

César E. Chávez National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Welcome to the New César E. Chávez National Monument!

President Barack Obama signed a Presidential Proclamation on October 8, 2012, creating the César E. Chávez National Monument. This peaceful “La Paz” site, in the Tehachapi Mountains northeast of Los Angeles, commemorates Cesar Chavez and the struggles and accomplishments of the farm worker movement. A visitor center and the memorial garden where Cesar Chavez is buried are open to the public.

This new national monument was established through a process separate from the Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study, but was informed by the draft findings of the study. The National Chavez Center offered to donate a portion of the property to the National Park Service. This donation created an opportunity for the President to use the Antiquities Act to take immediate action to protect and interpret this area as a national monument.



President Barack Obama addresses the crowd. NPS photo.

“Today, La Paz joins a long line of national monuments -- stretching from the Statue of Liberty to the Grand Canyon -- monuments that tell the story of who we are as Americans. It’s a story of natural wonders and modern marvels; of fierce battles and quiet progress. But it’s also a story of people -- of determined, fearless, hopeful people who have always been willing to devote their lives to making this country a little more just and a little more free.”



– from President Obama’s dedication of the monument

Under a glorious blue sky on a crisp fall day, thousands of people gathered at La Paz, the headquarters of the United Farm Workers, to celebrate and witness the creation of the César E. Chávez National Monument by President Barack Obama. Farm workers, elected officials, community leaders and supporters of the farm worker movement traveled for hours to attend the dedication. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa addressed the crowd. Meanwhile, President Obama arrived in the tiny community of Keene, toured the Chavez visitor center and memorial garden, laid a rose on Cesar Chavez’ grave, and met with members of the Chavez family.

After remarks from Cesar Chavez’ son Paul Chavez, and an introduction by United Farm Workers president Arturo Rodriguez, President Obama arrived on the stage. The President applauded the work of Cesar Chavez and many others who fought for freedom, fair treatment, better lives for their families, and opportunities to achieve their dreams.

DID YOU KNOW?

A national monument can be created either by the US Congress or by Presidential Proclamation.

César E. Chávez National Monument became the 398th unit of the national park system.

National monuments are often managed by the National Park Service, but sometimes by other federal agencies, including the US Forest Service (such as Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument) or the Bureau of Land Management (such as Fort Ord National Monument).

Several of California’s national parks began as national monuments, including Death Valley, Joshua Tree, and Channel Islands National Parks.



Crowds gather for the creation of the César E. Chávez National Monument . NPS photo.



Eduardo DeLeon hangs the NPS arrowhead at La Paz. NPS photo.

What's next for the new monument?

The proclamation signed by the President directs the National Park Service to take a number of critical actions in the first few years:

- Prepare a management plan that not only addresses the resources at this site and the life and work of Cesar Chavez, but also helps the monument interpret the struggles and achievements of the broader farm worker movement throughout the US.

- Determine the desired relationship between the monument and other significant

sites, such as the Forty Acres, Filipino Community Hall, Santa Rita Center, McDonnell Hall, and various march routes.

- Maximize public involvement in planning for the future of the monument.
- Provide visitor services throughout the La Paz site, as appropriate, in coordination with the National Chavez Center.
- Recognize through interpretive programming the contributions of many people, cultures and organizations to the farm worker movement, including women, youth, and religious organizations.



MEET THE SUPERINTENDENT: RUBEN ANDRADE

Ruben Andrade is the new superintendent of César E. Chávez National Monument, where he is responsible for the operations of the national monument, in partnership with the National Chavez Center.

Andrade grew up in a family of farmworkers near Dixon, CA, and worked in the fields during his school breaks. His interests in Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement stem from those early personal experiences.

Andrade previously served as superintendent of Minuteman Missile NHS in South Dakota. He has also worked at Lyndon B. Johnson NHP, Fort Union NM, Carlsbad Caverns NP.

Prior to joining the NPS, Andrade worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Pine Flat Lake near Fresno, served in the US Army, and received bachelor's and master's degree from California State University, Sacramento.



Visitors get their National Park Passports stamped on opening day. NPS photo.

Visit Us!

César E. Chávez National Monument welcomes you! The areas that are currently open to visitors include a visitor center that features multimedia presentations and exhibits and a memorial garden in which Cesar Chavez is buried. Special events are planned throughout the year, including a day of service honoring Cesar Chavez' birthday (March 31) and a day of remembrance on or near the day of his death (April 23).

The site is managed collaboratively by the National Park Service and the National Chavez Center, with initial operations funded in part by the America Latino Heritage Fund of the National Park Foundation, the official fundraising partner of the National Park Service.

César E. Chávez National Monument is a new national park area "in progress" with services and programs that are still under development. In the coming years, you will see more visitor opportunities, interpretive and educational programs added to the park.

The monument is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Bakersfield and 11 miles west of Tehachapi, on Highway 58, and it is open daily from 10am-4pm (closed on major holidays).

César E. Chávez National Monument
29700 Woodford Tehachapi Road
Keene, CA 93531

For More Information: www.nps.gov/CECH



Cesar Chavez's gravesite in the memorial garden. NPS photo.