



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

Ken Stripling

DATE: July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION: S. 1769

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

PRESENTER: Masis Hagobian

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council adopt the City Council Legislative Committee recommendation to support S. 1769 (Feinstein) and transmit position statements to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Santa Clarita's federal legislative delegation, members of applicable congressional committees, other Members of Congress, administration officials, and interested organizations, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

Authored by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), S. 1769, also known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, proposes to expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) to include the proposed Rim of the Valley Unit.

In 2008, Congress passed the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, introduced by Representative Adam Schiff. 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 proposed Rim of the Valley Unit to SMMNRA, including lands within the Santa Clarita Valley. In broad terms, the Santa

Clarita Valley lands included within the legislation are those areas located between State Route 14 and the Angeles National Forest (southern unit) in the Newhall, Canyon Country, Soledad Canyon, and Agua Dulce areas.

This bill 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.

The Santa Clarita City Council supported House Resolution 1075, the companion bill to S. 1769, based on the recommendation of the City Council's Legislative Committee, at the March 9, 2021, regular meeting.

Additionally, the recommendation to support S. 1769 is consistent with the City of Santa Clarita 2021 Executive and Legislative Platform. Specifically, Component 1 under the "Federal" section advises that the City Council, "Support legislation seeking to implement the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study; containing boundary adjustments that include portions of the Santa Clarita Valley, but does not eliminate or limit current authority of the City of Santa Clarita."

S. 1769 was heard by the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 23, 2021. Staff anticipates the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider mark-ups and approval at a later date.

The City Council Legislative Committee met on June 22, 2021, and recommends that the City Council adopt a "support" position on S. 1769.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

1. Adopt a "neutral" position on S. 1769.
2. Adopt an "oppose" position on S. 1769.
3. Take no action on S. 1769.
4. Refer S. 1769 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 FY 2021-22 budget.

ATTACHMENTS

S. 1769 - Bill Text