

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, 291 N. MAIN STREET
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 12, 2017, 5:30 PM**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Milt Stowe

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

This is the opportunity to address the Council on any matter of interest, whether on the agenda or not. Unless additional time is authorized by the Council, all commentary shall be limited to three minutes.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Consideration of Letter or Resolution in Response to Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment in Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996, including Giant Sequoias National Monument

Re: Consideration of support for reducing the size of the Giant Sequoia National Monument as part of the review of the national monuments created under the Antiquities Act pursuant to Executive Order 13792.

ADJOURNMENT - to the meeting of June 20, 2017.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or to be able to access this agenda and documents in the agenda packet, please contact the Office of City Clerk at (559) 782-7464. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and/or provision of an appropriate alternative format of the agenda and documents in the agenda packet.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the City Council after distribution of the Agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of City Clerk, 291 North Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257, and on the City's website at www.ci.porterville.ca.us.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA – JUNE 12, 2017

SUBJECT: Consideration of Letter or Resolution in Response to Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment in Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996, including Giant Sequoias National Monument

SOURCE: City Manager's Office

COMMENT: The United States Department of the Interior is conducting a review of certain National Monuments designated or expanded since 1996 under the Antiquities Act of 1906 in order to implement Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017. The Secretary of the Interior will use the review to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy stated in the Executive Order and to formulate recommendations for Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other appropriate actions to carry out that policy. The Notice identified 27 National Monuments under review, including Giant Sequoia National Monument, and invites comments to inform the review, which must be submitted before July 10, 2017.

There are 33 Giant Sequoia Groves that constitute approximately 27,830 acres of forest. Toward the protection of these natural wonders, the 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land Management was amended in 1990 to create additional buffers around the Groves. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush issued Proclamation 6457, implementing zones of influence (buffers) that increased the total acreage to approximately 90,360 acres, and prohibited mining and commercial timber production within those zones. In 2000, the Giant Sequoia National Monument was established by President Bill Clinton through Presidential Proclamation 7295 under the Antiquities Act of 1906, encompassing approximately 327,760 acres within the Sequoia National Forest.

The Monument designation restricts the ability of the United States Forest Service to use active forest management to protect the Groves and buffer areas from the risks posed by catastrophic fire, disease, drought, and insect infestations. As a result, the threat facing the Giant Sequoia National Monument and the neighboring communities is significant. In the past two years, approximately 68,828 acres of the Monument has burned, or approximately 21% of the land area, including the 2015 Rough Fire that burned 62,683 acres, and the Cedar Fire that burned 6,145 acres.

When the Monument was established in 2000, it was committed that a Visitors Center would be established to encourage tourism to the Monument. To date, no Visitors Center has been established nor is one planned, even though multiple local efforts have been made to fulfill this commitment.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council consider a Letter or Resolution in response to the Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment in the Review of Certain National Monuments established since 1996, specifically for Giant Sequoias National Monument.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Draft Letter
 2. Draft Resolution

Appropriated/Funded:

Review By:

Department Director:

Final Approver: Jenni Byers, Community Development Director

June 12, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the Porterville City Council, we respectfully request that you recommend reducing the size of the Giant Sequoia National Monument as part of your review of the national monuments created under the Antiquities Act pursuant to Executive Order 13792. We believe that modifying the boundaries of the Monument will better protect the Giant Sequoia Groves, public safety, and other unique resources from the growing threats facing forests in the Southern Sierras, including catastrophic wildfire and massive tree mortality due to overstocking, the recent historic California drought, and insect infestations.

There are 33 Giant Sequoia Groves constituting approximately 27,830 acres within the current Giant Sequoia National Monument. The 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land Management Plan was amended in 1990 to create additional buffers around the Groves. President George H.W. Bush issued Proclamation 6457 in 1992 to protect the Giant Sequoia Groves as natural areas, prohibiting mining and commercial timber production, and established buffer zones totaling approximately 90,360 acres. President Bill Clinton issued Antiquities Act Proclamation 7295 in 2000 to establish the Giant Sequoias National Monument at a total of approximately 328,345 acres, as well as committing to the development of a Visitors Center to encourage tourism to the Monument.

The Antiquities Act restricts the ability of the United States Forest Service to use science-based, active forest management to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument and buffer areas from the risks posed by catastrophic fire, disease, and insect infestations. As a result, the Giant Sequoia Groves and the neighboring communities are under significant threat. Just in the past two years, almost 70,000 acres (or approximately 21%) of the Giant Sequoias National Monument have burned, including the 2015 Rough Fire which burned approximately 62,683 acres, and the 2016 Cedar Fire which burned approximately 6,145 acres.

The Antiquities Act specified that monument designations should not exceed the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you consider including in your recommendation that the Giant Sequoia National Monument's boundaries be reduced to the approximate 90,360 acres established by Proclamation 6457, and encourage the use of active forest management by the United States Forest Service in protection of the Giant Sequoia Groves, in addition to fulfilling the commitment of developing a Visitors Center for the Monument.

Thank for receiving and consideration of our comments on this important review. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Milt Stowe
Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE,
CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, there are 33 Giant Sequoias Groves constituting approximately 27,830 acres within the current Giant Sequoias National Monument and Sequoia National Forest; and

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush issued Proclamation 6457 in 1992 to protect the Giant Sequoia Groves as natural areas, prohibiting mining and commercial timber production, and established buffer zones totaling approximately 90,360 acres; and

WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton issued Antiquities Act Proclamation 7295 in 2000 to establish the Giant Sequoias National Monument at a total of approximately 328,345 acres, as well as committing to the development of a Visitors Center to encourage tourism to the Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act specifies that monuments should not exceed the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act restricts the ability of the United States Forest Service to use science-based, active forest management to protect the Giant Sequoia Groves and buffer areas from the risks posed by catastrophic fire, disease, and insect infestations; and

WHEREAS, almost 70,000 acres (or approximately 21%) of the Giant Sequoias National Monument have been burned within the past two years, including the 2015 Rough Fire that burned approximately 62,683 acres, and the 2016 Cedar Fire that burned approximately 6,145 acres; and

WHEREAS, the recent historic California drought and corresponding Bark Beetle infestation has resulted in massive tree mortality within the Giant Sequoia National Monument, presenting significant risk to the Giant Sequoia Groves; and

WHEREAS, a Visitors Center for the Giant Sequoias National Monument has not been developed, thus not encouraging tourism of the Monument; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13792 on April 26, 2017, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to review certain National Monuments designated or expanded under the Antiquities Act of 1906, including the Giant Sequoia National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior will use the review to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy states in the Executive Order and to formulate recommendations for Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other appropriate actions to carry out that policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby DECLARED and ORDERED, as follows:

The City Council of the City of Porterville does hereby recommend the reducing the size of the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the approximate 90,360 acres established by Executive Order in 1992, and encourages the use of active forest management by the United States Forest Service in protection of the Giant Sequoia Groves, as well as the development of a Visitors Center for the Monument.

This Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption by this Council.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 12th day of June, 2017.

Milt Stowe, Mayor

ATTEST:
John D. Lollis, City Clerk

By: _____
Patrice Hildreth, Chief Deputy City Clerk