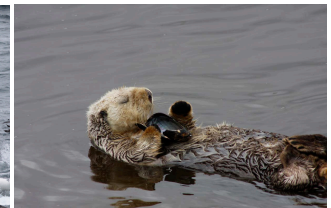


Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

June 2015



Northern Chumash Tribal Council



With thanks to the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, and countless community activists in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties who have given their time and energies in support of this project.

“The new marine sanctuary nomination process is an exciting opportunity to strengthen protections for our precious coastlines and marine ecosystems, and it takes a ground-up, consensus-driven approach with broad-based community support, including local fishermen, tribes, business, and other stakeholders. I am pleased that there is a local effort to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to working with all these local stakeholders to ensure that everyone’s input is fully considered as the process moves forward.”

-Representative Lois Capps, 24th Congressional District, February 2, 2015

Cover: Chumash Tomol 'Elye'wun paddlers crossing at Santa Cruz Island. California, Channel Islands NMS, 2006. Photographer: Robert Schwemmer, CINMS, NOS, NOAA.

Blackeye goby (*Rhinogobiops nicholsii*). Kari Larson.

PISCO divers gear up to enter the water at San Simeon Point during a subtidal monitoring project. Josh Pederson / NOAA MBNMS.

Lunge feeding humpback whale with sooty and pink shearwaters. Sophie Webb / NOAA SWFSC

Southern Sea Otter. Steve Lonhart / NOAA MBNMS.

2014 Monterey Bay SportsFest at Del Monte Beach in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Steve Lonhart

Section I – Basics

Name: Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Proposal

Nominator Name/Affiliation: Fred Collins, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Point of Contact: Fred Collins, Northern Chumash Tribal Council, 67 South Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 801-0347

Section II – Introduction

Designation of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will ensure protection of one of the most culturally and biologically diverse coastlines anywhere in the world. These waters are essential to the heritage of the Chumash, one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the Pacific Coast. The marine environment also provides a very special sense of place to coastal communities and international visitors because of the significant historic, archaeological, cultural, aesthetic and biological resources found here.

Point Conception, an intact natural and cultural landscape and nationally significant archaeological district, is sacred to the Chumash as the Western Gate. This significance is affirmed in contemporary marine science observations of this ecosystem. Located in a dynamic setting where two oceanographic regimes transition, these waters are critical to the sustenance of ecologically and commercially important species and support critical habitat that connects biogeographical species assemblages. This abundance of resources accounts for the richness and cultural complexity of the Chumash heritage.

The cultural significance of Chumash heritage makes this proposed national marine sanctuary the only one of its kind. The Chumash once lived in villages west of current tidal lines and on Point Conception. The ocean has submerged the homes of the Chumash ancestors. Protecting these submerged ancient villages from future industrial encroachment will ensure the resting places of the ancestors remain undisturbed.

Natural resource protection is in harmony with the Chumash history of nurturing health and balance. As stewards of the ocean and land, Chumash have been guardians of this region for thousands of years. This legacy expands and connects sanctuary concepts to include under-represented indigenous cultural and historic values. Protecting coastal resources and the Chumash concept of connectivity of all things provide special education, outreach and interpretive opportunities to enrich our national understanding and awareness of stewardship.

A central value of Chumash heritage is “Thrivability,” a balanced connected understanding of the natural world being practiced by many indigenous communities worldwide. Observing, learning and adapting to the interconnections of habitat, the Chumash value caring for the ecosystems of both ocean and land. The closest analog in the resource agency realm is the ecosystem-based management approach of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS.) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) strategic plan mirrors this concept of Thrivability. Navigating toward a future where people, communities, and ecosystems prosper and are resilient in the face of stresses of coastal urbanization, exploitation of ocean and coastal resources, and the pervasive effects of climate change on society and the environment results in a prospering and flourishing planet. And that is Thrivability.

Thrivability extends and enhances the message of ONMS ecosystem-based management and natural

resource protection while celebrating the importance of core indigenous values. It is a cycle that reinvests energy for future use and stretches resources further. It transcends sustainability by creating an upward spiral of greater possibilities and increasing energy. Each action builds the foundation for new things to be accomplished. Thrivability emerges from the persistent intention to create more value than one consumes. When practiced over time, this builds a world of ever increasing possibilities.

The Northern Chumash Tribe has teamed with local communities and organizations in a growing grassroots movement. These partners will be key contributors to the success of a proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County communities want the central coast productive ocean waters to have the highest levels of protection for all generations to come. Establishment of a national marine sanctuary will preserve this special place and will add a distinctive treasure to the ONMS system.

Narrative Description – a brief overview of the nomination

Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties are popular destinations for recreation and tourism. Local, regional and international visitors are drawn by the beauty of the coast, the lure of wine country, outdoor recreational opportunities, and international festivals. The chambers of commerce, visitors' bureaus and stewardship travel organizations have vibrant programs that partner with government agencies and NGOs to do outreach and education. There are numerous museums, docent programs, education and conservation efforts already present in the area. Local volunteer communities are active in restoring and preserving historical and cultural resources (such as the Dana Adobe, Port San Luis Lighthouse, Fiscalini Ranch, and the Pismo Preserve;) maintaining trails (city and county trails, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the California Coastal Trail,) helping maintain open spaces and public areas and interpreting the historic, cultural, biological, and aesthetic resources of this dynamic area. Thus stewardship focused on onshore coastal resources is prevalent in the area.

