

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION
AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT STUDY ACT

NOVEMBER 15, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1487]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1487) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”.

SEC. 2. RESOURCE STUDY OF THE LOS ANGELES COASTAL AREA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA.**—In this section, the term “study area” means the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa Monica Bay from Will Rogers State Beach to Torrance Beach, including the areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of Crescent Avenue.

(b) **SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

- (A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;
- (B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;
- (C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1487 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), located west of Los Angeles, California, was designated in November 1978 to preserve the area's scenic, natural, and historic sites, and to provide recreational and scientific benefits to the region. Congress has passed multiple boundary adjustments since 1978. Today, the SMMNRA spans over 150,000 acres, encompassing 46 miles of rugged coastline, mountains from the Mojave Desert to the Channel Islands, and a unique Mediterranean-type ecosystem. Throughout history, the Santa Monica Mountains have also been home to the Chumash and Tongva people, Spanish colonists, rancheros, and homesteaders.

H.R. 1487 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Santa Monica Bay coastal area near Los Angeles to evaluate the national significance of the study area and to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1487 was introduced on March 4, 2019, by Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On May 22, 2019, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On September 25, 2019, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. An amendment offered by Chair Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) designated #1 was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress—the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 1487: legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on May 22, 2019.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2019.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1487, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is David Hughes.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1487, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 25, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1	1
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 1487 would require the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a special resource study of the Santa Monica Bay coastal area near Los Angeles, California. As part of that study, the NPS would

evaluate alternative conservation approaches, including designating the coastal area as a unit of the National Park System. H.R. 1487 would require the NPS to report the study results, conclusions, and recommendations to the Congress.

Using information from the NPS on the cost of similar special resource studies, CBO estimates that completing the study over 5 years would cost \$1 million. The NPS would use the expertise of 10 to 15 employees over different time periods to study the coastal area. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.