

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED
NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE FEE INCREASES

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2017, in response to a growing maintenance shortfall, the National Park Service announced its proposal to raise entrance fees at seventeen national parks across the United States, including Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks; and

WHEREAS, during the peak season of May through September, the proposed vehicle fee would raise from thirty dollars to seventy dollars, the per person fee would raise from fifteen dollars to thirty dollars, and the motorcycle fee would raise from twenty-five dollars to fifty dollars; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of visitors visit Yosemite during the peak season, and nearly three-fourths of the visitors to Kings Canyon and Sequoia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno is the gateway to Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, where more than a million and a half people travelled from and through Fresno County to visit Yosemite and more than two million visitors to Kings Canyon and Sequoia; and

WHEREAS, tourism in Fresno County generates more than a billion dollars in revenue at local hotels and restaurants, with the vast majority of those visits generated by visitors of the three national parks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno and many communities in the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills are home to disadvantaged to severely disadvantaged residents with limited access to affordable recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is facing a twelve billion dollar infrastructure maintenance downfall, while estimates of the proposed entry fee permit will only bring in an additional seventy million dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, other funding methods through Congressional action are currently underway and may provide greater potential to address the maintenance shortfall without increasing entrance fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fresno finds:

1. The proposed fee increases will have a negative impact upon the tourism industry that depends upon access to our national parks.
2. The proposed fee increases pose an unfair burden upon disadvantaged residents who will be then denied access to our national parks.
3. The proposed public fee does not adequately address the infrastructure backlog of our national parks, and will only serve to restrict public access to public lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council opposes the proposed park entrance fee increases as recommended by the National Forest Service, and directs staff to submit this resolution to the National Forest Service before close of public comment period on November 23, 2017.
2. The Council encourages its Federal Representatives to take action to protect public access to our national parks, and to find a solution that addresses our national park funding needs while keeping our parks accessible to all.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2017.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
_____ Date