The proposed sanctuary contains diverse unique ecosystems. The central coast contains a key transition zone that includes vital upwelling of great bioproductivity providing sustenance for the proposed area and adjacent marine sanctuaries. There is a meeting of diverse benthic features, including a submarine canyon and two subsea basins that converge just offshore of Point Conception. The habitat can be characterized by a range of substrate types and depths that provide structure for a variety of organisms, including kelp forest, soft bottom and rocky reef communities. Large concentrations of kelp are found in the rocky nearshore of the central coast from Point Conception to Point Mugu. Wetlands, estuaries and rookeries abound in the proposed area. The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes are the largest remaining dune system south of San Francisco and the second largest in California.

These diverse habitats are crucial for vulnerable species such as the endangered western snowy plover and the threatened southern sea otter. The area includes designated critical habitat for the endangered black abalone, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Morro shoulderband snail, California red-legged frog and leatherback sea turtle. Sustaining these vulnerable populations requires maintaining ecosystem diversity through protection of this wide variety of representative and unique habitats.

In addition to the unique ecosystem, there are extensive cultural and archaeological Chumash sites in the area. There is evidence of early Chumash maritime navigation for travel and trade along the

coast and offshore islands. On land, there are more than a thousand recorded archaeological sites and 193 that have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This provides a well-preserved archaeological record, spanning at least 15,000 years and containing evidence representative of specific time periods in cultural history. Chumash sites, including evidence of astronomical observatories, are now submerged off the current coastline.

Supplementary to the submerged Chumash historic and cultural resources, there are over 40 known historic shipwrecks in the region. The “Graveyard of the Pacific,” the area contains the Navy’s worst peacetime loss shipwrecks, the gold-laden steamship *S.S. Yankee Blade* and the oil tanker, *SS S.S. Montebello*. Sanctuary designation will preserve, study and interpret these distinctive natural treasures that are of special historic, cultural and archaeological significance.

Goals Description

1. Designate a unique indigenous cultural sanctuary that extends and deepens the ONMS natural resource protection message with the philosophy of Thrivability and heritage of the Chumash and First Peoples.
2. Protect and manage internationally significant ecological transition zone supporting high biological diversity and density of numerous important marine species.
3. Protect, study and interpret the region’s maritime heritage and Chumash cultural heritage.
4. Establish comprehensive management program to address increasing offshore industrial threats to vital habits, species and heritage resources.
5. Promote, support and collaborate with scientific research institutions to monitor ocean resources in a unique living laboratory. The overlap of biogeographic boundaries where oceanographic regimes meet provides one of the best biological and geological resources in the world for the study of ecosystem transition zones and climate change.
6. Monitor, survey and study the historical, present and future impacts of climate change on ecological processes, including those at the transition zone, and human occupation including past native settlements and contemporary coastal communities.
7. Enhance collaboration and partnerships - federal, state, local, tribal, NGOs and private sector to achieve critical management goals for the area.
8. Develop and extend education and outreach using existing visitors’ centers, tourism bureaus, educational institutions, museums, NGOs and adjacent sanctuary resources in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.
9. Protect economic health of the area including commercial and recreational fisheries; whose viability depends on the health of the marine resources. The proposed sanctuary shall have no impact on treaty fishing rights and impose no future regulations upon commercial or recreational fishing.

Location Description

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is located along the south Central California coastline, from Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara to Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria (see Figure 1.) The western boundary of the proposed sanctuary is west of the submerged Santa Lucia Bank along the Santa Lucia Escarpment. The eastern boundary is the mean high tide line. These pristine coast waters are between Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS.) The boundaries are 100 miles north of Los Angeles and 190 miles south of San Francisco, covering 140 miles of coastline.

