

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John J. Benoit

SUBMITTAL DATE: September 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Support of the California Desert Protection Act of 2011

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2011-249, in support of Senate Bill 138, the California Desert Protection Act of 2011.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to members of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and to Senator Dianne Feinstein.

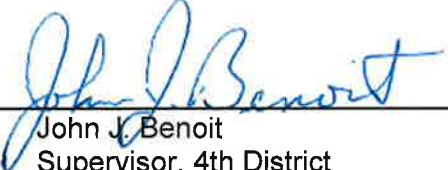
BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 138, the California Desert Protection Act of 2011, is a significant amendment to the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. The legislation provides for conservation of federal land and waterways, establishment of national monuments and enhanced recreation opportunities to protect California's desert heritage for future generations. Locally, the legislation will enlarge the Joshua Tree National Park by 2,904 acres and protect more than 27 miles of the Whitewater River as a Wild & Scenic River.

This legislation will also create the 133,524-acre Sand to Snow National Monument, from Joshua Tree National Park on the east to the San Geronio Wilderness in the San Bernardino National Forest to the west. This new National Monument will expand tourism and bring important economic benefits to Riverside County.

The California Desert Protection Act of 2011 complements Riverside County's interests and is balanced legislation that preserves our national resources and facilitates recreation interests.

Resolution No. 2011-249 supports the California Desert Protection Act of 2011 for these aforementioned reasons.


John J. Benoit
Supervisor, 4th District

1 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-249**
3 **A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**
4 **IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT OF 2011**

5 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 138, the California Desert Protection Act of 2011, provides
6 for conservation of federal land and waterways, establishment of national monuments
7 and enhanced recreation opportunities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, locally, this legislation will enlarge the Joshua Tree National Park by
9 2,904 acres, protect more than 27 miles of the Whitewater River as a Wild & Scenic
10 River and create the 133,524-acre Sand to Snow National Monument, from Joshua
11 Tree National Park on the east to the San Gorgonio Wilderness in the San
12 Bernardino National Forest to the west; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this new National Monument will expand tourism and bring important
14 economic benefits to Riverside County; and

15 **WHEREAS**, this balanced legislation complements Riverside County's interests and
16 preserves our national resources and facilitates recreation interests; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, at a time when the Southern California desert is squeezed by two of the
19 fastest growing regions in the nation, this legislation will protect California's
20 spectacular desert heritage for future generations;

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NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Riverside County Board of
Supervisors does hereby support the California Desert Protection Act of 2011, and
that the Clerk of the Board transmit copies of this resolution to members of the United
States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and to Senator
Dianne Feinstein.