

TIMOTHY WILLIAMS - Chairman
SHAN LEWIS - Vice Chairman
COLLEEN GARCIA - Secretary
NICHOLE GARCIA - Council Member • JOHNNY HEMMERS - Council Member
CELLINA REYES - Council Member • MICHAEL JACKSON - Council Member
500 Merriman Avenue • Needles, CA 92363
(760) 629-4591 • Fax (760) 629-5767

January 31, 2022

Dear County Commissioner Chair Gibson and Members of the Commission:

The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, a federally recognized tribe and sovereign nation, and resident of Clark County, has been working for decades to protect the sacred Avi Kwa Ame landscape, which we have stewarded since time immemorial. We strongly support the resolution by Clark County Commissioner Michael Naft to support the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

The lands of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument are very important to the Mojave people and the nine other Yuman tribes whose creation story begins in this sacred area. Avi Kwa Ame is where we come from, it is where we were created and placed here to protect, it is our Ancestral homelands. The immense significance of this Avi Kwa Ame landscape, and our connection to it, is not explained by simply artifacts or petroglyphs. Rather, this is a cultural landscape that is connected back to the creation of the universe and our heritage, passed down from generation to generation through oral history, song, ritual, and religious practices which we continue to this day. This unique significance has been acknowledged and recognized by the federal government through decades of engagement and consultation with tribal governments.

When we talk about Avi Kwa Ame, it is a church, like the Vatican or like your own church where you might go. It is that important to us. If you can imagine a place such as Arlington Cemetery, iconic places that people revere, it is that important. This is exactly what Avi Kwa Ame is to us. It is not a physical church or a building or a site, it is the landscape. Everything in this region is connected to us as the Mojave people.

Two years ago, Fort Mojave engaged in the negotiations on the monument's southern boundary near Laughlin and our Tribal reservation. Everyone involved made compromises, including Fort Mojave, despite decades and decades of decisions that sacrificed our ancestral lands to industrial development. The agreement reached significantly reduced the monument's southern boundary but retained protections for sacred lands in the Dead Mountains region that we made clear were critical to the cultural landscape protection goals of the monument. Fort Mojave strongly supports upholding this agreement made involving our tribal government and opposes 11th hour efforts to change the boundary in order to facilitate industrial development on our sacred lands.

It is of the utmost importance to us that the national monument as proposed be established and that no further harm, now or into the future, will come. We have seen enough of our ancestral lands desecrated and destroyed.

We thank the many organizations, local communities and supporters who are here with us for all their efforts, outreach, and ongoing work to make Avi Kwa Ame National Monument a reality.

On behalf of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and its membership, we thank you for your consideration of the Tribe's position on this, our longstanding involvement, and our request for your support and passage of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Timothy Williams, Chairman
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

February 1, 2021

Honorable James Gibson
Chairman
Clark County Board of Commissioners
500 S Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Dear Chairman Gibson and Members of the Clark County Commission,

I write today to express my support of a resolution introduced by Commissioner Michael Naft urging the Biden Administration and the United States Congress to designate Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument by executive action or legislation.

Avi Kwa Ame is the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain, the center of creation for Yuman-speaking tribes, and the surrounding landscape. While Spirit Mountain enjoys permanent protection as part of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the sacred landscape associated with it is still in need of protected preservation,

With the support of over two dozen tribes, conservation and recreation groups, business leaders, and elected officials, I believe it's time we designate Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument. That is why on January 14, 2022, I joined Commissioner Naft, tribal leaders, representatives of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board, and Searchlight residents to announce my intent to introduce legislation in the House of Representatives to protect this deeply sacred land.

Protecting our treasured public lands has always been an important issue to me, from leading the charge to protect Gold Butte and Basin & Range to preserving Tule Springs. We all must be good stewards of our unique landscapes and keep them in trust for future generations to enjoy. The Resolution introduced by Commissioner Naft will reinforce that principle and adhere to the desires of 70% of Nevadans who support the designation of Avi Kwa Ame.

I want to thank Commissioner Michael Naft for introducing this important resolution and I stand ready to work with Clark County Commissioners on this exciting legislation to preserve our heritage and important conservation lands.

Sincerely,

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

From: Jill Lagan

Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 5:08 PM

Subject: Support of RESOLUTION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN AND CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE AVI KWA AME AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Date: January 26, 2022

To: Clark County Commissioners

On behalf of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The Avi Kwa Ame presents an extraordinary opportunity to create a Monument that would connect existing protected landscapes on the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, by way of sweeping across Boulder City's Conservation Easement. This Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands anywhere in the country and build upon progress made on the California side with the establishment of Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area.