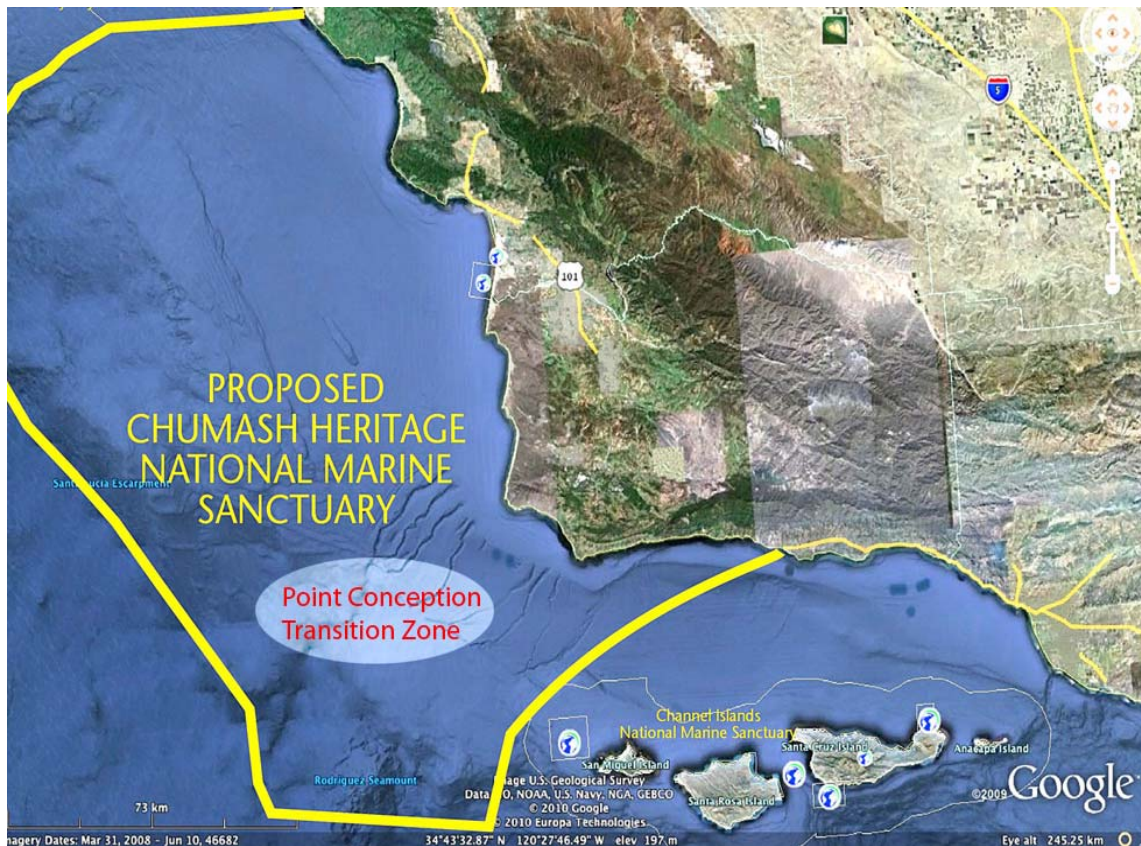


Figure 1 – Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Section III – Criteria Information

Criteria 1: *The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.*

Transition Zone - The ecological systems in the California central coast contain qualities of special significance making this a distinctive and remarkable addition to ONMS. Here a unique interaction of species and natural phenomena occurs, feeding the web of life along the eastern rim of the Pacific Basin. The nutrients sustain diverse species, feed planktonic communities and kelp forests, and support various life stages of marine flora and fauna.

The multitude of diverse and important ecosystems provides a critical transition area for the ocean and coastal zones. The Oregonian Temperate Eastern Pacific current and the Californian Subtropical American Eastern Pacific current meet in the coastal waters off Point Conception. This region is unique in the complex interaction of the southward-moving California current, the warmer northward subcurrent, the nearshore northward-moving seasonal Davidson Current, and upwelling. Ocean fronts of warm and cool water act to increase bioproductivity improving the habitat and increasing fishery production. These fronts create convergent zones that aggregate food and resources in the ocean.

The terrain around Point Conception, combined with the change in orientation of the coastline from north-south to east-west, causes counterclockwise eddies to form east of the point. These eddies fluctuate from time to time and place to place, leading to highly variable winds along the southern coastal strip. Point Conception also marks the change in the prevailing surface winds from northwesterly to southwesterly. Offshore geological features such as the Santa Lucia Bank, Arguello Canyon, Concepcion Canyon, Rodriguez Seamount and Santa Barbara Basin provide this area with high physiographic complexity contributing to bioproductivity. Santa Lucia Bank is known as a hotspot for krill density attracting high marine mammal and bird diversity (See Figure 2).

This combination of terrain, wind and water currents, and oceanographic regimes creates biological productivity and diversity that is of special significance as an internationally recognized transition zone unlike any other found in the ONMS system. These natural resources and ecological qualities maintain critical habitat, diverse species and bioproductivity that provide important ecosystem linkages to the adjacent areas. A proposed sanctuary would enhance protection for these vital natural resources through ecosystem based management and adaptive strategies to maintain and enhance the ecosystem structure and function of this important transition zone.

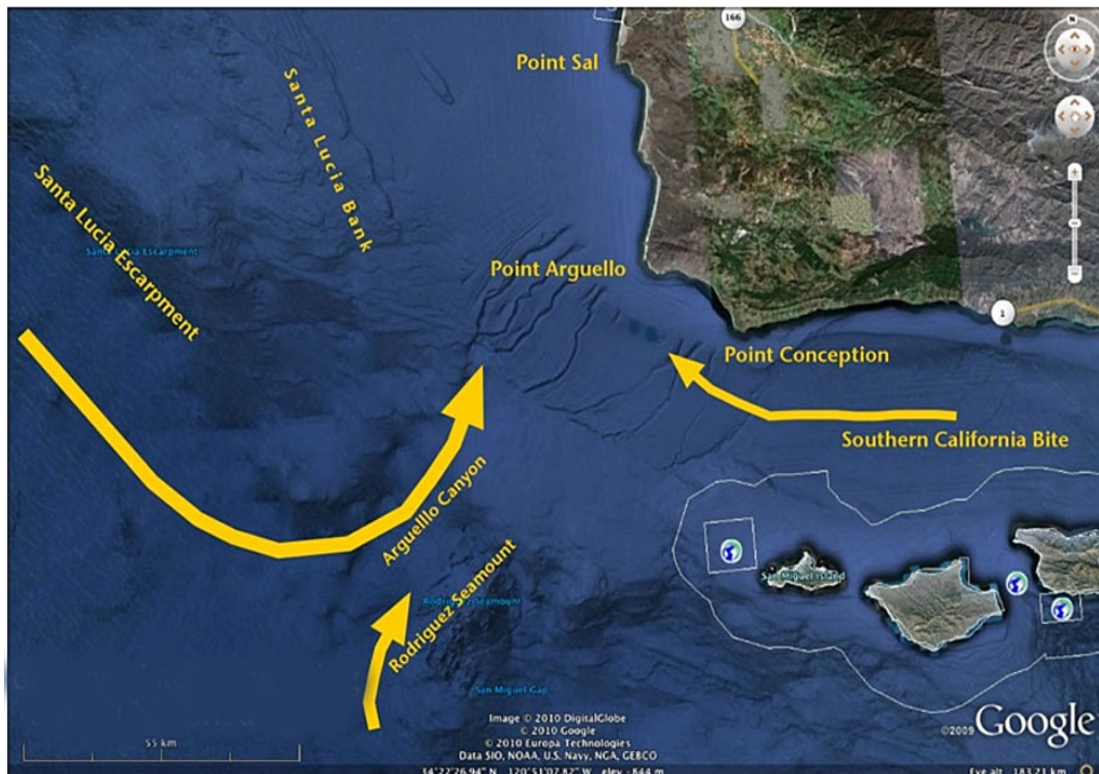


Figure 2 - Santa Lucia Bank, Arguello Canyon, Rodriguez Seamount, Point Conception.

