YES ON YOSEMITE BOUNDARY EXPANSION

The 113th Congress has just reconvened for what will probably be an unproductive election-year session. Hopefully, the election year inertia will not preclude it from giving favorable consideration to two carryover 2013 bills of special interest to Californians. Senators Feinstein and Boxer jointly sponsored S. 781 and Representative Jim Costa (and 16 co-sponsors) sponsored companion bill H.R. 1677 to add 1,575 acres to Yosemite National Park along its southwestern boundary. This acreage was originally intended to be part of Yosemite. While not a big addition to the Park, it would provide hiking trails, views of the Central Valley and habitat for deer, bears birds and rare plants.

Similar bills failed passage in the 112th Congress, but there is now more support for the bills. Hearings have been held on H.R. 1677 by the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. In an editorial in its December 29 issue, the San Francisco Chronicle urged politicians to support the bills. One of the key players in dealing with these bills will be Congressman Tom McClintock. Yosemite National Park is within his Congressional District. To help move these bills forward, telephone or write your own Congressman and Representative McClintock and urge their support.

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