The proposed monument protects important features in a unique and significant manner, combining a hotspot of biological diversity with landscape-scale ecological, cultural, historic and sacred values. The proposed monument provides species and communities with both the space and the interconnectedness to adapt to climate change. An arid climate, delicate soils, and the slow pace of ecological succession means that the Mojave Desert is exceedingly fragile and slow to adapt to changes and to recover from impacts. The proposed monument offers opportunity to enjoy rare natural quiet, dark night skies and solitude, valuable especially when so close to a major metropolitan area.

We strongly support the idea of protecting this landscape for its important cultural, historic and sacred values as well. From the standpoint of the United States as a nation, the area is a microcosm of western history. However, the human history of this landscape predates our nation. The area is closely tied, in particular, to the creation stories, cosmology, and well-being of the ten groups of Yuman-speaking peoples. The area is also important to the Chemehuevi Paiute people and the Hopi people. It is not only Spirit Mountain and the Dead Mountains that are significant sacred sites, but the entire associated landscape that is considered sacred.

We believe a monument designation is the appropriate designation for this area. Although over 70% of the area is already overlaid with an administrative designation of an area of critical environmental concern (the Paiute/Eldorado Valley ACEC), this designation is, of course, subject to administrative changes. The ACEC was established to protect the desert tortoise; it is not designed to protect other species, wildlife corridors nor the other important historic, cultural, visual and recreational resources of the area.

As this area is also contiguous to the Boulder City Conservation Easement, we believe the designation will only enhance educational opportunities to teach those using the area of the proper way to respect

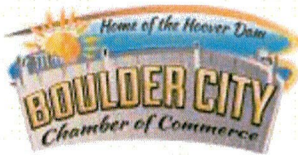
and protect the important historic, cultural, visual and recreational resources that exist within the prospective Avi Kwa Ami National Monument and the Boulder City Conservation Easement. Uses of these amazing spaces want to do the right thing, and by educating them about the land, they will treat it with the respect it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration of the initiative to establish the Avi Kwa Ami National Monument. We stand ready to work with you in how best to carry this out.

Sincerely,

Jill Rowland-Lagan, CEO

Boulder City Chamber of Commerce
100 Nevada Way
Boulder City, NV 89005
702-293-2034



The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Representative Dina Titus
2464 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Susie Lee
365 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cortez Masto, Representative Titus, and Representative Lee,

I am writing to express support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Avi Kwa Ame located in southern Nevada is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values, including ancient Joshua tree forests and rich history. The area's designation presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The designation of this area as a National Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country while ensuring their preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Because most of the land within the proposed Monument boundary is relatively undisturbed at this time and connects to other protected landscapes, the Monument offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt as the climate changes. Protecting these intact landscapes will be essential if the full complement of native species and communities are to persist into the future.

In addition to the spiritual significance of the Monument lands to the Yuman-speaking tribes as well as the Chemehuevi Paiute and Hopi Tribes, there are many historical features and places significant to the western expansion of the United States such as the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch and its association with grazing and the movie industry, and old mining sites. A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on the importance of these facets of our history.

The protection of Avi Kwa Ame (or Spirit Mountain) would provide continued access for spiritual uses as well as OHV use and backcountry driving on existing designated roads,

hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, wildlife photography and other recreational activities. At the same time, the Monument would maintain the integrity of the visual resources. The viewsapes are outstanding, as are the dark night skies and natural quiet.

We also believe that establishment of the Monument can be an important economic generator over time. The outdoor industry in Nevada is a strong and growing sector of the state's economy, especially as we continue to look into ways to diversify our economy. The economic impact of areas such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Southern Nevada are impressive and still growing. The greatest value of natural amenities and recreational opportunities often lies in the ability of protected lands to attract and retain people, entrepreneurs, their businesses, and the growing number of retirees, who locate here for quality of life reasons.