Marine Flora and Fauna – The proposed sanctuary contains ecologically and commercially important species and species assemblages. Point Conception is considered to be a biogeographic boundary and overlap transition zone for numerous southern and northern species. It contains a diverse array of biological communities in dynamic settings where northern or southern extent of many species' ranges end and overlap, corresponding to major oceanographic features. These waters are important transiting and foraging habitat for numerous species. It is a region recognized for its abundance, importance and persistence. Several hundred invertebrate species inhabit the mainland shelf and slope. Many of these species have biogeographic breaks near Point Conception. Others are

more transient and have population centers north or south of the region. There are 25 threatened and endangered species in the proposed sanctuary including white North America abalone, southern sea otter, Southern California steelhead, as well as killer and humpback whales. (See Appendix for list.)

Benthic communities of world-wide significance thrive in the area. The high diversity and density of benthic populations resemble that of the North Sea, one of the world's most productive regions. The meiofaunal (small benthic invertebrates) community is among the highest density reported globally. The macroinfauna diversities and abundances are much larger than those north or south along the California coast. The abundance of benthic populations appears related to the area's unique combination of characteristics -- the transition zone, the geology of the area, composition of the sea floor, complex currents, and upwelling.

Significant ecological hotspots occur in continental shelf and nearshore waters from Santa Lucia Bank, Point Conception down through the Northern Channel Islands. The area around Point Conception and Santa Lucia Bank has been identified as a krill hotspot critical to key ecosystem functions such as trophic transfer. Bird density and diversity is linked to krill and krill-predator availability, an important component of marine ecosystems. This is prime territory on the Pacific Flyway, a major migratory route for birds, and acts as a stopover during north and south migrations. Over 195 species of marine birds use open water, shore or island habitats in the Southern California Bight south of Point Conception (See Figure 3.) Onshore, important breeding and nesting sites for threatened and endangered species such as the western snowy plover and California least tern are found along the coast's critical habit. In this area spatial patterns of bird, fish, invertebrate and mammal habitat also overlap (See Figure 4.)

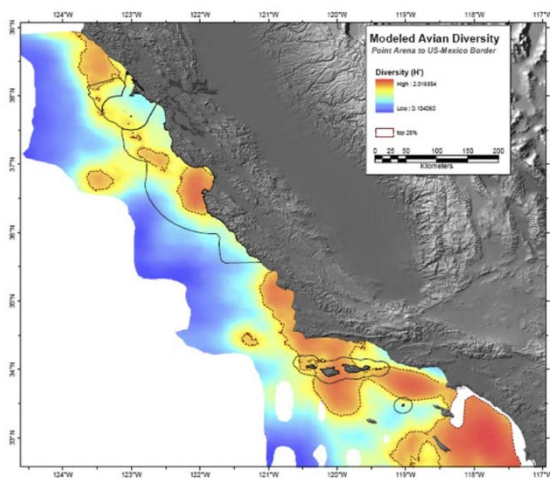


Figure 3 – Modeled Avian Density.

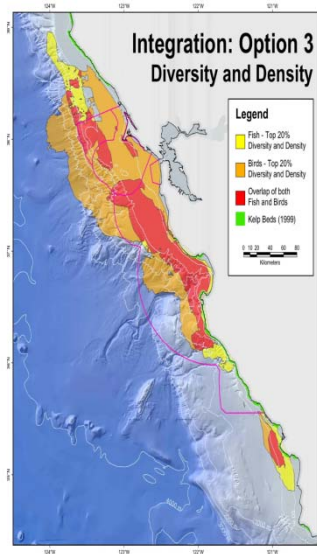


Figure 4 – Integration: Diversity & Density.

This area includes important migratory paths and feeding locations for marine mammals including humpback, Baird's, fin, blue and sperm whales, dolphins and the vulnerable Morro Bay harbor porpoise stock. Commercially harvested fish species include sablefish, Dover sole, shortspine, longspine, and rex sole. Flora and fauna of the area are associated with two distinct oceanographic and climatic provinces critical to maintaining the biodiverse species assemblages to the north and the south of Point Conception. The natural resource protection strategies employed in the ONMS

adaptive ecosystem management will maintain resilience in these vital commercially and environmentally important species.

Southern Sea Otter – With their nearshore distribution, southern sea otters are especially susceptible to human-induced stressors in their environment, representing effective sentinels of the nearshore and coastal ocean health. The species plays a keystone role in preventing kelp forests from being overgrazed by herbivorous invertebrates such as sea urchins and large gastropods. Their larger role in the broader influences of this otter-herbivore-kelp trophic cascade, including the indirect effects on other coastal species and ecosystem processes, and the evolutionary consequences over longer periods of time require continuing research and study.

When MBNMS was established in 1992, the boundaries were designed with the southern sea otter range in mind. Now, vitally important areas of the southern sea otter range are in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties south of current sanctuary protection. According to the 2014 southern sea otter census survey, 32% of the vulnerable species is now located in the proposed sanctuary (See Figure #5.) The scientific community has concluded that range expansion is critical to the species’ recovery and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County coast is an area where expansion and recovery should be promoted. The proposed nomination would substantially increase the amount of occupied southern sea otter habitat within ONMS protection and could provide a buffer zone for the expansion of this ecologically important keystone and sentinel species.

