



# Agenda Report

**TO:** Vice Mayor Little and Council Members      **DATE:** August 13, 2001  
**FROM:** Mayor Bill Bogaard  
**SUBJECT:** Support "*Rim of the Valley Corridor Act*" sponsored by Representatives Adam Schiff and Howard Berman

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached resolution to support "*Rim of the Valley Corridor Act*" to be sponsored by Representatives Adam Schiff and Howard Berman; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.

## BILL SUMMARY

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor. Following the completion of the study within three years, the Secretary would send the study to Congress, ranked in priority order along with other completed studies of potential national park system additions. The designation of any expansion of the park system would then be subject to an Act of Congress.

## BACKGROUND

Representative Adam Schiff recently introduced this legislation to the House of Representatives and has requested the City of Pasadena's support.

The greater Southern California metropolitan region is the second largest urban concentration in the United States, with almost one-tenth of the total population of the country, yet it has one of the lowest ratios of park and recreation lands per thousand population of any urban area in the country. For this reason, it is imperative to preserve natural open space that exists in the area.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor encircles the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Simi, Santa Clarita and Conejo valleys, consisting of parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Susanna Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector areas to the Los Pares and San Bernardino National Forests. This area

provides important scenic, environmental, recreational, educational, scientific, and economic assets to the greater Southern California metropolitan region.

The State of California has adopted the Rim of the Valley Master Plan, and local governments within the Rim of the Valley Corridor have made significant progress toward protecting the unique natural and recreational resources of the area. However, these efforts have been hampered by a lack of financial resources, technical assistance, and resource management expertise that can be provided by the Federal Government.

Federal, state and local authorities have worked in remarkable cooperation to create the highly successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park hemmed in on all sides by development. This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor. This study will include opportunities for public involvement and will notify all state and local authorities and landowners.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Passage of this bill would have no direct fiscal impact on the City of Pasadena.

Respectfully submitted,



**BILL BOGAARD**  
Mayor