We support the designation Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument, as it will conserve important cultural sites, protect wildlife habitat, benefit our state's economy, and secure the permanent protection of these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of Nevadans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Authentisign
Leslie Hollenbeck
1/18/2022 6:57:23 PM PST

Leslie Hollenbeck
Founding Member



The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Representative Dina Titus
2464 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
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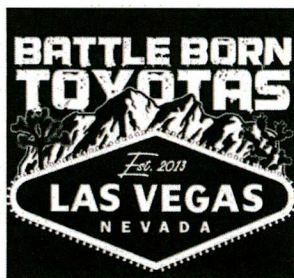
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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

AuthentiSIGN
Bryan Manning
1/18/2022 5:00:27 PM PST

Bryan Manning



The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

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2464 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

 *Melissa Trasatti* 01/30/22

Melissa Trasatti



The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Representative Dina Titus
2464 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

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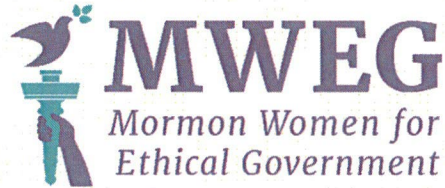
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

 *Michael Mendoza* 01/31/22

Michael Mendoza

Omega Overland





Jan 27, 2022

Re: Support of Proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

Dear Commission Chair Gibson,

As Clark County residents, engaged citizens, and women of conscience, we add our voice in support of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. We see the potential this special land has to stimulate economic growth, to reduce the impacts of climate change, and to honor the Indigenous history and stewardship of this land.

Our organization, [Mormon Women for Ethical Government](#) (MWEG), consists of members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who strive to build a more peaceful, just, and ethical world. MWEG's Nevada chapter is composed of proactive women from across the state who fulfill roles and leadership positions in various civic, education, environmental, and advocacy organizations.

We know that investing in public land conservation can aid the local economy. According to a [2017 report](#) by the Outdoor Industry Association, Nevada's protected areas already support a booming outdoor recreation economy that generates \$12.6 billion annually, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue, while providing 87,000 direct jobs. This is great news for Nevada as a whole, but it's important to note that national monuments are key contributors to local economies as well, especially rural communities. The town advisory boards of Searchlight and Laughlin, and the Boulder City Council, have all voted in favor of the monument, which will attract visitors, support local jobs, and drive economic growth. Communities with protected federal public lands experience [faster job growth and higher wages](#) with per capita incomes averaging [\\$4,360 higher](#) than counties without protected public lands.

Protected public lands promote long-term sustainability of earth's ecosystems on which human life depends. Natural habitats such as the Mojave Desert absorb carbon and other greenhouse gases. The ability of deserts and other ecosystems to sequester human carbon emissions is critical to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In fact, a [study](#) done in the Mojave Desert by the Desert Research Institute and scientists from several western universities found that arid areas take up an "unexpectedly large amount of carbon as levels of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere."

We are also experiencing a biodiversity crisis driven in part by fragmentation of habitats. This crisis [affects the well-being of humans](#), too. The proposed monument would provide an unbroken chain of protection between the Mojave National Preserve in California to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This area contains one of the largest concentrations of Joshua trees on earth, a unique arid grassland community, a dozen or more springs, and an Area of

Critical Environmental Concern. It is home to desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, chukar, mountain lions, songbirds, birds of prey, and many other endemic species.

Scientists have warned that we must protect 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. We are grateful to you and the other commissioners who voted for a 30 by 30 resolution last year. The designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument will contribute more than 400,000 acres to this goal and make Nevada a leader in the 30 by 30 movement. The Indigenous people of Nevada and the Southwest have already begun guiding the way, and it is important that they continue to have a key role in how lands are managed.

The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe has been [advocating for increased protection](#) for this area since the 1990s. Avi Kwa Ame is sacred to them and 12 other Native American tribes in the Colorado River area. These mountains are the center of the Fort Mojave Tribe's creation story and the location of hundreds and hundreds of petroglyphs and significant cultural sites made a millenia ago.

The tribes have now been joined by a broad coalition of conservation advocates, recreation interest groups, and concerned citizens, including MWEG. The movement for the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument has been transparent and collaborative. The coalition has worked with leaders of all of the gateway communities as well as private landowners surrounding the proposed monument. Together they have mapped a proposed area that is satisfactory to the parties involved. The coalition engaged with the communities and collected thousands of signatures in favor. We thank you again for considering the resolution in the Clark County Commission and hope the commissioners will add their support to the monument by voting in support.

Sincerely,

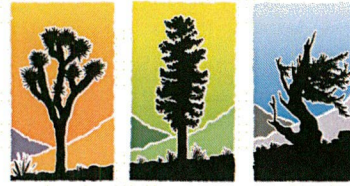
Paulette Stauffer Henriod
MWEG Nevada Environment and Sustainability Specialist
Phone: 702-845-3826
Las Vegas, NV

Melodee Pratt Wilcox
MWEG Nevada Legislative Committee Chair
Henderson, NV

Sara Robinson Nix
MWEG Nevada Chapter Coordinator
Las Vegas, NV

January 20, 2022

Clark County Commission
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Floor 6
Las Vegas, NV 89155



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

Dear Clark County Commissioners:

On behalf of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, I am writing to express support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Avi Kwa Ame located in southern Nevada is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values, including ancient Joshua tree forests and rich history of rock art. The area's designation presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The designation of this area as a National Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country while ensuring their preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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We support the designation Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument, as it will conserve important cultural sites, protect wildlife habitat, benefit our state's economy, and secure the permanent protection of these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of Nevadans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact Grace Palermo my Southern Nevada Director at Grace@nevadawilderness.org if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shaaron Netherton".

Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director

International Dark-Sky Association
5049 E. Broadway Blvd., #105
Tucson, AZ 85711

January 24, 2022

Jim Gibson- ccdistg@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Justin Jones - ccdistf@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Michael Naft- ccdista@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Marilyn Kirkpatrick- ccdistb@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Ross Miller- ccdistc@ClarkCountyNV.gov
William McCurdy II- ccdistd@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Tick Segerblom- ccdiste@ClarkCountyNV.gov

Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of the International Dark Skies Association (IDA), a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. IDA's goals are to preserve and protect the night time environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. We are sure you are familiar with our work regarding the Massacre Rim Dark Skies site, which IDA designated last year as Nevada's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

We are writing to express support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Avi Kwa Ame located in southern Nevada is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values, including ancient Joshua tree forests and rich history of rock art. The area's designation presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The designation of this area as a National Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country while ensuring their preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

On behalf of the IDA, we applaud your efforts to create and preserve lands in southern Nevada as proposed in the various Avi Kwa Ame documents. We believe the proposed legislation could be improved by adding language that would (1) establish lighting ordinances for the lands to be designated and (2) direct the Bureau of Land Management to apply to the IDA for the appropriate designation of the proposed monument lands as a dark skies location.

We suggest the following language. "After enactment of this legislation, the site administrator shall develop a master management plan for the Monument that includes the active conservation of dark skies through appropriate outdoor lighting policies, and shall apply for certification of the Monument by the International Dark-Sky Association."

Because most of the land within the proposed Monument boundary is relatively undisturbed at this time and connects to other protected landscapes, the Monument offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt as the climate changes. Protecting these intact landscapes will be essential if the full complement of native species and communities are to persist into the future.

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The establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame national monument as a dark skies resource will provide opportunities for "astro tourism" and will provide local economic benefits, as has been proven elsewhere in Nevada. Clear demonstration of how important astro tourism is in Nevada is the new state bill (SB 52) which is being implemented by the State. The economic impact of areas such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Southern Nevada are impressive and still growing. The greatest value of natural amenities and recreational opportunities often lies in the ability of protected lands to attract and retain people, entrepreneurs, their businesses, and the growing number of retirees, who locate here for quality of life reasons.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at kfswartz2@gmail.com, or 760 696 2966 if you have any questions.

Kevin F Swartz

Nevada Delegate
International Dark Skies Association



January 31, 2022

Dear Commissioner XXX ,

I am writing today to encourage you to vote in favor of the resolution to establish Avi Kwa Ame as Nevada's next and newest National Monument which you will consider at the upcoming Clark County Commission meeting on February 1, 2022. A resolution from the Clark County Commissioners will add a critically important voice and significant weight to a growing list of leaders, organizations, and communities in support for this designation.

At Get Outdoors Nevada, we are committed to inspiring Nevadans and visitors of all backgrounds to discover, experience and connect to our state's natural wonders, vast and unique landscapes. The area proposed as the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse, and culturally significant lands in the entire Mojave Desert. The proposed Monument will strengthen the protection of nearly 440,000 acres of our state's most spectacular and special landscape, preserving it for all Nevadans, for today and for future generations.

In addition to the ecological and cultural assets that Avi Kwa Ame provides, the National Monument will contribute to the economic diversity and health of nearby communities throughout Clark County. National Monuments, like Avi Kwa Ame, increase quality-of-life and recreational opportunities making communities more attractive for residents, tourists, businesses, and investment. The outdoor industry in Nevada is a strong and growing sector, which will continue to develop with the addition of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. Every year, our outdoor recreation industry generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending and 87,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. Joining our state's other treasured National Monuments-- Gold Butte, Basin and Range, and Tule Springs Fossil Beds--the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument promises to support economic development throughout the region, while enhancing and enriching the lives of Nevadans and visitors to the area.

I appreciate your support of the resolution to establish the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument and thank you for all that you do for our community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rachel Bergren'.

Rachel Bergren
Executive Director



NEVADA CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Feb 1, 2022
Clark County Commission
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Floor 6
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Dear Clark County Commissioners,

The Nevada Conservation League would like to thank Commissioner Naft for introducing a resolution to support the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument proposal and the entire Commission for the opportunity to take action on this important issue.

The Nevada Conservation League is in full support of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument proposal. Located in Southern Clark County, these public lands are rich in culture, ecological significance, and natural splendor. Permanent protection for Avi Kwa Ame is a crucial piece in the puzzle for our state to reach the conservation goals set out in the Nevada Legislature and in the federal government's America the Beautiful Initiative.

The monument proposal would protect the land and ensure that Nevadans can continue to enjoy the recreational activities that they participate in on the site in perpetuity. The proposal would maintain access to the many backcountry roads located throughout the site and it is our hope that with a designation as a new national monument, interest in hiking, camping, stargazing, hunting, birding, riding OHV on designated trails, and tribal use could flourish at Avi Kwa Ame.

The designation is supported locally by the people who would be most impacted by the creation of a new national monument. The three gateway communities of Boulder City, Searchlight, and Laughlin have formally voted to support the monument's creation. Indigenous communities who view Avi Kwa Ame as the most sacred place in the universe, the center of their creation, have also been vocal about their support for the designation of the site as a national monument. Our support grows as Nevadans continue to learn about Avi Kwa Ame. A recent poll showed 70% of Nevadans believe that we must take action now and protect Avi Kwa Ame.

This proposal has been pursued by members of the coalition since 2019, and many concessions have been made in order to reach the current boundary lines for the proposal. This has been a collaborative effort to best represent the many interests the proposal represents. We believe that now is the time to act. We call upon you to join us in honoring Avi Kwa Ame and the many benefits of this proposal by voting in favor of Commissioner Naft's resolution. Together we can uplift the values of respecting Indigenous people and our environment, create economic opportunities for the gateway communities, and champion the recreational use of public lands for all Nevadans.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul Selberg
Executive Director
Nevada Conservation League

BATTLE BORN PROGRESS

Friday, January 28, 2022

Dear Clark County Commissioners,

We ask that each of you please support the resolution affirming the Board's insistence that the land known as Avi Kwa Ame in Southern Nevada is designated and permanently protected as a national monument.

The proposed national monument is a historic and sacred place that not only must be protected but will bring many benefits to Southern Nevada.

Avi Kwa Ame forms the eastern end of the world's largest Joshua Tree forest. The area is home to some of the oldest and largest Joshua trees on the planet, some rising to more than 30 feet over 900 years. The area is also a perfect place for recreational activities, which would bring many economic benefits to the gateway communities of Laughlin, Searchlight, and Boulder City.

Protected public lands create visibility for local communities which can play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining people and businesses, boosting local economies. Statewide, the outdoor recreation economy creates 87,000 jobs and generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending ([Outdoor Industry Association, 2017](#)). Other studies have shown that where national monuments had been established, jobs, quality of life, and personal wealth increased in the surrounding areas ([Headwaters Economics, 2014](#)). Avi Kwa Ame National Monument will clearly serve as a new (and clean) source of revenue for surrounding communities and the state as a whole.

But above all, Avi Kwa Ame, the spirit of the Mojave, is a spiritual, cultural, and natural treasure worth protecting. For the Yuman tribes, the Avi Kwa Ame area is empirically tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being. The Yuman Tribes believe the mountain is the spiritual birthplace of the tribes, the place where ancient ancestors emerged into this world.

The Clark County Commission has a tremendous responsibility to do right by our tribal communities and you can do that by protecting this land they have been fighting for. Please, vote in favor of this resolution to designate Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument.

Thank you for your time,



Annette Magnus
Executive Director, Battle Born Progress