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Secretary Laird Issues Statement on President Obama's Designation of New National Monuments in the California Desert

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird issued the following statement in support of President Obama's action today under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate three national monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument:

"California welcomes President Obama's action to preserve these iconic desert lands in perpetuity. They are worthy of this extraordinary protection. They feature biologically important wildlife corridors and critical habitat for sensitive species. Protecting natural and cultural resources like these ensures significant economic benefits to the region in the forms of tourism and recreation, and protection will guide other important land uses to more suitable places.

We appreciate the perseverance of Senator Dianne Feinstein. She worked with a broad group of local stakeholders to carefully balance the challenging land use objectives within this region, and we look forward to working with her and stakeholders to carry out the President's action."

More information about the designation is available [here](#).

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