

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: 7.5.23

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Cassandra Hernandez ~ 915.212.0003

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 3 - Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to approve a resolution 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.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?
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 was designated as a national monument by President Joe Biden, through his use of the Antiquities Act. It was during her first term that 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.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

No.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

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 _____ day of _____, 2023.

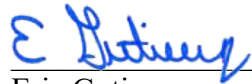
THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Eric Gutierrez
Assistant City Attorney