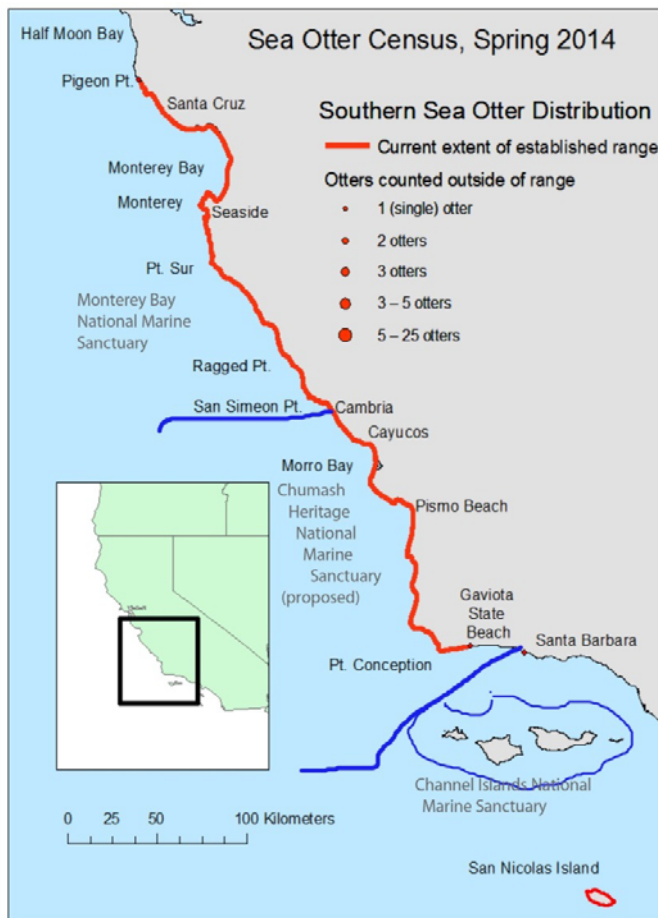


Figure 5 – Southern Sea Otter Range and Census 2014.

Kelp Forest, Seagrasses, Wetlands, Shallow and Deep Water Ecosystems – The proposed sanctuary contains critical habitat for diverse species. Large areas of important habitats such as kelp, seagrasses and wetlands along with a mixture of deep and shallow waters support many important species including commercial fishes and the threatened southern sea otter.

Kelp forests are critical habitat for many species, including commercial fishes and the threatened southern sea otter. Large kelp concentrations are found from Point Conception to Point Mugu. These rocky intertidal kelp forests support a vast trophic web feeding and sheltering invertebrates, young-of-the-year and juvenile fishes, rockfish, piscivorous birds, and marine mammals with populations of both the northern and southern oceanographic provinces. Kelp and algae form understories that provide numerous benthic, mid-water, and surface habitats, nursery areas and protective covers. These diverse habitats form an ecosystem structure that supports and maintains thriving species assemblages and enhances connectivity with adjacent Sanctuary ecosystems.

There are numerous lists and maps that illustrate the nationally and internationally significant marine species' densities and diversities in the proposed sanctuary area. Detailed maps can be found on the proposed sanctuary website at: <http://chumashsanctuary.com/area/>.

Criteria 2: *The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.*

Chumash Heritage Special Cultural Sites – The proposed sanctuary contains a significant part of the ancient history of our nation. It envelops a special sense of place, uniting historic, cultural and natural resources with a unique ocean heritage. The Chumash are an early ocean-going coastal people with thousands of years of artifacts and evidence that make a significant contribution covering an expansive period of our early history.

Point Conception is a highly revered sacred place for the Chumash. According to Chumash cosmology, it is a gateway for the souls of the dead to enter the heavens and begin their celestial journey to paradise (Similaqsa.) Sanctuary designation will provide significant protection for this region that the Chumash hold in their hearts with deep reverence for the ocean, the land and all the living things there.

The ocean is an integral part of Chumash culture and heritage. The unique environment, a south-facing coast with a channel sheltered by the offshore islands, allowed coastal Chumash to develop fishing and trading with Chumash residing on the offshore islands. They fished with a complex array of fishing gear, including harpoons, shell carved hooks, nets, lines, sinkers and fish traps. The tomol, the only sewn sea going plank canoe caulked with tar in North America, is central to Chumash heritage even today. Accomplished mariners, Chumash used their solar, lunar and stellar knowledge to create complex solstice and stellar alignments only now being rediscovered.

In Chumash culture, the concept of Thrivability is a balanced connected understanding of the natural world. Observing, learning and adapting to the interconnections of habitat, the Chumash value caring for the ecosystems of both ocean and land. It remains important to Chumash families

today. Chumash descendants are in the midst of a cultural revival that is a testament to their rich cultural heritage. The tomol is a symbol of connection with the past, the ocean and maritime culture. The tomol keeps the ways of our ancestors alive for generations to come. The Chumash way of life is interwoven with the ocean and the many clans who still exist and thrive on the Central Coast. Today, Chumash people celebrate their ancestral ocean voyages in tomol canoes to honor their ancestors' crossings to the offshore islands and continue to honor ceremonial sites within their historic areas.

