

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2023, after over 50 years of advocacy from the community, U.S. Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) proudly announced that Castner Range – the crown jewel of West Texas – was designated as a national monument by President Joe Biden, through his use of the Antiquities Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Castner Range consists of over 7,000 acres of land that was formerly used by Fort Bliss Army Base as an artillery and munitions range; and

**WHEREAS**, the Army ceased operations on Castner Range in 1966 and declared the land excess in 1971, at which point community support ignited for conserving the range as open space; and

**WHEREAS**, during her first term, Congresswoman Escobar introduced the Castner Range National Monument Act, a bill to conserve and protect Castner and during a Natural Resources Committee Hearing in May 2021, Congresswoman Escobar testified about the importance of supporting her legislation and its significance to El Pasoans; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to zealously pursuing the designation through legislative means, Congresswoman Escobar invited several key Biden Administration officials to El Paso to amplify the awareness of protecting Castner Range, including hosting Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland for a tour of Castner Range in March 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2022 Congresswoman Escobar coordinated a meeting with several El Paso stakeholders at the Pentagon with Undersecretary Camarillo and the White House Council on Environmental Quality and in follow-up, she welcomed the Undersecretary of the Army and native El Pasoan Gabe Camarillo back home in August 2022 to continue discussions about the designation; and

**WHEREAS**, with continued enthusiasm to see the designation through, Congresswoman Escobar wrote to President Biden twice over the past year, urging him to designate Castner Range through the Antiquities Act.

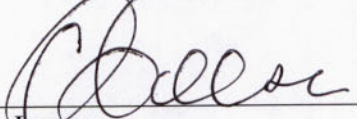
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That the City of El Paso honors and recognizes Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) for her tireless efforts and advocacy to officially have Castner Range be designated as a national monument.

*(Signatures begin on following page)*

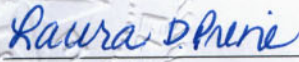
PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of July, 2023.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

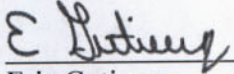
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Oscar Leeser  
Mayor



ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura D. Prine  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Gutierrez  
Assistant City Attorney