



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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June 24, 2014

Board of Supervisors  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett to Adopt a Position of "Support" on H.R. 4685, the "Central Coast Heritage Protection Act" and Convey this Position to the County's Federal Lobbyist and Legislative Delegation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Position of "Support" on H.R. 4685, the "Central Coast Heritage Protection Act" and Convey this Position to the County's Federal Lobbyist and Legislative Delegation

**DISCUSSION:**

The Los Padres National Forest encompasses the mountainous areas of Ventura County, from the Ojai Valley and Santa Clara River Valleys north through the northern half of Ventura County. These lands provide critical watershed, recreation, cultural resource protection, and habitat reserves that are vitally important to Ventura County residents, businesses, flora, and fauna.

Congresswoman Lois Capps has introduced H.R. 4685, the "Central Coast Heritage Protection Act" to expand Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River designations in the Los Padres National Forest. The bill and a description and map of the wilderness and river additions are attached. Congresswoman Capps worked for more than a year with local stakeholders to develop a consensus bill with broad support. The bill is supported by broad range of more than 300 businesses, trail user groups, individuals, conservation groups, and local officials.

The Ventura County lands proposed for Wilderness designation are some of the most scenic and resource rich lands in our local National Forest. The proposed Wilderness areas add to and connect with existing Wilderness areas, thereby magnifying their resource protection value. The addition of upper Piru Creek, upper Sespe Creek, and upper Matilija Creek in the national Wild & Scenic River designation will provide protection for the watershed, recreation, and endangered species habitat values that these creeks provide.

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As a county with a large urban population, conservation of our remaining undisturbed natural areas within the Los Padres National Forest is of increasing importance. Our citizens depend upon the irreplaceable watershed, scenic, recreation, cultural resource and habitat values in these areas, and protecting them for generations to come is a high local and national priority.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 4685, the "Central Coast Heritage Protection Act".

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, First District

Attachments: bill, descriptions, map