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**MONUMENTAL SHIFT UPLIFTS AND THANKS  
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PLEDGE TO PROTECT AVI KWA AME**

**NATIONAL** - Today, the [Washington Post](#) reported that President Biden has made a valuable commitment to designate Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument and protect the ancestral lands of the Fort Mojave Tribe, this move is one step forward in advancing towards the goal of protecting 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. The president's pledge on Wednesday at the White House Tribal Nations Summit would put hundreds of thousands of acres off limits to industrial development in southern Nevada around Spirit Mountain. **President Biden's commitment to conserving the area is met with gratitude and expectations of a swift follow through on this promise.**

Avi Kwa Ame, or "Spirit Mountain," has been the home to over 443,000 acres of public and sacred lands, and is the site where the Mojave, Hopi and Chemehuevi Southern Paiutes still return to the Mountain to help the spirits of deceased loved ones navigate the landscape that exists in both the natural and supernatural worlds. Additionally, ten Yuman speaking tribes—the Mojave, Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, Cocopah, Halchidhoma and Kumeyaay—as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute consider Spirit Mountain to be of ritual importance associated with creation, cosmology, and survival. **Conservation groups and community organizers in Nevada and across the nation celebrate this commitment and hope that the 62,371 acres within the proposed monument boundary will restrict for-profit business in the Mountains.**

As the "connective tissue" binding protected lands in the region of the Mojave Desert, Mojave National Preserve and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Avi Kwa Ame's designation as a National Monument will protect the tribal legacy, ecological and geographic history, thousand of species, and ensure the sustainability and survival of this natural landmark.

*"Monumental Shift and our coalition partners hold the President to his commitment and expect that the details of a proclamation and boundaries will fully honor the Tribes proposals by permanently protecting Avi Kwa Ame from industrial development that is incompatible with these sacred lands."*

José G. González, *Monumental SHIFT*

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*[Monumental SHIFT](#) is a coalition rooted in racially and ethnically diverse leadership transforming the traditional creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of national monuments in the United States in order to better represent and honor lands and places sacred to the communities which we belong to.*