In the coastal zone, several significant Chumash village and foraging sites are found near Point Sal and within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Extensive shell mounds from thousands of years of clamming have been documented. Off Pismo Beach, an unknown number of submerged sites are located along possible old drainage systems dating back nearly 20,000 years. The old Chumash capital near Avila Beach and other archaeological Chumash sites have been partially covered by rising seas. Significant Chumash solstice alignments pass along coastal areas and then continue offshore to now submerged rock outcrops. Chumash coastal and submerged sacred site areas continue northward to Ragged Point. These sacred ancient historic and cultural sites embody distinctive characteristics of an indigenous seagoing people and have yielded important historic and prehistoric information. However, significant portions of the area have not been surveyed and inventoried. Rising sea level and oil spills threaten archaeological resources in the intertidal and nearshore zones making study of these sites even more crucial and imperative. There is much more to be learned from these areas that can enlighten and inform us about ancient human coastal culture and history. These areas will benefit from sanctuary protection against the disturbance or collection of important artifacts and sites. (See Figure 6.)

By studying and preserving the cultural legacy of the Chumash, unique historic sacred sites will be protected and our understanding of their culture and history expanded. The Chumash legacy of Thrivability, a balanced, connected understanding of the natural world caring for the ecosystems of land and ocean, will expand and enrich the stewardship and natural resource protection message of the ONMS.



Figure 6 – Chumash Submerged Sacred Site Region.

Maritime Heritage – Not only will the proposed sanctuary focus on Chumash maritime heritage, but the area is rich with more recent maritime heritage shipwrecks. Because of the area’s rocky coastline, a large number of shipwrecks occurred along the coast, several of national significance. One of the most well-known shipwrecks is the oil tanker *S.S. Montebello*. A single Japanese submarine torpedo sank the *S.S. Montebello* carrying 3 million gallons of Santa Maria crude oil just two weeks after Pearl Harbor. Located just seven miles off the coast, the *S.S. Montebello* has been the subject of multiple NOAA research efforts by archaeologists, historians and biologists. In 2003, MBNMS and CINMS staff and local agencies conducted reconnaissance dives to monitor the condition of the vessel and characterize the fish and invertebrate assemblages. A later survey in 2011 determined that there was no substantial oil threat from the sunken oil tanker.

Two miles north of Point Arguello, seven U.S. Navy destroyers ran aground and sank in 1923, the Navy’s worst peacetime loss, the “Hondo Point Disaster.” Point Arguello has been called the “Graveyard of the Pacific,” and is home to over 40 known shipwrecks (See Appendix.) Probably the most famous was the wreck of the *SS Yankee Blade* in 1854 when 415 people perished as the steamship hit the near shore rocks. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the *SS Yankee Blade* shipwreck gold bullion has since been recovered.

The proposed sanctuary contains shipwrecks representing many different periods of history and culture. Some of these submerged resources have been studied while others remain to be surveyed. Along with the known and still to be discovered submerged sites of the Chumash people, this area can become a leading research destination combining history of indigenous people and their sacred sites covering thousands of years of coastal occupation with more contemporary historic shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Pacific.

Criteria 3: *The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Tourism, recreation, agriculture, viticulture, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture and educational institutions are important economic sectors in the region.

San Luis Obispo County – recreation, tourism, retail trade, education and healthcare services, and government. The public employment sector dominates with large state institutions including California State Parks, Cal Poly State University, Cuesta College, Atascadero State Hospital, the California Men’s Colony, and the California Youth Authority.

Santa Barbara County – recreation, tourism, retail trade, education and government. The public employment sector dominates with institutions including Vandenberg Air Force Base and University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), a public research institution ranked ninth among all public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*. UCSB’s marine science program was recognized as a major contribution to their high ranking.

From 2005 to 2011, according to the National Ocean Economics Program) San Luis Obispo County’s ocean tourism and recreation economy grew from \$227 million to \$252 million. Santa Barbara County’s ocean tourism and recreation economy grew from \$512 million to \$564 million.

People come to the region to swim, surf, ski, sail, kayak, dive, picnic on the beach, beachcomb, take

ocean tours and see whales, dolphins and elephant seals. While they are here, they contribute to the local restaurants, grocery stores, lodging, camping facilities and other commercial services. These valuable economic sectors depend on the conservation and management of the area's natural resources to continue to attract visitors to the healthy ocean and coastal zones. A national marine sanctuary would strengthen and connect important existing management among local, state and federal partners to keep this area an international attraction for tourism, recreation and commercial uses while encouraging good stewardship of the natural resources. The vibrant existing tourism base provides the ONMS a wonderful platform to educate national and world visitors about the importance of sanctuaries and natural resource protection. This region has a large and varied tourism base that will increase the number of ocean and climate literate people who are capable of making informed and responsible decisions that may impact the ocean and its resources.

A study commissioned by the Sierra Club entitled "The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary" estimated that designation of a national marine sanctuary on San Luis Obispo County would conservatively:

- Result in additional revenues of \$18,245,014 annually and 547 new jobs.
- Increase tourism in San Luis Obispo County by at least 5% or more if marketing were done to promote new museums and sites of historic and cultural significance

Much of the economic impact from a new sanctuary will be dependent on the extent to which a) the sanctuary staff aggressively market the unique natural, cultural, and historic resources as a focal point for preservation and education, b) the local tourist industry markets the sanctuary, c) academics and NGOs seek to leverage the sanctuary for research funding, d) the amounts of funding forthcoming from the Federal Government, and e) the extent to which Sanctuary policies lead to tangible improvements in coastal ecosystems.

Commercial and recreational fishing contribute to the regional economy. In 2012, the value of the regional landings was \$6,200,000 in Morro Bay and \$10,400,000 in Santa Barbara. The San Luis Obispo County fishing economy generated \$2,420,947 and a GDP of \$8,263,000.

The fisheries are dependent upon the productivity of the region's important transition zone upwelling and biomass maintenance. Aquaculture at onshore abalone farms and oyster operations in the region are impacted by harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification. A proposed sanctuary can bring comprehensive and coordinated management of critical habitats that support these vital commercial and ecologically important resources.

