

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2013

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 5**

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**Introduced by Senator ~~Rubio~~ *Berryhill***

**(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Calderon, Cannella, De León, DeSaulnier, Fuller, Gaines, Hancock, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Lieu, Monning, Padilla, Pavley, Steinberg, Wolk, Wright, and Yee)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Gatto~~ and *Atkins, Bigelow, Buchanan, Gatto, Holden, Maienschein, Rendon, and Williams*)**

February 21, 2013

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to Yosemite National Park.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, ~~Rubio~~ *Berryhill*. Yosemite National Park: boundary adjustment.

This measure would declare the Legislature's support for adjusting the boundary of the Yosemite National Park to include an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent to the southwest boundary of the park, further bounded by the Sierra National Forest, and owned by 2 landowners who have expressed their desire to add that area to the park to protect the integrity of the Yosemite National Park and the Sierra National Forest. This measure would urge the United States Congress to act expeditiously in adjusting the boundary of the park.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The incomparable Yosemite is a federally  
2 designated national park spanning eastern portions of the Counties  
3 of Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Madera in the central eastern portion  
4 of California. The park covers an area of over 760,000 acres and

1 reaches across the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain  
2 ~~chain~~ *range*; and

3 WHEREAS, Along with Yosemite's stunning beauty and vast  
4 mountainous views and spectacular waterfalls, it is one of the  
5 largest and least fragmented habitat regions in the Sierra Nevada,  
6 and the park supports a diversity of plants and animals. The park  
7 has an elevation range from two to 13,000 feet and contains five  
8 major vegetation zones: chaparral/oak woodland, lower mountain  
9 forest, upper mountain forest, subalpine zone, and alpine. Of  
10 California's 7,000 plant species, about 50 percent occur in the  
11 Sierra Nevada and more than 20 percent are within Yosemite.  
12 There is suitable habitat for more than 160 rare plants in the park;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, A federal park bill was passed by both houses of  
15 the 38th United States Congress and signed by President Abraham  
16 Lincoln on June 30, 1864, creating the Yosemite ~~grant~~ *Land Grant*;  
17 while the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were initially  
18 ceded to California as a state park, they were returned to the United  
19 States ~~government~~ *Government* by President Theodore Roosevelt  
20 in 1906; and

21 WHEREAS, Yosemite was named one of America's first  
22 ~~National Parks~~ *national parks* in 1890, and remains one of the  
23 country's most popular natural attractions with over 3.7 million  
24 people visiting Yosemite each year; and

25 WHEREAS, Rural residential development adjacent to the park  
26 creates resource management challenges for the park, the adjacent  
27 Sierra National Forest, as well as local government because of the  
28 difficulty of providing county services such as fire protection,  
29 water, and road services to such a remote location; and

30 WHEREAS, There is an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent  
31 to the southwest boundary of Yosemite National Park, further  
32 bounded by Sierra National Forest, owned by two landowners who  
33 have expressed their desire to add that area to the park; and

34 WHEREAS, The inclusion of this area within the national park  
35 has been unanimously supported by the Mariposa County Board  
36 of Supervisors and in 2012 United States Congressman Jim Costa  
37 introduced House Resolution 5709 to adjust the boundary of  
38 Yosemite National Park to allow these willing landowners to  
39 transfer this property to the park; and

1 WHEREAS, The proposed boundary line adjustment  
2 appropriates no funds, but would allow the future acquisition of  
3 these lands using existing programs such as the Land and Water  
4 Conservation Fund; and

5 WHEREAS, The Yosemite National Park is currently preparing  
6 for a 150th anniversary celebration in 2014; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
8 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports adjusting the  
9 boundary of Yosemite National Park to include this property to  
10 protect the integrity of Yosemite National Park and the Sierra  
11 National Forest; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the United States  
13 Congress to act expeditiously on this boundary adjustment; and  
14 be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
16 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California  
17 in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for  
18 appropriate distribution.