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COFEM ATTENDS A PUBLIC MEETING HOSTED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REGARDING PROPOSED CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Indio, CA (June 17, 2024)—On Friday, June 14, the United States Department of the Interior hosted a public comment meeting on the proposed *Chuckwalla National Monument* and *Joshua Tree National Park expansion*. Hundreds of people gathered inside the Taj Mahal Building at the Riverside County Fairgrounds to share their empowering support for the designation of Chuckwalla National Monument. The public meeting underscores a significant milestone in the campaign as Tribal leaders from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, community leaders, local elected officials, veterans, business owners, and thousands of community members have advocated for the protection of these public lands to ensure access to the wildlife and honor and preserve the cultural and historical landscapes.

“This moment, this meeting right here, is history in the making. Support for the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and the expansion of Joshua Tree National Park is undeniable and evident today, with backing from surrounding tribes, community members, local businesses, and industries. Thanks to all the supporters who joined us today to protect our backyard!” said **Sendy Hernández Orellana Barrows, Conservation Program Manager, Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM)**, who attended the meeting and provided public comments in support of the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park.

COFEM remains committed to help protect our public lands and advocate for the designation of the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and Joshua Tree National Park expansion. We urge President Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect and preserve these majestic deserts.



About COFEM:

The mission of the Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM) is to empower immigrant communities to be full participants in the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the United States and their home country. We accomplish this work by uniting, strengthening, and expanding our member organizations to better advocate, preserve, and share their cultural traditions and help improve the lives of families and friends in their country of origin.

We envision a fair and inclusive America where immigrant communities have a voice, access to the Citizenship process, and the ability to preserve their cultural identity.

Learn more about COFEM by visiting www.cofem.org