

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 17, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Debra A. Haaland
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Biden and Secretary Haaland:

We write to request that you expand the boundary of California's Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument by issuing a presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act of 1906*. We have introduced the "Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act" (H.R.6366/S.4080) to include adjacent federally owned land within the boundary.

Our legislation enjoys broad-based support from federal, tribal, and local officials representing this region of northern California as well as nongovernmental organizations, including environmental conservation, public access, outdoor recreation, and off-highway vehicle groups. Our legislation is the product of a 6-month public comment period and rigorous vetting process with local and tribal officials. This past spring, the House and Senate Subcommittees of jurisdiction held hearings on this bicameral legislation to expand the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service, which co-manages the National Monument, testified in support of our legislation. The House of Representatives passed the bill as part of the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023" (H.R.7900). Further, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously voted to report the bill out of committee. To date, we are not aware of any organized opposition to our proposed national monument expansion. We would expect any *Antiquities Act* designation to enjoy equally broad support.

In July 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Proclamation 9298 designating federal land surrounding the Lake Berryessa reservoir as a new national monument, at the request of members of California's Congressional delegation. However, this 2015 national monument designation omitted the adjacent federally owned "Walker Ridge" parcel administered by the BLM, which remain administered as part of the Indian Valley Management Area. While the U.S. Department of the Interior never publicly stated a reason for omitting this BLM parcel from the national monument designation, there was at that time a proposed wind development project for this ridgeline. However, that proposed wind development has remained in abeyance for years. In February 2022, the BLM denied the wind developer's federal permit application following a public comment period and meeting in Lake County in July 2019.

Expanding the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument would contribute to the Administration's goal under Executive Order 14008 of permanently conserving 30 percent of the United States by 2030. Our legislation also requires the federal land management agencies to engage in meaningful consultation

and voluntary co-management of the expanded National Monument with federally recognized tribes. We hope that any presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act* would provide similar direction for the BLM and Forest Service to provide ample opportunity for federally recognized tribes to co-manage the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, including for forestry and hazardous fuels reduction. In our view, this would meet the Administration’s stated goals in the Presidential Memorandum dated January 26, 2021; joint Secretarial Order 3403; and the interagency memorandum of understanding finalized on November 16, 2021.

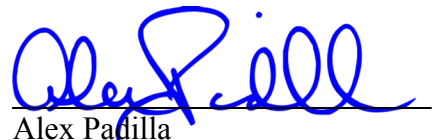
Lastly, we request that any provision from our “Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act” that cannot be accomplished by a presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act* be otherwise addressed administratively in tandem. Specifically, our legislation would rename the BLM’s “Walker Ridge” parcel to “Condor Ridge” or “Molok Luyuk” in the Patwin language. While to the best of our knowledge “Walker Ridge” is not a pejorative placename, it simply does not reflect the area’s cultural significance to Native Americans like the federally recognized Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. As such, we recommend that any *Antiquities Act* designation to expand the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument be accompanied by a Secretarial order directing the Board on Geographic Names to formally rename the BLM parcel commonly referred to as “Walker Ridge” as “Condor Ridge (Molok Luyuk),” as required under our legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to permanently conserve this unique landscape in California for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



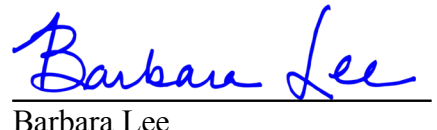
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
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