

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SAN BENITO SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL DESIGNATION
OF THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA
AS A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito has ~~considered extensive written and verbal comments regarding the current emergency~~ closure of the Clear Creek Management Area as well as the proposed closure of many historic routes in the Clear Creek Management Area to motorized wheeled vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito remains gravely concerned regarding the immediate and long-term effects of actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management which negatively impact public access to an important recreational area within the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of San Benito County have identified the protection of motorized access to public lands as a priority for action; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito supports balancing the competing goals of environmental protection with appropriate use of public lands so that land held in trust for the public can be accessed and enjoyed while being conserved for future generations; and,

WHEREAS, in providing for the use of public lands, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito supports preserving and protecting a variety of recreation opportunities, providing appropriate access to resource managed lands, providing for current and future extraction of mineral resources, and allowing the use of public land for appropriate agricultural operations including grazing, all of which foster a balanced approach of resource protection with recreation and resource use of lands in San Benito County; and,

WHEREAS, access to recreational areas within the San Benito County, including the Pinnacles National Monument and the Clear Creek Management Area, provide a necessary and substantial component to the local economy which has been drastically affected by the recent economic climate and which has experienced an unemployment rate exceeding twenty (20%) during portions of 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the maintenance of land uses on public lands, such as Off-Highway Vehicle ("OHV") Recreation, mining, and gem collecting, is an important component of the social and economic health of San Benito County and its communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of San Benito County believes that it should be fully consulted during the process of changing public land designations, access

to public land, or public land management prescriptions in San Benito County, and that the opinions of the San Benito County Board of Supervisors should be given serious and sustained consideration; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of San Benito County cannot support federal decisions that appear to be closure-oriented and that preserve the environment at the cost of all other land uses, including the ability of the public to visit and enjoy the natural landscape; and,

~~WHEREAS~~, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito further cannot support federal decisions that conflict with the social and economic character of San Benito County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito hereby petitions Congress to designate the 70,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area as a National Recreation Area; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once designated a National Recreation Area, OHV recreation and other multiple-use recreational activities should be codified as “prescribed uses” within the Clear Creek National Recreation Area; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the management plan of the Clear Creek National Recreation Area, including OHV routes, open areas, number of permitted OHV events, and other recreational activities, should be as set forth in the 2005 Clear Creek Travel Management Plan; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito that Congress should direct that future planning efforts by the Hollister Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management shall place additional emphasis on obtaining local consensus and support for any changes to public access of local public lands; and,

BE IT FUTURE RESOLVED that future planning efforts by the Hollister Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management shall provide for the protection of existing recreation, grazing, mining, gem collecting, research, archeological and cultural uses on federal lands, as well as maintaining access to the public; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito that Congress should direct that that San Benito County's communities and businesses shall not be adversely impacted by changes to public land designations, that all Planning efforts shall focus on minimizing such economic effects, and that all Planning efforts shall include and consider a complete economic analysis of any proposed changes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should consider whether any concerns regarding the long-term health effects of potential exposure to asbestos fibers from serpentine deposits, still an unproven theory and subject to legitimate scientific

debate, would be better addressed through education, noticing, and carefully drafted legislative immunity, rather completely prohibiting the public's right-of-access to an important recreational area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors, State of California, at the meeting of said Board held on the 4th day of October 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: **BARRIOS, DE LA CRUZ, BOTELHO, RIVAS, MUENZER**
NOES: SUPERVISORS **NONE**
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS **NONE**
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS **NONE**

BY: *Margie Barrios*
MARGIE BARRIOS, CHAIR
San Benito County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Denise R. Thome, Clerk of the Board

Matt Granger, County Counsel

By *Denise R. Thome*
Denise R. Thome
Clerk of the Board

Barbara Thompson
Barbara Thompson
Assistant County Counsel