

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

November 14, 2016

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Aniela Butler
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x 6-7736)

Markup: H.R. 3711 (Rep. Juan Vargas), To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes.
November 15 & 16, 2016; 1324 Longworth HOB.

H.R. 3711 (Rep. Juan Vargas), “Chicano Park Preservation Act”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 3711, introduced by Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA-51), directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California.

Cosponsors

Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-31), Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-34), Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA-29), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27), Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53), Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL-4), Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX-15), Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18), Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM-1), Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3), Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32), Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA-52), Rep. Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR), Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40), Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP), Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38), Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA-46), and Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY-15)

Background

Located in the Barrio Logan community of San Diego, Chicano Park is a 7.4 acre parcel known for its display of nearly fifty vibrant murals depicting the history of Chicano culture and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement.¹ Residents secured the creation of the park in 1970 by protesting the construction of a parking lot on vacant land the city previously promised for the development of a community park.² After successfully taking over the land, artists painted

¹ National Park Service. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.”

https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2013/CA_12001192.pdf

² Quintana, Amanda. “The history of a people on pillars: Chicano Park murals restored.” JMS Reports. 05/07/14.
<https://jmsreports.org/2014/05/07/the-history-of-a-people-on-pillars-chicano-park-murals-restored/>

dozens of vibrant murals on the pillars and ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge located in the park, creating the largest concentration of Chicano murals in the world.³

H.R. 3711 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the national significance of Chicano Park and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a National Historic Landmark or Affiliated Area of the National Park System through a special resource study. The bill specifically prohibits the Secretary from considering any options that result in the Federal acquisition of Chicano Park. The bill has twenty-two cosponsors and is supported by the mayor of San Diego, Kevin L. Faulconer.

Major Provisions

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of Chicano Park to evaluate its national significance and the suitability and feasibility of designating the park as a National Historic Site or Affiliated Area of the National Park System
- Directs the Secretary to not consider any options that would result in Federal acquisition of Chicano Park

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The administration position is unknown at this time.

Anticipated Amendments

An amendment will be offered to make technical changes.

Effect on Current Law

None.

³ Ibid. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." pg. 3.