

Mr. Jesse Unruh  
Speaker of the House  
Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir:

We, the citizens of Compton and the Southeast Los Angeles surrounding areas are hereby requesting that your department investigate the possibility of establishing a national park in this area of Los Angeles county.

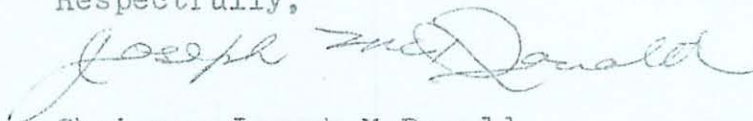
The locale we have in mind is commonly known as the Dominguez Hills area, generally bounded on the south by Artesia and Del Amo, on the north by Victoria, Wilmington on the west and Alameda on the east. This area is presently part of the original Dominguez land grant and is held by the Dominguez family, the other controlling interests being held by the Catholic church. The only use of the area is the storage of the Long Beach City water tanks.

The topographical features lend itself especially well for purposes of recreation and preserve. However, at present it is rapidly being leveled for cut and fill operations. It is the only section in this area that still has a mountainous terrain and is sizable enough to be developed as a national facility.

We, the black citizens, who compose the majority in this area, are greatly handicapped due to lack of open space and recreational facilities in this area, and the lack of foresight shown by city and county planners. Low income and poor transportation facilities have prohibited utilization of other recreational areas throughout the state by local residents. We have therefore formed ourselves into a citizens committee to promote the federal government's acquisition of this land, and preserve it as a national park which shall lend beauty and pride to an area sorely in need of this.

In addition to satisfying the recreational and esthetic needs of this community it would be a humanitarian and political gesture in this election year. Please contact us on the feasibility of establishing this project. We wish to name the park in honor of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy whom we highly esteemed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph McDonald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Chairman Joseph McDonald  
311 West Myrrh  
Compton, California  
90220

C. B. Brown  
10-31

PARKS

*Handwritten notes:*  
Cull 11-1  
Green 11-2  
Johnson 11/4  
Myers 11/5  
Foy 11/5

L58-PS

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Dear Mr. Unruh:

We appreciate your interest in bringing to our attention the request of the citizens of Compton and southeast Los Angeles for the setting aside of a park in the Dominguez Hills area for public enjoyment.

In writing you they talked in terms of a national park, but we expect this was for lack of familiarity with the criteria for such a designation. These not only involve a determination of national significance in terms of illustrating our natural heritage but also suitability requirements of a high order. Enclosed are copies of a brochure "NPS Criteria for Parklands" which discusses these matters in more detail.

On the basis of information currently available, it would appear that the recreation potential of the area in question might better be developed by the State or the county. As you know, the grant program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund was designed to provide Federal assistance for this type of development. Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311, Sacramento, California 95814, has been named by Governor Reagan as the California coordinator of this program. Mr. McDonald and his group may wish to bring this proposal to his attention. As you also know, Los Angeles County has a very active park program with Norman Johnson as the Executive Director. It has participated in the Land and Water Conservation program in the past and may be in a position to assist in this situation.

We are very cognizant of the lack of recreation facilities for our urban citizens, particularly minority groups and those who are financially handicapped, and we have been bending every effort to channel a substantial portion of our Land and Water Conservation Fund grant money to help alleviate these deficiencies.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Jesse M. Unruh  
Speaker of the Assembly of the  
State of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

RETURN TO:  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Enclosures

S 28265

CC Brown: reo 11/1/68

DEL - Mr. Melvin  
Mrs. Reiner  
PS - Mr. Brown  
MPS Copy

cc: Secretary's Reading File (20)  
1600 FW LOR )  
Regional Director, Western ) w/c of inc.

*Handwritten signature and initials:*  
Stewart  
11-1