



C O U N T Y O F

Inyo

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF INYO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA CELEBRATING THE ALABAMA HILLS AS A NATIONAL TREASURE BY RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY MINTED ALABAMA HILLS NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Whereas, on March 12, 2019, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors gratefully joined the millions of Americans celebrating the U.S. President signing into law S.47, the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act; and

Whereas, among the more than 100 bills contained in S.47 was the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act sponsored by Congressman Paul Cook, which designated more than 18,000 acres of existing federal land in Inyo County as the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area; and

Whereas, the purpose of a National Scenic Area, as stated in the legislation, is to "... conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of present and futures generations the nationally significant scenic, cultural, geological, educational, biological, historical, recreational, cinematographic, and scientific resources ...;" and

Whereas, the Alabama Hills have long been treasured for these many valuable resources, starting thousands of years ago with the indigenous residents of the valley, continuing in the 1920s with Hollywood film producers who inspired a century-long cinematic love affair with the landscape, and enduring today as locals and visitors alike explore, study, and recreate in the Hills while introducing their wonders to new generations; and

Whereas, the long-sought National Scenic Area designation is owed to not only overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, but also the hard work, passion, and perseverance of a group of Inyo County business owners, community leaders, and Tribal members who believed in bringing recognition to a truly special place while preserving the area's heritage and a multitude of existing uses; and

Whereas, these individuals formed the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, and were able to bring together a widespread and diverse collection of 30 stakeholder and 40 different user groups who shared a common love for the Hills; and

Whereas, for 10 years, the Stewardship Group – with unparalleled support of stakeholder groups – wrote letters, lobbied lawmakers in Washington, D.C., helped draft legislation, and never lost sight of their goal; and

Whereas, the National Scenic Area designation is more than the culmination of their blood, sweat, and tears: it is the validation of a strongly held belief in the need to spotlight the Alabama Hills as one of America's most unique and treasured landscapes, as well as the need to manage these lands in a balanced way that maintains existing uses and preserves precious resources for the future.

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed, this 1st day of October 2019, that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors joins in celebrating the Alabama Hills as a national treasure by recognizing the dedication of the newly-minted Alabama Hills National Scenic Area.

Supervisor Dan Totheroh, District 1

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, District 2

Supervisor Mark Tillemans, District 4

Chairperson Rick Pucci, District 3

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, District 5

