane Medina
Pilleure Meduele
Steven Mejia
Gregory Mendoza
Gina Mercer
Haley Miller
Adina Mills
Alexia Missett
Elizabeth Mitchell
Paul Montgomery
Kieth Morgan
Lynnelle Morningstar
Chris Morningstar
Jordan Morrow
Richard Morton
Karen Morton
Richard Morton
Karen Morton
Maryssa Mullens
Logan Naylor

Logan Naylor
Annie Nelson
Kate Nelson
Arrington Nevitt
Samson Nunez
Charlotte Ohnsted
Chelsea Oliver
Angela Olivores
Erelin Ortiz
Tamara Ottosen
Ken Pace
Kelly Padilla
Lewis Parker
Bryan Parker
Gene Parsons
Brian Peters
Gina Peters
Bob Peterson
Lily Peterson
James Pizza
Norma Pizza
Juanita Prezell
Kerry Puckett
Audrey Pushkar
Sherry Rand
Barbara Rasmussen
Markie Rauschenberg
Makayla Rauskin
Makayla Rauskin
Elena Ray
Drew Reese
Victoria Reiser
Florent Renucci
Jocelyn Resendez
Chris Ressler
Arturo Reyes
Dawn Rich
Madison Rideout
Megan Rieman
Rebecca Roark
April Robinett
Gary Roger
Mekeilah Rogers
Robert Rolak

Savannah Romero
Caitlin Rowe
Estelle Rubenstein
Destinie Rubenstein
Caitlyn Ruggiero
Mike Ruggiero
Gretchen Ruggiero
Vincenzo Ruggiero
Mark Russell
Uluan Salen
Creig Samith
Nancy San
Yadier Sanshez
Chris Scali
Sierra Scali
Sierra Scali
Angelina Schoenberger
John Schoenberger
Maraus Schrimshaw
John Schuler
Cornelia Schulz
Phyllis Schwartz
Ashley Schwartz
Stephen Scigliano
Timothy Scott
Trevor Scott
Carol Seddon
Lina Segura
Kai Sehr
Linda Seick
Nicolette Serrano
Nicole Serrano
Sitara Shah
Kayla Shaw-Fruger
Kayla Shaw-Fryer
Shelly Sheckler
Jesse Sheckler
Emily Sheckler
Frank Sheckler
Theresa Simmons
Kirsty Singer
Suzen Smallwood
Douglas Smith
Roch Smith

Megan Smith
Curtis Snyder
Jake Sommers
Liza Sommers
Manny Souza
Cindi Specht
Bill Spiller
Donald Sprague
Heather Stafford
Justin Stainbrook
Devin Stanovich
Teresa Stemen
Lynn Stephens
Elisabeth Stewart
Christina Stewart
Johnathan Stewart
Catherine Stillwell
Jon Stone
Erica Stone
Skyler Stone
Patricia Stoner
Nichole Sugita
William Sullivan
John Summers
Randy Swindel
Jim Swindel
Allisa Taleires
Enrique Tanello
Patricia Mutz
Wendy Bowman
David Bowman
Annette Mutz

Kristina Tareila
Allisa Taucures
William Taylor
Virginia Thayer
Frank Thomas
Matthew Thomas
Donna Thomason
Patricia Thompson
Daniel Thompson
Maya Toccata
Amber Tolbert
Vera Topinka
Katie Traeger
Yenny Tran
Alaina Trofler
Meghan Udell
Julian Valenzuela
Janice Vanderpol
Jennifer Vanness
Betty Vasquez
Richard Vasquez
Elena Vasquez
Olivia Vasquez
Michele Vasquez
Damian Vasquez
Maurice Vickers
Mark Vikdal
Nichole Vikdal
Carolyn Curran
Jim Misiak
Nancy McDonald
Lynda Misiak

Madison Vikdal
Claire Wadsworth
Jenny Wagner
David Walker
Charlie Wallace
Randall Walters
Joshua Warren
Tomas Wastar
Alexis Watkins
Lisa Watson
Kaeliegh Watson
Jaelynn Watson
Randel Watters
Caitlyn White
Amanda Whiting
Richard Wiesner
Angelica Williams
Faith Williams
Stephanie Wilson
Mark Wilson
Mikinzie Wilson
Holly Wright
Bryer Wynwood
Bryan Wynwood
Nicole Zeitz
Derrick Zietz
Diars Zooliag
Monica Zuniga
Kathy Thurow
Rachelle Buck
James Thurow