Many economic sectors such as aquaculture, commercial fisheries, tourism, recreation and the harbor economies depend on a healthy ecosystem. Protecting this area, rich with biodiversity, is vitally important to the shifting ocean regimes that come with climate change. As temperatures rise and acidification changes, study of transition zones becomes important and may provide early signals of environmental stressors and their impacts. The proposed marine sanctuary can reduce the environmental perturbations and allow populations and ecosystems to survive the coming changes through research, monitoring and adaptive ecosystem management.

Criteria 4 – *The publically derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Conservation and management of this area's abundant wildlife and natural beauty are crucial to

prevent negative impacts to the public's aesthetic, cultural and recreation experiences. The proposed sanctuary will bring conservation and management benefits to the public by assisting coastal cities and counties with recreational beach access, ocean water quality, and marine education to preserve and enhance aesthetic value, marine habitat protection, and public recreation.

This area includes recreational opportunities in California State parks, beaches, and reserves as well as county and city parks (Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve, Montana de Oro State Park, Estero Bluffs State Park, Morro Bay State Park/Morro Strand State Beach, Pismo State Beach, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, Jalama Beach, Point Sal State Beach, Gaviota Slough, Gaviota State Park, the Juan Bautista Anza National Historic Trail.) This is a limited list of the parks but due to space constraints we have not explained in detail all of the publically derived benefits but would welcome the opportunity to do so.

The proposed sanctuary will contribute to the preservation and protection of the offshore resources linked to the existing onshore parks. The onshore parks need the protection that sanctuary designation provides to maintain the public's aesthetic and recreational quality experiences in the coastal zone. Prohibition of offshore industrialization and maintenance of water quality is key to the public benefit.

Section IV – Consideration Information

Consideration 1 - *The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.*

Per *The Island Chumash: Behavioral Ecology of a Maritime Society*, by Douglas Kennett, "some archaeologists consider the people that lived on this section of the California coast to be among the most socially and politically complex hunter-gatherers in the world."

The proposed sanctuary will enhance, support and collaborate with established scientific research and monitoring of coastal resources. This exceptional and unusual region contains numerous dynamic and complex characteristics that make it significant and noteworthy for marine research. These features provide a wealth of opportunities for NOAA, the ONMS and partner scientists to conduct research in many different fields. Sanctuary designation will attract research grants, increase collaboration in research and monitoring with adjacent sanctuaries, and increase scholarship in seagoing indigenous heritage and prehistoric archaeology.

Transition Zone - Though many oceanographic processes have been described in great detail, our understanding of their linkages to ecological processes is just unfolding. This area has special circumstances that make it an unprecedented living laboratory to study these linkages. Geographic, geological and biological features provide a transition mixing zone around Point Conception. At this area there are bioproductivity shifts, important biogeographic mixing zone and overlapping boundaries for many species. As various stressors occur, these boundaries and mixing zones become shifting passages of instability and change.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) provide chain reactions of oceanographic changes strongly evident in the area. The relaxation of the trade winds in the central and western Pacific results in shifts in temperature, sea level, onshore and northward flow and reduced coastal upwelling of deep, cold, nutrient-rich water. These changes create a shift

in abundance of plankton with a decrease in planktivorous invertebrates and fishes. This results in a shortage of food for marine mammals and seabirds. The recurring El Niño pattern is one of the strongest in the ocean-atmosphere system and may directly affect the composition and structure of biological communities.

The PDO occurs every 20 to 30 years shifting the surface water temperature in the central and north Pacific Ocean. This shift impacts production in the eastern Pacific Ocean affecting organism abundance and distribution throughout the food chain. Numerous changes in terrestrial and marine ecosystems are associated with the PDO. Changes in zooplankton abundance impact species that rely upon zooplankton and their predators for food; species such as Cassin's auklets, Sooty Shearwaters and marine mammals.

High marine bird diversity along the shelf from Morro Bay to Point Conception spreads throughout the Southern California Bight. Upwelling off of Point Conception, Point Arguello and the Santa Lucia Bank attracts seabirds, marine mammals and fishes. Linkages between oceanographic character, marine biological productivity and bird populations correlate to high bioproductivity. Marine commercial resources rely on this productivity for feeding, reproduction and migration.

This transition zone provides an important living laboratory for integrating concurrent research and innovation processes. Having a national marine sanctuary in the transition zone would provide unique collaboration with research institutions as a management partner in grant writing, coordination of projects, research vessels and teams. The dynamics of the oceanographic regimes mixing, diversity of species and bioproductivity of the region provide an opportunity for academia, research institutions and government agencies to monitor the changes in the ecosystem to ensure viable ocean ecosystems in the future. A proposed sanctuary's education and outreach programs can provide translation and interpretation of this ecological and environmental research information to instill climate literacy for informed public decision making.

Climate Change – One approach to understanding the impact of climate variability on marine ecosystem dynamics is to explore the impact of climate variability on key oceanic habitats. In addition to ENSO and PDO, longer-term climatic phenomenon also influence this transitional region. Climate change influences ocean acidification, sea level, temperature, storm events, water quality, species displacement, and oxygen in the ocean.

As a transition zone between oceanographic regimes, the area presents numerous distinctive opportunities for scientific research as the shifting conditions of climate change impacts the mixing transitional waters. There are areas of increased upwelling, dynamic surface currents and eddies and persistent thermal fronts. Monitoring and studying the stressors that impact this region can inform collaborative adaptive management to adjust to climate changes for a more resilient ecosystem.

