



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** April 26, 2016
From: Jennifer Heim, Special Projects Manager **Item No:** 11
Town Manager's Office
Subject: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2016-09 - A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION, OFF-ROAD RECREATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2016-09, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley, California, supporting the California Desert Conservation, Off-Road Recreation and Renewable Energy Act.

SUMMARY:

In February, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced S.2568 California Desert Conservation, Off-Road Recreation and Renewable Energy Act. S.2568 includes original provisions, minus the request for three (3) national monuments, from the Senator's previous desert bill, S.414 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA).

BACKGROUND:

Using his authority under the Antiquities Act earlier this year, President Obama established three (3) new national monuments as proposed in Senator Feinstein's California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 (CDCRA): the Mojave Trails National Monument, which protects 965,000 acres of federal land along historic Route 66; the Sand to Snow National Monument, which covers approximately 135,000 acres of federal land between Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest; and the Castle Mountains National Monument, which preserves nearly 21,000 acres of Joshua tree forests, unbroken natural landscapes, rare desert grasslands and rich human history.

Unfortunately, the Antiquities Act did not allow President Obama to incorporate very important provisions included in the Senator's earlier desert protection legislation. Therefore, the Senator introduced a revised version of the CDCRA containing the provisions not addressed through the national monument dedication process.

The aforementioned provisions include the designation of five (5) off-highway vehicle open areas (covering approximately 142,000 acres) as permanent national off-highway vehicle recreation areas (including Stoddard Wells OHV park), the addition of more than 43,000 acres to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks, the designation of 77 miles of rivers as wild and scenic and clarification of renewable energy development in desert areas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution No. 2016-09

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION, OFF-ROAD RECREATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT

WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced S.414 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) in 2015 to ensure that certain unique, undeveloped, ecologically and geologically significant, culturally important, and scenic areas of public land within the California Desert Conservation Area are preserved as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, and National Park and Preserve additions; and

WHEREAS, under the Antiquities Act, President Obama established three (3) new national monuments as proposed by the Senator in the CDCRA: Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act does not provide a mechanism for the President to have included several important provisions from the Senator's original desert bill; and

WHEREAS, the Senator introduced S.2568 California Desert Conservation, Off-Road Recreation and Renewable Energy Act, a revised version of the CDCRA containing the provisions not addressed through the national monument dedication process; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned provisions include the designation of five (5) off-highway vehicle open areas (approximately 142,000 acres) as permanent national off-highway vehicle recreation areas, the addition of more than 43,000 acres to Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks, the designation of 77 miles of rivers as wild and scenic and clarification of renewable energy development in desert areas; and

WHEREAS, the California desert contains important components of our community's and region's historic, cultural, economic, and social identity, and generates substantial economic benefit for surrounding area businesses through local employment, tax revenues, and visitor spending on meals, lodging, and supplies; and

WHEREAS, our desert lands provide local residents and visitors with opportunities for recreational activities including hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, camping, off-roading, wildlife viewing, scientific research, and nature study; and

WHEREAS, protecting these lands will ensure that future generations can enjoy them tomorrow as we do today; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Apple Valley endorses and supports the California Desert Conservation, Off-Road Recreation and Renewable Energy Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town of Apple Valley will transmit this signed resolution to the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein and to Congressman Paul Cook who represent us in Congress.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley his 26th day of April, 2016.

Barb Stanton, Mayor

ATTEST:

La Vonda M-Pearson, Town Clerk