



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

Ken Stripling

DATE: April 9, 2019

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION: S. 774 & H.R. 1708

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

PRESENTER: Michael Murphy

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council:

1. Adopt the Legislative Committee's recommendation to support S. 774 (Feinstein) and H.R. 1708 (Schiff).
2. Transmit position statements to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Representative Adam Schiff, Senator Kamala Harris, Representative Katie Hill, members of applicable congressional committees, other Members of Congress, administration officials and interested organizations, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

United States Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has introduced S. 774, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act. United States Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA-28) has introduced House Resolution 1708, a companion bill to S. 774. The bills propose to expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) to include portions of the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

In 2008, Congress passed the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-229). This bill directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, which includes the mountains encircling the Santa Clarita, San Fernando, La Crescenta, Simi, and Conejo Valleys. The study sought to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the existing SMMNRA, and how these areas could be better managed and preserved. The National Park Service began the study in 2010 and transmitted its final report to Congress and the public in February 2016. In this study, the National Park Service recommended to Congress to more than double the size of SMMNRA to include a very significant portion of the Rim of the Valley

study area.

The current size of SMMNRA is approximately 154,000 acres. The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act proposes to add more than 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor to SMMNRA. The bills will enable the National Park Service to better protect natural resources and habitats, and provide members of the community with improved access to nature for recreational and educational purposes.

Specifically, the bills will provide the National Park Service the authority to do the following:

- Implement capital improvements (i.e. trails, roads, facilities for public enjoyment)
- Monitor and study wildlife and ecosystems
- Participate in cooperative conservation and recreation planning with local communities
- Provide technical assistance for resource protection and recreation planning
- Contribute financially to projects that protect important natural resources
- Acquire land through donation, exchange, or purchase from willing sellers

The current version of these bills preserves private property rights and existing local land use authorities. The bills do not require a land owner to participate in any conservation or recreation activities, and does not propose any additional restrictions on property owners. Additionally, the bills do not allow for land acquisition through eminent domain.

S. 774 was introduced in the Senate on March 13, 2019, and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1708 was introduced in the House of Representatives, also, on March 13, 2019, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The City Council Legislative Committee met on March 26, 2019, and recommends that the City Council adopt a “support” position for S. 774 and H.R. 1708.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

1. Adopt a “neutral” position on S. 774 and H.R. 1708
2. Adopt an “oppose” position on S. 774 and H.R. 1708
3. Take no action on S. 774 and H.R. 1708
4. Refer S. 774 and H.R. 1708 back to the Legislative Committee
5. Other action, as determined by the City Council

FISCAL IMPACT

The resources required to implement the recommended action are contained within the City of Santa Clarita's adopted Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget.

ATTACHMENTS

House Resolution 1708 Bill Text

S.774 Bill Text