



P.O. Box 711
Pasadena, California 91102

U. S. Congresswoman Judy Chu
527 S. Lake Ave.
Suite 106,
Pasadena, CA 91101

July 24, 2014

Dear Representative Chu:

On behalf of the Pasadena Casting Club, we thank you for the tremendous work you have done in pursuing the protection and recreational enhancement of the San Gabriel Mountains and watershed, culminating in the submission of your bill, H.R. 4858, The San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act. PCC has advocated for the protection of the San Gabriel River and its tributaries for many years. You have our commitment to support your bill as it moves through the legislative process to become law.

However, without Wild and Scenic River legislation, the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act alone will not fully protect the streams within its boundaries, nor provide the resources to ensure the protection of the rich diversity of the riparian plant and animal species.

Therefore, we urge you to submit legislation to designate as Wild and Scenic Rivers the upper and lower segments of the West Fork San Gabriel River (divided by Cogswell Dam), segments of the North Fork and East Fork San Gabriel River, and segments of Little Rock Creek, San Antonio Creek, and the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek. These streams were identified by the National Forest Service in the 2005 Angeles Forest Plan Revision as eligible for protection in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

We are especially concerned about the segment of the river from the Cogswell Dam downstream to Highway 39. This 7-mile section of the river, critical to conserving the unique flora and fauna of the entire river, is already under pressure from overuse and inadequate enforcement of existing regulations and agreements. If this section is excluded from consideration for Wild and Scenic River designation, then as surrounding areas come under stricter regulation this current destructive pressure will only increase.

The Pasadena Casting Club, founded in 1947, was one of the early supporters among the stakeholders who helped secure the management of the West Fork as a wild trout stream, with special regulations to protect the flora and fauna. In the 1980's we worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Forest Service, California Trout, and L. A. County Department of Public Works to forge a cooperative agreement to manage the West Fork, culminating in the West Fork Long-Term Management Plan of 1989. Among the achievements have been the placement of special signage on the stream, an established agreement about downstream flows from Cogswell Dam, and the prevention of damaging silt releases during dam maintenance. **Wild and Scenic River status would help secure these gains in a regulatory scheme, and improve the prospects for future resources for enforcement and maintenance.**

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the West Fork and its conservation before you finalize a Wild and Scenic River proposal.

Sincerely,

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