

MAY 28

# Republic of North California

ACTING PRESIDENT - - - - VAL. D. BAIMA  
 GOVERNOR - - - - - LILLY BELLE BAIMA

TIME  
 ESTABLISHED  
 REDECLARED  
 JAN. 21, 1957  
 CONSTITUTIONAL  
 GOVERNMENT  
 OF THE  
 HOME



Provisional Capitol "Baima Home"

Box 230-B Rt. 1 Nevada City, California

May 16, 1969

1958

Harold Johnson,  
 Congress of the USA.  
 Washington, D.C.  
 Dear Bizz,

We write you for a request. Back in 1947 and later we had asked our Congressman, Clair Engle to send a national park survey crew out to investigate the Banner Mt. Nevada County area for a proposed park. This was done. But due to the existing rules concerned with nat. parks and monuments the Banner area was not considered proper for such a park. Since that time, rules have changed. Now an area of historical importance can meet the requirements. Also, there has been many changes since that first date and survey. We are asking your good office to set into motion the required order to have the national parks people come to us and go over the area again.

Many changes have taken place. First, the state of California has made a survey which was favorable for a state park. We might work the two govt's, state and federal together, in cooperation on this project. The N.I.D. is now developing a new water project, which will bring water high up on the shoulder of Banner Mt. This will make water available for most of the proposed park area. Also, we wish to extend the limits of the small Banner Mt. State Park, to include the famous Gold Diggings of You Bet and Red Dog. These are as great or larger than the Malakoff Diggings. A beautiful old Cemetery is between the two old ghost mine towns. These are south east of Banner Mt. Also, a new paved "blacktop" road is now all the way up to top of Banner Lookout. Many other changes have occurred.

We wish a Nat. Gold Observation Tower on top of Banner. Presently a steel tower is there. Also, needed is a Nat. Gold Museum for gold exhibits. These can be created by federal parks and money. The state of California can do the other jobs. This dual project will be a wonder and a credit to both state and Washington. You will play a big role in the official seat as our Congressman. A lot of honor and lasting glory for you, Bizz. We hope and wish you success. Clair Engle did his best, but Time was not right for such a monumental project. This is a Monument to the California Gold Rush epic: a great national drama of gold and wealth. Noticed that the state of Idaho now has a national park dedicated to the Nez Perce Indians. We love great Chief Joseph, and feel that the Gov't has honored him and his people in naming the park. It is historical. Like Banner the Indians fought the white (US. Army) and made history, and they earned lasting glory for their defense of freedom, liberty and their homes. Shame, to our people for fighting these wonderful people.

Thank you for your interest, cooperation and work in behalf of our people and this area. we will meet with the park people when they decide to make their field survey. We still have the 10,000 signers on the Banner Mt. Gold Park Petition Books in our home. Please get Gov. Ref. on the ball.

*George Howard... Lilly Belle Baima*

C. Brown 6/9  
J. STUART  
FOR J. Bright

6/9

Kelley 6-13

Flynn 6/13

Joseph 6-16  
for Keenan

EW Wilson  
6/17

Johnson

L58-CSP

JUN 18 1969

Hon. Harold T. Johnson  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your recent letter in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Val B. Baima. Recently we received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Baima discussing their interest in national park status for Banner Mountain and nearby Gold Diggins. Their letter to us covered essentially the same material as your inquiry.

Mr. Baima mentions earlier studies of the area by the National Park Service. Investigations were made in 1948 and, subsequently, Mr. Baima was advised that findings showed the scenic value of the area to be of only average quality, and the historical significance of State or local interest. Two years later, following considerable correspondence, the Service undertook further investigations. These, however, confirmed earlier conclusions. At that time the State was informed of the area for its consideration; we note with interest that the State has proceeded with studies for a State park.

In responding to the Baimas, we reviewed briefly the normal procedures for selection of historical areas for addition to the National Park System, including a determination of whether the area possesses national historic significance and additional suitability and feasibility tests. We enclosed a brochure, "NPS Criteria for Parklands," which discusses these matters; we are including a copy now for your convenience.

We also pointed out to Mr. and Mrs. Baima that legislation in Congress is normally required to authorize the establishment of areas administered by the National Park Service; if such legislation should be introduced in the case of Banner Mountain, then the Congress would determine whether it merits such designation.

Sincerely yours,

/sgd/ EDWARD A. HUMMEL

Associate Director

Enclosure

cc: Regional Director, Western (2) each w/c of inc.  
DALS, Mr. Melvin )  
CSP, Mr. Brown )  
C )

CCBrown:ds:6-12-69

6-18  
Calif.  
TW  
6/13

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