

CONSIDERATION OF TAKING AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE NPS LOS ANGELES COASTAL AREA SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

JULY 21, 2026

City Council Meeting



Note: This PowerPoint presentation is intended solely as a visual aid to an oral staff presentation of an agenda report topic. In the event of any differences between the presentation and the agenda report, the information in the agenda report prevails.

BACKGROUND

June 2026

Council requested a report evaluating whether to take a position on the National Park Service's (NPS) Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study

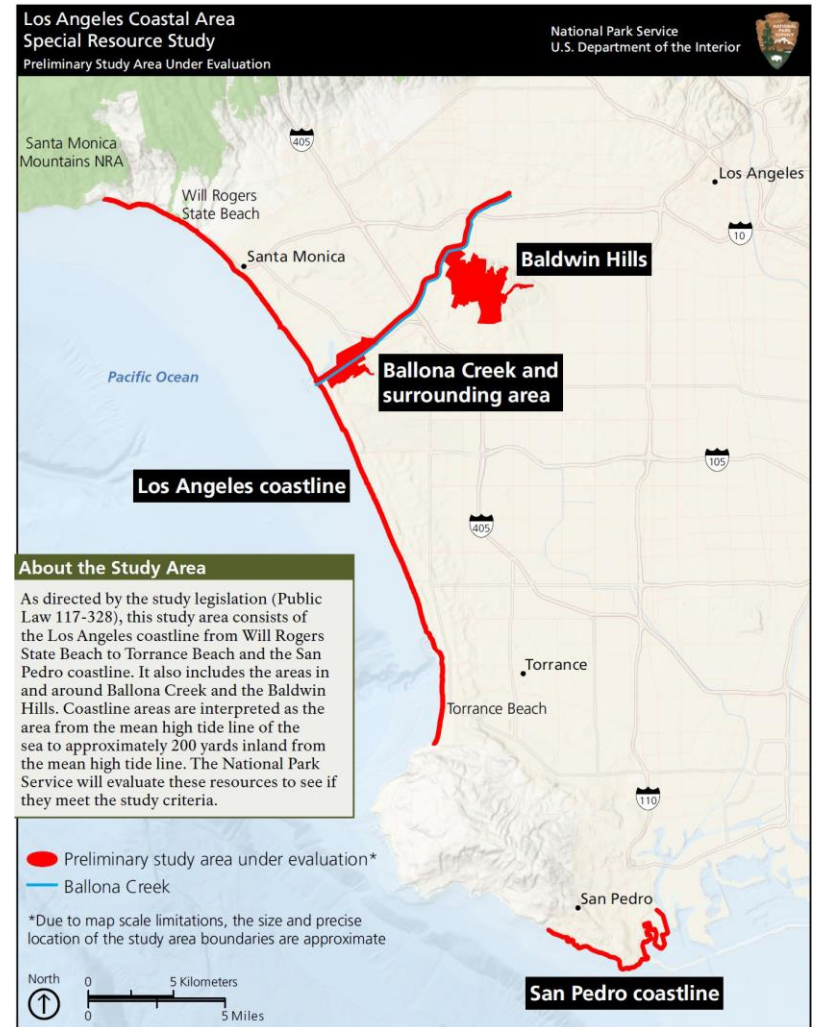
National Park Service

- Bureau within Department of the Interior (DOI)
- 400+ park units managed (National Park System)
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- *Example: Santa Monica Mountains, Channel Islands*



SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

- Congressionally authorized (Public Law 117-328)
- Launched by NPS in Feb. 2026
- Analyze inclusion of LA coastal area as a new unit



SELECTION CRITERIA

All four criteria must be met:

1. National significance

Natural and/or cultural resource

2. Suitability

Not yet or comparably represented/protected

3. Feasibility

Size and configuration; efficient administration

4. Direct NPS management

NPS would clearly better manage resource



SELECTION PROCESS

- 1 Information gathering (Feb. ~ May 2026)
- 2 Special Resource Study criteria analysis
- 3 Complete study and submit to DOI (Early 2027)
- 4 DOI transmits study to Congress
- 5 New unit established only by act of Congress or presidential proclamation



NEW UNIT IMPACTS

- No land acquisition anticipated, unless authorized by Congress for willing sellers
- No changes to local regulations and Coastal Act

- Branding
- Visibility
- Partnership
- Programming
- Funds and expertise



- More coordination
- More time
- Complexity
- Limited funds and staffing



CITY COMMENTS

Submitted to NPS in April 2026

- Noted NPS management is not necessary, unless financial resources are available to support the City
- Raised concern with an additional layer of bureaucracy for projects in the Coastal Zone
- Requested an opportunity to review preliminary recommendations prior to completing the study

Not likely to be recommended for inclusion



ALTERNATIVE PATH

NPS provides other technical and financial assistance without being a unit

- Land and Water Conservation Fund

Matching grants for local parks (*Ex: Polliwog Park*)

- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Planning and designing expertise for conservation and recreation projects



CONCLUSION

Options:

- 1) If Council is satisfied with comments already submitted to NPS, no further direction needed.
- 2) If the desire is to provide additional input and take an official position, authorize the City Manager to prepare and submit on behalf of the City Council by the end of July



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