

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

October 11, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Debra. A. Haaland  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Biden and Secretary Haaland:

We write to augment our previous request that you issue a proclamation under the *Antiquities Act of 1906* to expand the boundary of California's Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Following Secretary Haaland's recent visit to the Monument, we now write in full support of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's request that you include the entirety of Molok Luyuk within the Monument. Currently, this parcel is administered as part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Indian Valley Management Area. Furthermore, we urge you to issue the proclamation at the upcoming White House Tribal Nations Summit or the soonest possible opportunity.

For several Congresses, we have introduced the "Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act" to include adjacent federal lands in the Monument, rename the "Walker Ridge" parcel to "Condor Ridge" or "Molok Luyuk" in the Patwin language, and require the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to improve tribal engagement and co-management of the Monument. In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House of Representatives passed the bill as part of the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023." This past May, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources unanimously voted to report the bill favorably. Both the BLM and the Forest Service have testified in support of our bicameral legislation to expand the Monument which they co-manage. Since then, we have continued to hear overwhelming support from Californians to protect an even larger footprint than envisioned in our legislation, which is why we now support including all of Molok Luyuk within the Monument.

Molok Luyuk is culturally significant to numerous federally recognized tribes and other Native peoples including the Patwin, Pomo, Wappo, and Miwok peoples. That is why our legislation would require the federal land management agencies to engage in meaningful consultation and voluntary co-management of the expanded Monument with federally recognized tribes. We hope that any presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act* would provide similar direction for the BLM and Forest Service to provide ample opportunity for federally recognized tribes to co-manage the Monument. In addition to the endorsement of numerous tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians adopted a resolution this past June supporting the expansion of the Monument to include all of Molok Luyuk and the efforts by local Tribes to engage in co-management agreements with the federal land management agencies.

As previously requested in our original letter dated October 17, 2022, we also recommend that any *Antiquities Act* proclamation to expand the Monument be accompanied by a Secretarial order directing the Board on Geographic Names to formally rename the BLM parcel commonly referred to as “Walker Ridge” as “Molok Luyuk” (Condor Ridge). This renaming will reflect the area’s rich cultural significance to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and other Native peoples.

Expanding the Monument would advance to the Administration’s National Conservation Goal under Executive Order 14008 of permanently conserving 30 percent of the United States by 2030. Following the Secretary’s and other federal official’s visit to Molok Luyuk on September 24, we hope you will now act to conserve Molok Luyuk’s unique biodiversity, geological formations, and cultural connection to the Yocha Dehe and other Native American tribes that have called the area home for thousands of years.

We look forward to working with you to permanently conserve this unique landscape in California for future generations to enjoy while ushering in a new era of tribal co-stewardship of ancestral public lands. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress




Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



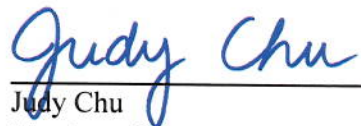
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress