

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2156

To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2017

Mr. KNIGHT (for himself and Ms. BROWNLEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

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 “Saint Francis Dam
5 Disaster National Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On March 12, 1928, the Saint Francis Dam
2 located in the northern portion of Los Angeles Coun-
3 ty, California, breached, resulting in a devastating
4 flood that caused the death of approximately 425 in-
5 dividuals.

6 (2) The residents of Santa Clarita Valley, San
7 Francisquito Canyon, Castaic Junction, Santa Clara
8 River Valley, Piru, Fillmore, Bardsdale, Saticoy, and
9 Santa Paula were directly impacted and suffered
10 greatly from the worst flood in the history of the
11 State of California.

12 (3) The disaster resulted in a tremendous loss
13 of human life, property, and the livelihood of local
14 residents, and was surpassed in the level of destruc-
15 tion in the 20th century only by the great San Fran-
16 cisco earthquake of 1906.

17 (4) The collapse of the dam may represent
18 America's worst civil engineering failure in the 20th
19 century.

20 (5) The site of the disaster is subject to the
21 theft of historic artifacts, graffiti, and other van-
22 dalism.

23 (6) It is right to pay homage to the citizens
24 who were killed, injured, or dislocated due to the

1 flood, and to educate the public about this important
2 historical event.

3 (7) It is appropriate that the site of the Saint
4 Francis Dam and surrounding areas be specially
5 designated and protected to commemorate this trag-
6 ic event.

7 **SEC. 3. SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER NATIONAL MEMO-**
8 **RIAL.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary is authorized
10 to establish a memorial at the Saint Francis Dam site in
11 the County of Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of
12 honoring the victims of the Saint Francis Dam disaster
13 of March 12, 1928.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Memorial shall be—

15 (1) known as the Saint Francis Dam Disaster
16 National Memorial; and

17 (2) managed by the Forest Service.

18 (c) DONATIONS.—The Secretary is authorized to ac-
19 cept, hold, administer, invest, and spend any gift, devise,
20 or bequest of real or personal property made to the Sec-
21 retary for purposes of developing, designing, constructing,
22 and managing the Memorial.

1 **SEC. 4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMORIAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
4 mit to Congress recommendations regarding—

5 (1) the planning, design, construction, and
6 long-term management of the Memorial;

7 (2) the proposed boundaries of the Memorial;

8 (3) a visitor center and educational facilities at
9 the Memorial; and

10 (4) ensuring public access to the Memorial.

11 (b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the recommenda-
12 tions required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
13 consult with—

14 (1) appropriate Federal agencies;

15 (2) State, tribal, and local governments, includ-
16 ing the Santa Clarita City Council; and

17 (3) the public.

18 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER**
19 **NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as a na-
21 tional monument in the State, certain National Forest
22 System land administered by the Secretary in the County
23 of Los Angeles comprising approximately 440 acres, as
24 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Saint
25 Francis Dam Disaster National Monument”, created on

1 June 14, 2016, to be known as the Saint Francis Dam
2 Disaster National Monument.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Monument is to
4 conserve and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of the
5 public the cultural, archaeological, historical, watershed,
6 educational, and recreational resources and values of the
7 Monument.

8 **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY WITH RESPECT TO**
9 **MONUMENT.**

10 (a) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall develop a management plan for the Monument.

14 (2) CONSULTATION.—The management plan
15 shall be developed in consultation with—

16 (A) appropriate Federal agencies;

17 (B) State, tribal, and local governments;

18 and

19 (C) the public.

20 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing and im-
21 plementing the management plan, the Secretary
22 shall, with respect to methods of protecting and pro-
23 viding access to the Monument, consider the rec-
24 ommendations of the Saint Francis Disaster Na-
25 tional Memorial Foundation, the Santa Clarita Val-

1 ley Historical Society, and the Community Hiking
2 Club of Santa Clarita.

3 (b) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the
4 Monument—

5 (1) in a manner that conserves and enhances
6 the cultural and historic resources of the Monument;
7 and

8 (2) in accordance with—

9 (A) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
10 Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
11 1600 et seq.) and the laws generally applicable
12 to the National Forest System;

13 (B) this Act; and

14 (C) any other applicable laws.

15 (c) USES.—

16 (1) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The use of
17 motorized vehicles within the Monument may be per-
18 mitted only—

19 (A) on roads designated for use by motor-
20 ized vehicles in the management plan required
21 under subsection (a);

22 (B) for administrative purposes; or

23 (C) for emergency responses.

1 (2) GRAZING.—The Secretary shall permit
2 grazing within the Monument, where established be-
3 fore the date of the enactment of this Act—

4 (A) subject to all applicable laws (including
5 regulations and Executive orders); and

6 (B) consistent with the purpose described
7 in section 5(b).

8 **SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION ON FUNDING.**

9 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
10 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-
11 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

12 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) MEMORIAL.—The term “Memorial” means
15 the Saint Frances Dam Disaster National Memorial
16 authorized under section 3(a).

17 (2) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument”
18 means the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National
19 Monument established under section 5(a).

20 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
21 of California.

22 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture.

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