

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 107
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D)
Introduced: 7/15/25
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/9/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 9/13/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: The Diablo Range

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution (1) recognizes the importance of the Diablo Range as a unique landscape deserving of amplified consideration, and (2) commends the Natural Resources Agency (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.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

- 1) Directs CNRA to combat the biodiversity and climate crisis by, among other things, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and establishing the 30x30 goal (Executive Order No. N-82-20).
- 2) Codifies the 30x30 goal (Public Resources Code § 71450).
- 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).

This resolution:

- 1) Makes a number of findings, including:
 - a) The Diablo Range encompasses more than 3.5 million 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.

Background

Diablo Mountain Range. According to the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, California's Diablo Mountain Range sits within the Central California Foothills and Coastal Mountains ecoregion, which has a Mediterranean climate and associated vegetation communities of grassland, chaparral, and oak woodlands.

The Diablo Range stretches from the eastern San Francisco Bay area to State Route 46, passing through Contra Costa, Alameda, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Merced, San Benito, Fresno, Monterey, Kings, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties. The range is named after Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County. According to the Save Mount Diablo (SMD) website, the Diablo Range covers 5,400 square miles and has many peaks, some of which are taller than Mount Diablo with the tallest peak being San Benito Mountain at 5,241 feet.

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/Prior Legislation

AB 1426 (Kalra, Bauer-Kahan, 2025) 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/9/26)

Californians for Western Wilderness
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Fresno Chaffee Zoo
Golden Gate Bird Alliance
Institute for Historical Ecology
Livermore Hill Hikers
Mak-warép Ohlone Land Conservancy
Mount Diablo Bird Alliance
Protect San Benito
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Save Mount Diablo
Sierra Club

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/9/26)

None received

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.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 9/13/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick,

Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Elhawary, Flora, McKinnor, Patterson, Solache, Ta

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