

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8849

To facilitate land exchanges in California between the California State Lands Commission and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2020

Mr. COOK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To facilitate land exchanges in California between the California State Lands Commission and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “California Desert Con-
5 servation Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CALIFORNIA STATE SCHOOL LAND.**

7 Section 707 of the California Desert Protection Act
8 of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa–77) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(5) SPECIAL DEPOSIT FUND ACCOUNT.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Assembled land ex-
3 changes may be used to carry out this section
4 through the sale of surplus Federal property
5 and subsequent acquisitions of State school
6 land.

7 “(B) RECEIPTS.—Past and future receipts
8 from the sale of property described in sub-
9 section (a), less any costs incurred related to
10 the sale, shall be deposited in a Special Deposit
11 Fund Account established in the Treasury.

12 “(C) USE.—Funds accumulated in the
13 Special Deposit Fund Account may be used by
14 the Secretary, without an appropriation, to ac-
15 quire State school lands or interest in the land
16 consistent with this section.”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(e) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

19 “(1) TRANSACTIONS BEFORE JANUARY 1,
20 2018.—Any transaction completed pursuant to this
21 section before January 1, 2018—

22 “(A) is deemed to be in compliance with
23 the terms of the October 26, 1995, Memo-
24 randum of Agreement between the commission,

1 the general services administration, and the
 2 Secretary; and

3 “(B) meets the requirements of subsection
 4 (a).

5 “(2) TRANSACTIONS ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,
 6 2018.—Any transaction completed pursuant to this
 7 section on or after January 1, 2018, that satisfies
 8 the terms of the October 26, 1995, Memorandum of
 9 Agreement shall be considered to be in compliance
 10 with subsection (a).”.

11 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITED USES OF ACQUIRED, DONATED, AND**
 12 **CONSERVATION LAND.**

13 Section 714(a) of the California Desert Protection
 14 Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa–81c(a)) is amended by
 15 striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

16 “(3) CONSERVATION LAND.—The term ‘con-
 17 servation land’ means—

18 “(A) any land within the Conservation
 19 Area that is designated to satisfy the conditions
 20 of a Federal habitat conservation plan, general
 21 conservation plan, or State natural communities
 22 conservation plan;

23 “(B) any national conservation land within
 24 the Conservation Area established pursuant to
 25 section 2002(b)(2)(D) of the Omnibus Public

1 Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.
2 7202(b)(2)(D)); and

3 “(C) any area of critical environmental
4 concern within the Conservation Area estab-
5 lished pursuant to section 202(c)(3) of the Fed-
6 eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
7 (43 U.S.C. 1712(c)(3)).”.

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