

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6718

To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in California,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2023

Mr. McCARTHY (for himself, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange
in California, 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 “City of Ridgecrest
5 Land Exchange Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CITY.—The term “City” means the City of
9 Ridgecrest, California.

1 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
2 means the approximately 500 acres of Federal land
3 generally depicted as “Proposed BLM to City of
4 Ridgecrest Land Transfer” on the Federal land
5 map.

6 (3) FEDERAL LAND MAP.—The term “Federal
7 land map” means the map titled “Proposed Bureau
8 of Land Management to City of Ridgecrest Land
9 Exchange” and dated October 5, 2023.

10 (4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
11 eral land” means the approximately 640 acres of
12 land in California, generally depicted as “Proposed
13 City of Ridgecrest to BLM Land Transfer” on the
14 non-Federal land map.

15 (5) NON-FEDERAL LAND MAP.—The term
16 “non-Federal land map” means the map titled “Pro-
17 posed City of Ridgecrest to Bureau of Land Man-
18 agement Land Exchange” and dated August 31,
19 2023.

20 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 **SEC. 3. LAND EXCHANGE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—If the City offers to convey to the
24 Secretary all right, title, and interest of the City in and
25 to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the

1 offer and, as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year
2 after receiving the offer from the City, convey to the City
3 all right, title, and interest of the United States to the
4 Federal land.

5 (b) TITLE APPROVAL.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title to the land to be ex-
7 changed under this section shall be in a format ac-
8 ceptable to the Secretary and the City.

9 (2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Title to the non-
10 Federal land conveyed to the Secretary under this
11 section shall conform to the title approval standards
12 of the Attorney General of the United States appli-
13 cable to land acquisitions by the Federal Govern-
14 ment.

15 (c) MAPS, ESTIMATES, AND DESCRIPTIONS.—

16 (1) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary and the
17 City may, by mutual agreement—

18 (A) make minor boundary adjustments to
19 the Federal land and non-Federal land involved
20 in the exchange; and

21 (B) correct any minor errors in any map,
22 acreage estimate, or description of the land to
23 be exchanged.

24 (2) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a
25 map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land

1 under this section, the map shall control unless the
2 Secretary and City mutually agree otherwise.

3 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAPS.—The Federal land
4 map and non-Federal land map shall be kept on file
5 and available for public inspection in the appropriate
6 office of the Bureau of Land Management.

7 (d) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal descrip-
8 tion of the land exchanged under this section shall be de-
9 termined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

10 (e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition for the
11 land exchange under this section, the City shall pay the
12 reasonable costs incurred by the Secretary for—

13 (1) the survey required by subsection (d); and

14 (2) any environmental analysis or administra-
15 tive expenses related to the exchange.

16 (f) EFFECT; TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The land ex-
17 change under this section—

18 (1) is not subject to section 206 of the Federal
19 Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
20 1716);

21 (2) shall not affect the administration or owner-
22 ship of any highways;

23 (3) shall not affect and shall further reserve for
24 the continued and perpetual benefit of utilities all
25 those existing rights on or to the land exchanged

1 under this section, including any easements, and
2 rights-of-way for electrical transmission and dis-
3 tribution poles, lines, and other appurtenances, re-
4 gardless of whether such rights were created by pat-
5 ent, prescription, contract, or applicable law; and

6 (4) is subject to the condition that, with respect
7 to Federal land conveyed to the City, the City shall,
8 to the extent practicable, maintain access—

9 (A) to all officially designated motorized
10 routes depicted on the Federal land map; and

11 (B) for non-motorized recreation activities.

12 (g) RESTRICTION ON GAMING.—The Federal land
13 conveyed to the City under this section shall not be eligi-
14 ble, or used, for any class II or class III gaming (as such
15 terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regu-
16 latory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

17 (h) MANAGEMENT OF LAND.—Land acquired by the
18 Secretary under this section shall become part of the
19 Owens Peak Wilderness Area and be managed in accord-
20 ance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to
21 that wilderness area.

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