



May 27, 2022

The Honorable Dr. Raul Ruiz

U.S. House of Representatives

2342 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Ruiz:

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association strongly supports the Protect California Deserts campaign's draft proposal to protect public lands in Riverside County and a small portion of Imperial County.

The draft proposal would:

- Recognize the local work of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers;
- Expand Joshua Tree National Park in the Eagle Mountain area;
- Establish a Chuckwalla National Monument stretching from the Mecca Hills in the west to the Mule Mountains and Milpitas Wash in the east;
- Designate public lands outside of the National Monument as wilderness;
- Designate Mission Creek as a Wild and Scenic River;
- Require an inter-agency study of recreation needs on public lands in the region; especially under-resourced but popular day-use sites; and
- Protect World War II-era training sites.

The draft proposal will benefit Riverside and Imperial counties in several ways, including:

- Protecting crucial plant and wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

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***Post Office Box 24, Joshua Tree CA 92252 – [www.mbconservation.org](http://www.mbconservation.org)***

***MBCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community based, all volunteer organization***

- Safeguarding Indigenous sites, landscapes of importance, and other critical cultural resources.
- Protecting important historic sites and landscapes.
- Enhancing equitable and sustainable recreation access to federal public lands.
- Boosting local economies by attracting visitors.

MBCA thanks you for your leadership over the years in protecting California federal public lands. Please continue that leadership by considering supporting the Protect California Deserts campaign's draft proposal to protect public lands and enhance opportunities for equitable and sustainable enjoyment of those lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bardwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and "B".

Steve Bardwell, President  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association