

SENATE BILL 238

Senator Carol Liu

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FACT SHEET

Superintendent of the Angeles National Forest to vote on relevant Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Issues.

SUMMARY

SB 238 (Liu) will assist the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) to complete projects and coordinate work with other agencies in the wildland areas of Southern California.

The bill allows the Superintendent of the Angeles National Forest to vote as a SMMC member on matters related to projects located within, adjacent to, or substantially affecting the National Forest. Currently, the Supervisor is an ex officio, nonvoting member of the SMMC board.

The strengthened association of the SMMC Board and the U.S. Forest Service will enhance the relationship among Foothill open space preservation groups that share a boundary with the Angeles National Forest, e.g., the Sierra Madre Mountains Conservancy, as they consider issues of mutual concern.

This bill would give the Forest Supervisor the same authority now enjoyed by the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy board representatives to vote only on those projects directly relating to their designated areas of expertise and jurisdiction.

There are virtually no costs associated with this bill. As a public employee, the Supervisor would not be eligible for per diem payments.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve more than 69,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

Based in the Resources Agency, SMMC is composed of nine voting members and three ex

officio members. The voting members are as follows:

(1) The Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, or his or her designee.

(2) A member representing the City of Los Angeles, appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council.

(3) Three public members who reside in either Los Angeles or Ventura County, one of whom is appointed by the Governor, one of whom is appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one of whom is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(4) An elected official who is a representative nominated by the city councils of those cities which have at least 75 percent of their areas within the zone who shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles or a member appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, or that member's designee.

(5) An elected official who is either a member of the Thousand Oaks City Council or a member of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors who shall be appointed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors or the elected official's designee.

(6) The Secretary of the Resources Agency or an employee of the agency designated by the secretary.

(7) The Superintendent of the Angeles District of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his or her designee.

Ex officio members of the SMMC are:

(1) a member or employee of State Coastal Conservancy, who may vote on any matter relating to a project undertaken within the coastal portion of the SMMC zone;

(2) a member appointed by the California Coastal Commission who may vote on any matter relating to a project undertaken within the coastal zone portion of the SMMC zone; and

(3) the Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest.

SPONSOR

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC)

SUPPORT

OPPOSITION