

## **Supporters of the PUBLIC Lands Act**

### **Supervisor Matt LaVere, Ventura County District 1:**

“The PUBLIC Lands Act will help permanently safeguard cherished public lands and rivers in our region, including in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument. Thank you, Senator Padilla, for your ongoing leadership to preserve these beloved treasures for our community.”

### **Belén Bernal, Executive Director, Nature for All Coalition:**

“We value and commend Senator Padilla's leadership as he commits to safeguard over 1 million acres of California public lands and over 500 miles of rivers. This action provides a myriad of community benefits, including respite and tranquility for many people who live in dense urban areas and have limited access to enjoy nature in parks or other public outdoor spaces. Protecting and increasing equitable access to public lands allows us to inspire the next generation of diverse environmental stewards. ¡Gracias Senator Padilla!”

### **Roberto Morales, Acting Associate Director, Sierra Club's Outdoors for All Campaign and Policy Chair of the Nature for All Coalition:**

“This legislation is a huge step towards ensuring that public lands in California are protected so that everyone, especially underserved communities that have been denied equal access to nearby nature can enjoy the outdoors. Increasing access to the outdoors and protecting our remaining natural ecosystems provides immense benefits to our health, our economy and our environment. We applaud Senator Padilla for being our champion in the Senate.”

### **Shanna Edberg, Director of Conservation Programs, Hispanic Access Foundation:**

“The PUBLIC Lands Act is necessary to address inequitable access to the outdoors in California. Latinos and other communities of color are almost twice as likely to live somewhere that is nature deprived than white communities, meaning there are far fewer parks, streams, beaches, and other natural places nearby. This leaves our communities with a legacy of poorer health outcomes, higher stress levels, worse educational outcomes, lack of recreation and business opportunities and greater vulnerability to extreme heat and flooding. The PUBLIC Lands Act is crucial for bringing nature, and therefore equity and justice, closer to our underserved communities. Thank you, Senator Padilla, for your continued leadership on this bill.”

### **Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation and Marine Corps veteran:**

“Throughout California, veterans share a strong connection to our public lands. Today we celebrate Senator Padilla for introducing legislation to protect treasured landscapes across our state. This legislation affirms the importance of outdoor access for the nearly two million veterans living in California.”

### **Mike Young, Political and Organizing Director, California Environmental Voters:**

“The PUBLIC Lands Act is a pivotal part of addressing the climate crisis, achieving our state and nation's goals to protect at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030, and making the outdoors more accessible to all. That's a win for all of us and an important investment in climate action. We are grateful to Senator Padilla for his continued leadership on this bill.”