



- 3) Declares that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States [54 United States Code (USC) § 320101].

### **PROPOSED LAW**

- 1) Makes a number of findings, including:
  - a) The Diablo Range encompasses more than 3,500,000 acres of diverse lands;
  - b) The Diablo Range is an intact wildlife habitat corridor of statewide significance supporting species such as the California condor, tule elk, golden eagle, mountain lion, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard, as well as endemic plants like the Mount Diablo globe lily;
  - c) Over 10 million people reside in communities around the Diablo Range and therefore, in addition to the mountain range's rich biodiversity, it has also been identified as a new and largely untapped recreational resource to serve the growing adjacent populations;
  - d) The Diablo Range affords California one of its best opportunities to meet the state's goal to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 (i.e., the 30x30 goal) and to address the climate crisis, by strategic land management and conservation practices to help more Californians connect with nature;
  - e) The Diablo Range contains significant cultural resources important to native people and the history of California; and
  - f) Recognizing the Diablo Range as a California conservation priority will build momentum for future efforts and considerations to designate the Diablo Range as a national monument.
- 2) Resolves that:
  - a) The Legislature recognizes the importance of the Diablo Range as a unique landscape deserving of amplified consideration; and
  - b) Commends and supports CNRA and its departments, organizational stakeholders, and individuals across the state in their collective efforts to elevate awareness involving the benefits and values of the Diablo Range.

### **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT**

According to the author, "The Diablo Range is one of California's most ecologically and recreationally significant landscapes. The range is home to many diverse habitats that support hundreds of native plant and wildlife species, including rare and threatened species found nowhere else in the world. This range also serves as a crucial wildlife corridor, connecting ecosystems across the state and strengthening the region's climate reliance. Beyond its ecological value, the Diablo Range provides critical natural benefits such as clean water, carbon storage, and expansive open space that supports recreation and public enjoyment. Recognizing the Diablo Range as a priority for

conservation ensures the protection of its biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural resources for generations to come.”

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**

None received.

### **COMMENTS**

***National Monuments.*** This resolution notes that the Diablo Range, given its critical wildlife habitat corridors, natural resources, cultural significance, and proximity to population centers causing development pressures, calls for an elevated vigilance and investment in management projects to reduce fire threats. Additionally, it suggests that recognizing the Diablo Range as a California conservation priority will build momentum for efforts to designate the Diablo Range as a national monument.

The Federal Antiquities Act (act), passed in 1906, authorizes the President to establish national monuments. Specifically, the act gives the President the authority to “declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments” [54 USC § 320301(a)]. National monuments may be administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Bureau of Land Management. Since 1906, U.S. presidents have used their authority under the Antiquities Act to set aside land almost 300 times.

In California, there are nearly 20 national monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain, Cabrillo, California Coastal, Carrizo Plain, Castle Mountains, César E. Chávez, Devils Postpile, Fort Ord, Giant Sequoia, Lava Beds, Mojave Trails, Muir Woods, Saint Francis Dam Disaster, Sand to Snow, San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, and Tule Lake.

### ***Related Legislation***

AB 1426 (Kalra, Bauer-Kahan) of the current legislative session, would have required the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish the Diablo Range Conservation Program. AB 1426 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SJR 16 (Padilla, Chapter 208, Statutes of 2024), urges the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Chuckwalla, Joshua Tree, and Kw’tsán National Monuments.

SJR 17 (Allen, Chapter 209, Statutes of 2024), urges the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Sáttítla National Monument.

### **SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS: none**

### **SUPPORT**

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy  
Golden Gate Bird Alliance  
Institute for Historical Ecology  
Protect San Benito  
Save Mount Diablo

**OPPOSITION**  
None Received

**-- END --**