

## RESOLUTION 2015-

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY, SUPPORTING

**WHEREAS**, Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act 2015 that certain unique, undeveloped, ecologically and geologically significant, culturally important, and scenic areas of public land within the California Desert Conservation Area are preserved as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, and National Park and Preserve additions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mojave National Preserve and BLM administered wilderness and natural areas in the high desert are an important component of our community's historic, cultural, economic, and social identity, and generate substantial economic benefit for surrounding area businesses through local employment; tax revenues; visitor spending on meals, lodging, and supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, national monuments, national park and wilderness designation has been shown to increase tourism and attract new residents, thereby generating substantial economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed designation will contribute to our region's superior desert and mountain vistas, air quality, water quality, peaceful soundscapes, and dark night skies; and

**WHEREAS**, protected public lands will provide local residents and visitors with opportunities for many recreational activities including hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, camping, off-roading, wildlife viewing, scientific research, and nature study; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting wild places and national park lands would ensure that future generations can enjoy them tomorrow as we do today; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving these areas would protect landscapes that encompass steep mountains, winding canyons, free flowing rivers, and rugged desert landscapes, including the proposed Sand to Snow and Mojave Trails National Monument; the proposed Golden Valley, Kingston Range, Indian Pass, Palo Verde wilderness additions; the Great Falls Basin, Avawatz Mountains, Soda Mountains, Buzzards Peak, Milpitas Wash wilderness area; additions to Joshua Tree National Park; the Castle Mountains addition to the Mojave National Preserve; wilderness additions to Death Valley National Park; the Amargosa, Deep Creek, Whitewater, and Surprise Canyon wild and scenic rivers; the Flat Top Mesa and Black Buttes Area of Critical Environmental Concern; and the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Cathedral City endorses and supports the designation of wilderness, the designation of wild and scenic rivers, the National Park and Preserve wilderness additions within the California Desert Conservation Area, and the Sand to Snow National Monument and the Mojave Trails National Monument.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cathedral City held on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

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Stan Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Gary F. Howell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Charles R. Green, City Attorney