



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177

kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 17, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Commend Sally Jewell and Interior Department's Efforts to Encourage Veterans Families to Enjoy Our Public Lands

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Sally Jewell of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior commending the department's efforts to increase veterans' accessibility to the great outdoors.

BACKGROUND

Many other organizations would agree to encourage this country's active-duty service members, veterans, and their families to experience the land they have served. In July of 2013, the Sierra Club and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would enable both organizations to partner more effectively on programs geared towards serving veterans. Under the terms of the MOU, "The BLM and Sierra Club will identify partnership opportunities and jointly pursue projects that will enhance their ability to provide service members and their families with information about and programs on BLM land, as well as improve communication and understanding between the military community and public agencies¹."

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

Attachment:

1. Letter to Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior

¹ Bureau of Land Management. July 30, 2013. "BLM Enters into Agreement with Sierra Club to Advance Opportunities for Veterans and Military Families on Public Lands."
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2013/july/NR_07_30_2012.html. Accessed November 21, 2013.

Sally Jewell, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

The Berkeley City Council would like to commend you on your department's recent efforts to encourage more veterans to enjoy the great outdoors. Our active-duty service members, veterans, and their families are one of our nation's most prized resources. We would like to thank you and the Department of the Interior for your commitment to encouraging our military community to explore and enjoy the lands they defended.

The recent partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and Sierra Club is an excellent way to encourage military families to enjoy our public lands.

We applaud your innovative efforts at establishing partnerships to connect active duty service members, veterans and their families with our natural heritage. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Berkeley City Council