

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5355

To convey certain Federal land in California to Apple Valley, California, Twentynine Palms, California, Barstow, California, and Victorville, California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To convey certain Federal land in California to Apple Valley, California, Twentynine Palms, California, Barstow, California, and Victorville, California.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Desert Community
5 Lands Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE FOR APPLE VALLEY OFF-HIGHWAY**
7 **VEHICLE RECREATION AREA.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (2) TOWN.—The term “Town” means the town
2 of Apple Valley, California.

3 (b) CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO TOWN.—

4 (1) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request
5 of the Town, not later than 5 years after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
7 convey to the Town, without consideration, all right,
8 title, and interest of the United States in and to the
9 surface estate of the approximately 4,630 acres of
10 land generally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance
11 Area” on the map entitled “Conveyance to Town of
12 Apple Valley” and dated June 1, 2015. Such land
13 shall be known and designated as the “Apple Valley
14 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area”.

15 (2) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—

16 The conveyance under this subsection—

17 (A) is subject to valid existing rights; and

18 (B) does not include the mineral estate.

19 (c) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The land conveyed under
21 subsection (b) may be used by the Town for any
22 public purpose authorized in paragraph (2), con-
23 sistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly
24 known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act;
25 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(2) AUTHORIZED PURPOSES.—The purposes of the conveyance under subsection (b) are to allow the Town to use the conveyed land to provide—

(A) a suitable location for the establishment of a centralized off-road vehicle recreation park;

(B) the public with opportunities for off-road vehicle recreation, including a location for races, competitive events, training, and other commercial services that directly support a centralized off-road vehicle recreation area and Town park; and

(C) a designated area and facilities that would discourage unauthorized use of off-highway vehicles in areas that have been identified by the Federal Government, the State of California, or San Bernardino County as containing environmentally sensitive land.

(3) DISPOSAL PROHIBITED.—The land conveyed under subsection (b) may not be disposed of by the Town without the approval of the Secretary.

**SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS,
CALIFORNIA.**

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the city of Twentynine Palms, California, not later than 1 year

1 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
2 of the Interior shall convey to the city of Twentynine
3 Palms, California, without consideration, all right, title,
4 and interest of the United States in and to the surface
5 estate of the land generally depicted as “Proposed Convey-
6 ance to Twentynine Palms” on the map entitled “Pro-
7 posed Conveyance to Twentynine Palms” and dated Sep-
8 tember 18, 2015.

9 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The
10 conveyance under this section—

11 (1) is subject to valid existing rights; and

12 (2) does not include the mineral estate.

13 **SEC. 4. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA.**

14 (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the
15 city of Barstow, California, not later than 1 year after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 the Interior shall convey to the city of Barstow, California,
18 without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the
19 United States in and to the surface estate of the land gen-
20 erally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance” on the map en-
21 titled “Proposed Conveyance to the City of Barstow” and
22 dated January 13, 2017.

23 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The
24 conveyance under this section—

25 (1) is subject to valid existing rights; and

1 (2) does not include the mineral estate.

2 **SEC. 5. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF VICTORVILLE, CALI-**
3 **FORNIA.**

4 (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the
5 city of Victorville, California, not later than 1 year after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 the Interior shall convey to the city of Victorville, Cali-
8 fornia, without consideration, all right, title, and interest
9 of the United States in and to the surface estate of the
10 land generally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance” on the
11 map entitled “Proposed Conveyance to the City of
12 Victorville” and dated April 25, 2017.

13 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The
14 conveyance under this subsection—

15 (1) is subject to valid existing rights;

16 (2) does not include the mineral estate; and

17 (3) is subject to the reservation of a permanent
18 easement and right of way for flood control, utility,
19 pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located
20 within the strips of land described in the right of
21 way grant from the United States Department of
22 the Interior to Pacific Gas and Electric Company,
23 Serial Number R 06259, dated March 2, 1965, and
24 the easement from J. Harley Long to Pacific Gas
25 and Electric Company, dated February 4, 1957, and

1 recorded in Book 4192, Official Records at page 42,
2 San Bernardino County Records.

3 These easements include the right, at any time and from
4 time to time, to construct, reconstruct, maintain, operate,
5 replace, remove, repair, renew, and enlarge facilities for
6 public utility purposes, the right to trim and cut down
7 trees and brush that the public utility may deem to be
8 a hazard to its facilities, and the requirement that the
9 strips of land be kept open and free of buildings, struc-
10 tures, and wells of any kind.

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