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



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Release: Vet Voice Foundation Asks President Obama to help Protect California Desert

The Vet Voice Foundation applauds the visit by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor and U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Robert Bonnie and other officials to Palm Springs on Tuesday, October 13th regarding protection of public lands in the California desert region. In response, Vet Voice Foundation has added its voice to a growing [chorus of other Veterans](#), local elected officials, business owners, Native Americans, faith leaders, historians, artists, local residents, and conservationists in asking President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three National Monuments in the Californian desert. These areas—Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and the Castle Mountains—mean a great deal to Veterans and their families, not only as scenic places to hike, camp and relax in, but also as places of quiet repose and recovery for Veterans suffering from PTSD and other war-related trauma.

It was President Theodore Roosevelt, a Veteran and devoted conservationist, who first used the executive authority of the Antiquities Act to help protect iconic places, such as the Grand Canyon, Mt. Lassen, and Mt. Olympus. Today, we also have a historic opportunity to permanently protect public lands in the California desert for future generations by designating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains as National Monuments. This push for designation comes after nearly a decade of work by local leaders on legislative efforts to protect the California desert.

“We [urge](#) President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains as National Monuments. We also appreciate Senator Feinstein’s request, on behalf of many diverse stakeholders who care about the future of the California desert, for the President to take this action.” said Steve Dunwoody, California Director of the Vet Voice Foundation. “The natural and cultural resources of these public lands, the rich history, are worthy of protection as National Monuments. We want to see every tool available used to protect these lands – for Veterans, their families, and the wider community.”

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

Los Angeles Times

Editorial: The government should expand protections for California's deserts

Los Angeles Times, 1/28/16

Editorial Board



A bighorn sheep perches at the rocky base of Soda Mountain in the Mojave National Preserve near Baker, Calif. Its green collar indicates that it is being monitored by federal biologists. (Los Angeles Times)

Anyone who has driven through the California deserts — especially those who have wandered away from the freeways — has experienced the subtle majesty of vast open spaces, of the arroyos that wind back to jagged steep-sided mountains and of the magnificent plants and wildlife that thrive despite the low water, intense heat and relentless sun. The world tends to think of California nature in terms of beaches and redwoods and mountains, Big Sur and the Sierra Nevada, but the deserts are also part of who we are.

There are two movements afoot that would help expand conservation protections in the deserts while also allowing for development of solar, wind and geothermal energy. Both deserve support.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein has for years sought to expand federal protection to land that wasn't included in the [1994 California Desert Protection Act](#), which covered nearly 7.6 million acres, elevated Death Valley and Joshua Tree to

national parks and created the Mojave National Preserve. But her more recent legislation to establish two new national monuments and expand the Mojave National Preserve has gained no traction in a Congress that has been slow, to put it charitably, to designate additional conservation lands and parks. So Feinstein and conservation groups are petitioning [President Obama](#) to use his power under the [Antiquities Act of 1906](#) to create the monuments, and to expand the covered areas even beyond her legislative proposal.

The president should grant her request. Feinstein has asked for creation of a Mojave Trails National Monument, which would connect the Mojave National Preserve with Joshua Tree, adding protections to federal lands that encompass sweeping vistas as well as habitats for such species as the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep. The monument would also include the Cadiz Valley, which contains dunes and the remnants of training grounds used by Gen. George Patton's armored divisions before they deployed during World War II, and culturally and wildlife-rich areas in the Sacramento Mountains. Feinstein also has asked Obama to create a Sand to Snow National Monument, which would include 135,000 acres between Joshua Tree and the San Bernardino Mountains as well as the Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa (holding 1,700 petroglyphs and several natural springs). And she wants the picturesque, habitat-heavy Castle Mountains,

which were omitted from the 1994 Desert Protection Act because an active gold mine was located there, to be designated a national monument now that the mine has closed.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is separately reviewing final requests for changes to its part of what is known as the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, an enormous project to allocate 10 million acres of federal land for recreation, conservation and renewable energy production. The plan sets aside 388,000 acres for solar, wind and geothermal projects, 5.3 million acres for conservation areas and 3.8 million acres for recreational use, including off-road vehicles. A second phase of the plan being developed by counties and cities for about 12.5 million acres under their jurisdiction is expected to designate even more public and private land for renewable energy development.

