

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411 • FAX 818-951-7412

June 14, 2017

Dear San Gabriel Mountains Forever:

The Gabriel Mountains are an irreplaceable natural resource, providing 70% of Los Angeles County's open space and is our community backyard. The federal public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains are a major source of our drinking water and habitat for numerous plant and animal species, some of which are threatened and endangered. Three million Angelenos a year seeking outdoor recreation and a connection with nature visit our iconic mountain range. Everyone needs access to nature to be healthy. No one can make new wilderness and open space; we can only better protect what we have.

The establishment of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in 2014 was an important step forward in protecting our local mountains and bringing in more resources to improve the visitor experience. Pilot transit to trail programs has begun to link historically underserved communities with the mountains. Planning is underway to dramatically upgrade facilities and better protect endangered fish habitat along a heavily visited 2.5-mile stretch of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. But there is more that needs to be done that requires federal action.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council urges Congress to:

- Expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include all of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.
- Establish a National Recreation Area along the San Gabriel River administered by the National Park Service.
- Establish and expand Wilderness protections in the Angeles National Forest and the Gabriel Mountains National Monument to better protect our pristine, undeveloped National Forest backcountry. Sincerely,

- Establish Wild & Scenic Rivers to protect our watersheds and sources of drinking water.

We also join you in urging that the Department of the Interior, which is reviewing National Monuments to potentially downsize or eliminate them, to make NO changes to the scope of the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystee Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

**Krystee Clark**

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council voted to support this letter unanimously at their public meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2017