



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

Ken Stripling

DATE: June 13, 2017

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION: H.R. 1557

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

PRESENTER: Michael Murphy

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council support H.R. 1557 and transmit position statements to Representative Steve Knight, Representative Brad Sherman, Representative Adam Schiff, Representative Judy Chu, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, members of applicable congressional committees, the Secretary of the Interior, other Members of Congress, administration officials and interested organizations, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

United States Representative Steve Knight (R-CA-25) has introduced H.R. 1557, the Soledad Canyon Consistency Act. The bi-partisan measure is co-sponsored by Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA-30), Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA-28) and Representative Judy Chu (D-CA-27). Subject to valid existing rights, the bill seeks to withdraw from mineral entry the site of the two cancelled mining contracts (CA-20139 and CA-22901) between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CEMEX.

On August 28, 2015, the United States Bureau of Land Management's California State Director issued a formal Decision, terminating two mining contracts in Soledad Canyon that the agency previously had with CEMEX. Those contracts authorized the extraction of 56,000,000 net tons of sand and gravel on split estate; the surface estate owned by the City of Santa Clarita and the underlying mineral estate owned by BLM.

CEMEX appealed the California State Director's Decision to the Department of the Interior's Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). To date, the IBLA has not rendered a final determination regarding the appeal.

In the event that the contracts are ultimately extinguished, the Secretary of the Interior would retain the ability to enter into new contracts, leasing agreements or other conveyance for the

extraction of materials from the site. H.R. 1557 proposes to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from entering into any future contracts or agreements for mining at the Soledad Canyon location. The bill withdraws from mineral entry approximately 640 acres of Bureau of Land Management mineral estate.

Once the two cancelled mining contracts, CA-20139 and CA-22901, have been fully extinguished and the site legislatively withdrawn from mineral entry, the City of Santa Clarita (City) has expressed an interest in formally engaging with the federal government regarding the City's ownership of approximately 493 acres of surface estate. The City-owned property is immediately adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and Angeles National Forest. Preliminary discussions with the United States Forest Service suggest a high level of interest in the site potentially being conveyed to the federal government and ultimately being used for a visitor's center or northern gateway entry point into the national monument and Angeles National Forest.

H.R. 1557 has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No date has yet been set for a hearing on the bill.

The City Council is requested to support H.R. 1557.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

1. Take no position regarding H.R. 1557.
2. Oppose H.R. 1557.
3. Other action as determined by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

No additional resources beyond those contained within the approved City budget are required for implementation of the recommended action.

ATTACHMENTS

H.R. 1557, As Introduced 03-16-17
Soledad Canyon Map A 01-21-16