The Antiquities Act gives the president the power to "declare by public proclamation

historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" to be protected as national monuments. BLM officials decided that 800,000 acres didn't clear that hurdle, nor would they be suitable for energy development, and they remain unallocated. Now conservation and wilderness groups want the BLM to reconsider some of the unallocated areas covering the Big Maria Mountains in Riverside County, Bristol Valley east of Joshua Tree National Park, and the Lower Centennial Flat between the Inyo National Forest and Death Valley. In addition to offering stunning vistas, those lands provide habitat for desert animals and plants and contain scattered Native American sites. The conservationists make a persuasive case that they should be protected.

The BLM land reviewers should give these areas a second, closer look. It makes sense for the government to be as inclusive as possible in protecting fragile desert lands.

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-adv-desert-conservation-20160128-story.html>

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Preserving public lands a matter of patriotism

San Diego Union-Tribune, 12/16/15

Oscar Franquez Jr.



As a member of the United States Armed Forces, I take great pride in my contribution to the defense of our great nation. It is an honor that words fail to express; protecting the land I love is invaluable. When traveling abroad, this feeling is intensified by foreigners' expressed desire to visit America and in particular, our national parks and monuments.

This reminds me of two important things: the incomparable power of nature to bring people together and the fact that my duty to protect America includes standing up for its public lands. That's why I believe we must preserve places like Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains by giving them the national monument designations they deserve.

It has become extraordinarily evident to me that many people around the world admire the American people's dedication to protecting and conserving our lands as open, natural, public space. They respect the wisdom and foresight it takes to accomplish this. And, often, it is one of the first and most positive things they associate with America, thanks to iconic images of our country's impressive

natural features in television, movies and magazines.

As an outdoor enthusiast and California native, I never miss the opportunity to suggest to the people I met abroad that they should visit the national parks, monuments, conservation lands and all of our public lands in California, as these lands are a vivid depiction of our nation's diverse beauty and diverse population.

One of the best things about being a native Californian is the vast array of magnificent and diverse public lands located right here in our state. Some of my dearest childhood memories include family trips to Yosemite, Pinnacles and Redwoods National Parks. These are memories that I will carry with me and cherish for the rest of my life.

Added to these childhood memories are the many hours and long days I have spent in the California desert, training and preparing for military deployments. Through those experiences, I have developed a deep appreciation for the desert's rugged beauty, vast breathtaking landscapes and the resilience of the plants and wildlife that reside in these austere lands.

Unfortunately, the significance of the California desert is many times undervalued. Many are unaware of how intact and unique these lands are, and the history contained within; history spanning from Native

American culture, to Gen. Patton's World War II training sites and the western migration along the iconic Route 66.

The California desert is comprised of delicate and vulnerable ecosystems, as well as cultural and historic sites that have shaped our heritage as Californians and Americans, and are in great need of conservation. Already many 1,000-year-old plants, petroglyphs and other amazing values have been lost over the years, often due to lack of awareness or thoughtful decision-making. We cannot get back what we've lost, but we can ensure a better future. This is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains national monuments. Our nation's lands are our greatest treasure; they serve as a reminder of our rich, diverse history, culture, and population.

For many of my fellow Marines, the California desert may be their first opportunity to experience and explore a desert landscape, to see desert wildlife, or visit ancient rock art. For many, the experience is life-changing. These lands tell the story of who we are. They can also tell the story of what we stand for. And what we stand for is why I am proud to be a service member.

We must do everything in our power to conserve key areas of our public lands to ensure that our nation's future generations can enjoy her beauty, setting the example for other nations to conserve and value their lands as well.

Franquez is a Santa Clarita native and a San Diego-based staff sergeant in the Marines. The views expressed here are his own, not those of the Department of Defense or Department of Homeland Security.

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/16/monuments-parks-us/>