



# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

## Supporters of the PUBLIC Lands Act

### **Luis Villa, Executive Director, Latino Outdoors:**

"Mil gracias to Senator Padilla for championing the PUBLIC Lands Act. Equitable access to public lands is no less important than protecting them because it helps set the table for a conservation constituency that is diverse, robust, and sustainable. People and communities are inspired to protect the places we love, and we love the places we know and are able to experience. Through the protection of more than a million acres of public lands, particularly the expansion of an existing national recreation area, and over 500 miles of newly-designated wild and scenic rivers, the PUBLIC Lands Act enhances recreational opportunities for Latino communities and countless Californians, both for today and for tomorrow."

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

"Senator Padilla is taking a critical step in addressing 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 and COVID-19 severity, higher stress levels, worse educational outcomes, lack of recreation and business opportunities and greater vulnerability to extreme heat and flooding. This legislation is crucial for bringing nature, and therefore equity and justice, closer to our underserved communities. Thank you, Senator Padilla, and we hope the Senate will pass this important legislation this year."

### **Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO, Outdoor Afro:**

"Our state is rich with natural treasures but not all communities can access and enjoy these places. That's why I'm so excited that Senator Padilla has introduced the PUBLIC Lands Act. Outdoor access, representation, meaningful participation, and quality are fundamental rights for us all. I look forward to working with the Senate to help protect our lands, wildlife, and waterways."

### **Katie Hawkins, California Program Manager, Outdoor Alliance:**

"Outdoor Alliance is thrilled to see Senator Padilla champion this critical public lands legislation. Protecting California public lands and waters is a win-win at a time when we need it. This package will improve outdoor recreation on some of California's most incredible landscapes, support local economies, and advance the state's goal of conserving 30% of its lands and waters by 2030. We look forward to working with Senator Padilla to move this bill through the Senate."

### **Casey Schreiner, Founder, Modern Hiker:**

"What we saw over the past year with the COVID-19 pandemic is that there is an enormous demand for outdoor spaces. Across the state, Californians need more parks in more places, and this bill is a much-needed, big step in the right direction."

**Kirsten Blackburn, Advocacy Director, The Conservation Alliance**

“The Conservation Alliance has long supported efforts to protect public lands and rivers across the state of California, like expanding protections for the Trinity Alps Wilderness in the Northwest, adding protections to the Los Padres National Forest in the Central Coast, and safeguarding the foothills and rivers of the San Gabriel Mountains. We applaud Senator Padilla for his leadership, and enthusiastically endorse the PUBLIC Lands Act.”

**Thomas Wong, Board Chair, Nature for All, and Board President, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District:**

“Thank you, Senator Padilla, for championing California’s public lands and rivers. Your leadership on this important bill will ensure our communities in Los Angeles and throughout the state can experience nature and its benefits for generations to come.”

**Roberto Morales, Senior Organizing Representative, Sierra Club, and Board Chair, 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 - right when we need it most. We applaud Senator Padilla for being our champion in the Senate.”

**Linda Parks, Ventura County Supervisor (District 2):**

“I’m pleased that Senator Padilla has reintroduced legislation in the Senate that will include Representative Carbajal’s Central Coast Heritage Protection Act. This important legislation will permanently protect valuable wildlife habitat and increase habitat connectivity for imperiled species that live in the Los Padres National Forest, including the California Condor and Steelhead trout. I’m also thrilled about the prospect of having the 400-mile long Condor National Scenic Trail, that would span the length of the Los Padres National Forest, come closer to reality.”

**Vitali Mostovoj, U.S. Air Force Veteran:**

“Among the many values and ideals that veterans such as myself fought to defend is the protection of our unmatched outdoors for generations to come. Senator Padilla’s legislation offers an important investment to ensure continued access to public lands and rivers on the Central Coast for all. It’s a patriotic call that we cannot afford to miss.”

**Rebeca Garcia, Santa Maria Policy Advocate, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE):**

"With outdoor recreation often privatized, this legislation is a step in the right direction in protecting open spaces and securing everybody’s right to the outdoors. Accessible outdoor spaces are a crucial contributor to improving the overall health of our working class and immigrant families. Communities of color are also often most at risk to unsafe living conditions, and this act will ensure our communities have clean air and water from Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Thank you to Senator Padilla for fighting for equitable access to outdoor spaces and clean water for our vulnerable communities."

**Gregg Foster, Executive Director, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission:**

“Local economies in Northwest California benefit when people come to visit our spectacular, world-renowned public lands and rivers. I greatly appreciate and am excited to celebrate the Senate introduction of this legislation that will protect and restore some of the region’s most cherished landscapes. Thank you, Senator Padilla for your leadership on this issue.”

**Kent Collard, Director, Bar 717 Ranch:**

“In this modern age of smartphones and social media, young people need experiences in our natural world. These opportunities are a rare and irreplaceable part of their lives. The Pattison Roadless Area, Hayfork Creek and the surrounding Wilderness are not only the backdrop for these experiences at our Camp Trinity, they are the palate with which our campers paint the canvas of their self-image and confidence for their future lives. Our alumni are spread across the country and around the world, and they carry the legacy of these wild and special places close to their hearts. I deeply appreciate Senator Padilla’s introduction of this important legislation.”

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