

TO BE PLACED ON BOARD LETTERHEAD ONCE APPROVED

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon
Yosemite National Park Service
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Dear Superintendent Muldoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Yosemite National Park Visitor Access Management Plan (VAMP) outreach efforts. However, we, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Tuolumne, are left scratching our heads. Why are you ending the pilot program two and a half months early? Why the artificial due date of September 30, 2024?

Even though you have given the public many chances to comment on the latest pilot program, it's for the *same option* that the Park Service has been pushing for all along over the past several years: limited public access to Yosemite National Park, taking into consideration only the "visitor experience" inside the Park and mostly in Yosemite Valley, while ignoring the many other suggestions made for increasing public access while preserving Park resources. The worst aspect of this "transparent" process is how the Park Service has unilaterally ignored the needs and suggestions of the gateway communities in every County surrounding the Park!

As stated in the attached Resolution, a broad coalition of County Board of Supervisors, a US Congressman, gateway community business owners, tourism bureaus and more have made it abundantly clear, numerous times over the past several years, that the National Park Service's recommended and only approach will have a dramatic negative impact on aspiring visitors and gateway communities. This coalition stands ready to work "in partnership" with the Park Service to develop a less onerous, more focused solution to address Valley crowding, up to and including the design of a more creative and thoughtful approach in the form of a different pilot test.

Along those lines, the National Park Service's recommended solution is overly burdensome in numerous ways. In addition to not taking into account lessons learned from 2024's pilot test, there is a failure to take into account the Valley roadway enhancements and new parking made available, which were not in place during prior reservation tests. This is clearly a misstep.

With Yosemite National Park's solution being Alternative B, which is to limit visitation to the entire Park, there is no consideration for the many clever options provided to address Park crowding and yet not adversely affect the economies of the Counties that surround the Park.

Therefore, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors strongly recommends that the National Park Service takes a step back and follows through on the 5 recommendations as listed at the end of the Resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

David Goldemberg,
Chair, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors