



October 30, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Statement of Support for the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe's Request for Kw'tsán National Monument Designation

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe's request to establish the Kw'tsán National Monument on federally managed lands in Imperial County, California. Your leadership is essential in protecting these lands that hold immense cultural, historical, and ecological significance. The local community, and people like me from near and far, are calling on you to take swift action to honor the Tribe's request.

The proposed Kw'tsán National Monument would encompass over 390,000 acres of the Quechan Indian Tribe's ancestral lands. This designation is crucial for safeguarding cultural values, belief systems, trail systems, and traditional practices. Additionally, it will protect vital wildlife, water resources, native plants, and scenic vistas. An inter-governmental stewardship agreement would ensure Indigenous peoples are appropriately involved in future land management planning on their homelands.

The Colorado River, deeply embedded in the Quechan culture, is vital for the Tribe's history, cultural practices, and overall well-being. As climate change exacerbates drought conditions and unsustainable water extraction, protecting these lands becomes even more critical to ensure water resource stability and habitat preservation for plants, wildlife, and people.

This region is home to numerous native wildlife species and a variety of native plants. The Colorado River boundary is a key bird migration flyzone and wildlife corridor, making its protection essential for the entire ecosystem. The monument's boundaries would protect sacred sites, scenic features, and critical environmental areas, including Indian Pass, Pilot Knob, and Picacho Peak Wilderness areas.

Designating the Kw'tsán National Monument will prevent harmful activities, including mining claims and large-scale industrial development, which threaten these lands. With your leadership, through the use of the Antiquities Act, we can ensure these lands remain protected for future generations of people and wildlife and put an end to tireless battles defending these lands from ongoing threats.

I urge you to designate the Kw'tsán National Monument, supporting the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe in their endeavor to protect these sacred lands.

For any questions, please contact Dennis H. Morita, City Manager, at (760) 355-4373 or via email at DMorita@imperial.ca.gov.

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The City of Imperial appreciates your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**Robert Amparano
City Mayor**

CC:

**Senator Alex Padilla; Senator Laphonza Butler; Secretary Deb Haaland, Department of the Interior;
Chair Brenda Mallory, Council on Environmental Quality**