

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2156

---

## AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Saint Francis Dam  
3 Disaster National Memorial Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On March 12, 1928, the Saint Francis Dam  
7 located in the northern portion of Los Angeles Coun-  
8 ty, California, breached, resulting in a devastating  
9 flood that caused the death of approximately 425 in-  
10 dividuals.

11 (2) The residents of Santa Clarita Valley, San  
12 Francisquito Canyon, Castaic Junction, Santa Clara  
13 River Valley, Piru, Fillmore, Bardsdale, Saticoy, and  
14 Santa Paula were directly impacted and suffered  
15 greatly from the worst flood in the history of the  
16 State of California.

17 (3) The disaster resulted in a tremendous loss  
18 of human life, property, and the livelihood of local  
19 residents, and was surpassed in the level of destruc-  
20 tion in the 20th century only by the great San Fran-  
21 cisco earthquake of 1906.

22 (4) The collapse of the dam may represent  
23 America’s worst civil engineering failure in the 20th  
24 century.

1           (5) The site of the disaster is subject to the  
2 theft of historic artifacts, graffiti, and other van-  
3 dalism.

4           (6) It is right to pay homage to the citizens  
5 who were killed, injured, or dislocated due to the  
6 flood, and to educate the public about this important  
7 historical event.

8           (7) It is appropriate that the site of the Saint  
9 Francis Dam and surrounding areas be specially  
10 designated and protected to commemorate this trag-  
11 ic event.

12 **SEC. 3. SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER NATIONAL MEMO-**  
13 **RIAL.**

14           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary is authorized  
15 to establish a memorial at the Saint Francis Dam site in  
16 the County of Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of  
17 honoring the victims of the Saint Francis Dam disaster  
18 of March 12, 1928.

19           (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Memorial shall be—

20                 (1) known as the Saint Francis Dam Disaster  
21 National Memorial; and

22                 (2) managed by the Forest Service.

23           (c) **DONATIONS.**—The Secretary is authorized to ac-  
24 cept, hold, administer, invest, and spend any gift, devise,  
25 or bequest of real or personal property made to the Sec-

1 retary for purposes of developing, designing, constructing,  
2 and managing the Memorial.

3 **SEC. 4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMORIAL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
6 mit to Congress recommendations regarding—

7 (1) the planning, design, construction, and  
8 long-term management of the Memorial;

9 (2) the proposed boundaries of the Memorial;

10 (3) a visitor center and educational facilities at  
11 the Memorial; and

12 (4) ensuring public access to the Memorial.

13 (b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the recommenda-  
14 tions required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
15 consult with—

16 (1) appropriate Federal agencies;

17 (2) State, tribal, and local governments, includ-  
18 ing the Santa Clarita City Council; and

19 (3) the public.

20 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER**  
21 **NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as a na-  
23 tional monument in the State, certain National Forest  
24 System land administered by the Secretary in the County  
25 of Los Angeles comprising approximately 440 acres, as

1 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Saint  
2 Francis Dam Disaster National Monument”, created on  
3 June 14, 2016, to be known as the Saint Francis Dam  
4 Disaster National Monument.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Monument is to  
6 conserve and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of the  
7 public the cultural, archaeological, historical, watershed,  
8 educational, and recreational resources and values of the  
9 Monument.

10 **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY WITH RESPECT TO**  
11 **MONUMENT.**

12 (a) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after  
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
15 shall develop a management plan for the Monument.

16 (2) CONSULTATION.—The management plan  
17 shall be developed in consultation with—

18 (A) appropriate Federal agencies;

19 (B) State, tribal, and local governments;

20 and

21 (C) the public.

22 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing and im-  
23 plementing the management plan, the Secretary  
24 shall, with respect to methods of protecting and pro-  
25 viding access to the Monument, consider the rec-

1       ommendations of the Saint Francis Disaster Na-  
2       tional Memorial Foundation, the Santa Clarita Val-  
3       ley Historical Society, and the Community Hiking  
4       Club of Santa Clarita.

5       (b) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the  
6 Monument—

7           (1) in a manner that conserves and enhances  
8       the cultural and historic resources of the Monument;  
9       and

10          (2) in accordance with—

11           (A) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable  
12       Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
13       1600 et seq.) and the laws generally applicable  
14       to the National Forest System;

15           (B) this Act; and

16           (C) any other applicable laws.

17       (c) USES.—

18           (1) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The use of  
19       motorized vehicles within the Monument may be per-  
20       mitted only—

21           (A) on roads designated for use by motor-  
22       ized vehicles in the management plan required  
23       under subsection (a);

24           (B) for administrative purposes; or

25           (C) for emergency responses.

1           (2) GRAZING.—The Secretary shall permit  
2 grazing within the Monument, where established be-  
3 fore the date of the enactment of this Act—

4                   (A) subject to all applicable laws (including  
5 regulations and Executive orders); and

6                   (B) consistent with the purpose described  
7 in section 5(b).

8 **SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION ON FUNDING.**

9           No additional funds are authorized to carry out the  
10 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-  
11 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

12 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

13           In this Act:

14                   (1) MEMORIAL.—The term “Memorial” means  
15 the Saint Frances Dam Disaster National Memorial  
16 authorized under section 3(a).

17                   (2) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument”  
18 means the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National  
19 Monument established under section 5(a).

20                   (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
21 of California.

1           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Agriculture.

Passed the House of Representatives July 11, 2017.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

---

---

**H. R. 2156**

**AN ACT**

To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.