The proposed sanctuary would collaborate with the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) and California Polytechnic State University (CAL POLY.) The Marine Science Institute at UCSB has extensive multidisciplinary programs combining marine chemistry; marine anthropology and policy; biological oceanography and marine biology; marine geology, geophysics and paleoceanography; ocean engineering; ocean physics, optics and remote sensing; and maritime anthropology and policy.

In San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly offers majors in Archaeology, Geology, Environmental Science,

Biological Science, Fisheries, and Marine Sciences. The university operates the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences with research labs, faculty and student offices augmented by labs at a research pier in Avila beach. Internship programs staff conservation and environmental work programs with the National Geographic Society, National Wildlife Foundation, San Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society Research and Collections Facility, and Student Conservation Association.

Marine Archaeology - The extensive historic evidence of the Chumash has been documented on land with over 188 archaeological sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic places on Vandenberg Air Force base alone. The region contains a well preserved land archaeological record containing evidence representative of specific time periods in cultural history.

There are many gaps in understanding underwater Chumash sites with exceptional potential for research and interpretation that will answer questions about human activities along the coast for over 10,000 years. California State Parks Underwater Archaeology studies and manages inundated cultural resources such as prehistoric coastal sites of the Chumash. A proposed sanctuary would provide support and coordinated management as a longtime partner with California State Parks and provide protection of these cultural resources that state protection cannot. Strengthening the role of underwater archaeology as part of early coastal sites research would not only be extremely advantageous for research into the initial human migration into the New World but would also benefit any archaeologist investigating an ancient landscape that has been partially or fully submerged. Monitoring and surveying underwater sites will provide a more comprehensive and inclusive picture of indigenous culture and history of the Chumash seagoing regional communities and enrich our national history.

Consideration 2

The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

The proposed sanctuary will greatly enhance educational opportunities to understand and appreciate the marine environment and make national marine sanctuary resources more available to educational programs. Programs such as Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) intertidal monitoring have sites in the proposed sanctuary area and can expand with sanctuary support and outreach to area educational facilities. Team OCEAN, BeachCOMBERS, Snapshot Day, beach cleanup, Naturalist Corps, MERITO and other programs expand the mission of natural resource protection to the education sector. The region's rich marine ecosystem provides opportunities for outreach and education to all age levels and to a plethora of residents and visitors.

The proposed sanctuary can facilitate ocean literacy in partnership with existing California K-12 education curriculum. Programs and materials developed by the national sanctuary system such as the Ocean Guardian School Program assists teachers in providing a range of activities, learning programs and classroom materials. The Ocean Guardian Activity Book, Virtual Submersible Dive and Ocean Adventures Interactive Games fit squarely within the established curriculum standards. The Data in the Classroom program provides programs in El Niño, sea level rise, water quality, ocean acidification and coral bleaching. This would augment the schools' offerings and enhance NOAA's goals for a population that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate to make informed decisions about the ocean.

Specific to the established California curriculum, the proposed sanctuary's characteristics and their dynamics form a very important learning laboratory contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the marine environment. Here are some examples of the California K-12 curriculum standards and their relevance to the region's ecology:

- Climate change – Students learn about how variations in temperature and salinity drive a global pattern of interconnected ocean currents. The ocean exerts a major influence on weather and climate by absorbing energy from the sun, releasing it over time, and globally redistributing it through ocean currents. The transition zone presents a working model of interconnected ocean currents.
- Oceanographic regime transition zone and variability influenced by the PDO and El Niño - Students study patterns of movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, geology, and ocean temperatures and currents. The transition zone contains a wealth of mixing diverse wind and ocean currents and unique seafloor structures.
- High resolution paleoceanographic and paleoclimate evidence zones- Students learn how tectonic processes generate new ocean floors. The region has exceptional historic evidence of plates shifting. The transition zone provides diverse examples of seafloor structures such as ridges, fracture ridges, bank, basins, a seamount and continental shelves.
- Diverse and abundant bioproductivity and species assemblages – Students study how anthropogenic changes in the environments, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, overexploitation and climate change, can disrupt an ecosystem and threaten survival of some species.
- Chumash culture and heritage– The proposed sanctuary presents a really distinctive and unique opportunity to expand student and teacher knowledge about early seagoing indigenous people through the cultural and ecological legacy of Thrivability. It brings to life the reality of sea level rise with the submerged ancient sites of a different historic coastline.
- Historic shipwrecks- The numerous shipwrecks and the stories that they encompass enriches learning about the history and circumstances of the ships and their voyages.

The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) network coordinates environmental education in the region. They provide area teachers with resources and training for Next Generation Science Standards, Green Curriculum resources and field trip opportunities. CREEC is a supporter of the proposed sanctuary. There are outdoor education schools, such as the Kern County Environmental Education Program (KEEP) and Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria.

The Marine Science Institute at UCSB already collaborates with CINMS in developing the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS.) The proposed sanctuary will expand the messages of this collaboration to include the dynamics of the transition zone, Chumash cultural heritage and climate change. UCSB, CAL POLY, Cuesta Community College, Hancock Community College and Santa Barbara City College all have ocean-related programs. UCSB, CAL POLY, Cuesta College and Antioch University have offered letters of support for the proposed sanctuary. (See Appendix.) Many also offer anthropology and ethnic studies programs that would benefit from the Chumash heritage outreach and education opportunities.

Along with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, the Morro Bay Natural History Museum, the Central Coast Aquarium and the UCSB OCTOS Center are prime examples of facilities and programs available to partner with to provide technologically current education and outreach for a proposed sanctuary.

Among local active NGOs with ocean-related outreach efforts are: the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara chapters of the Surfrider Foundation working to clean up coastal waters; Central Coast Salmon Enhancement working in stream cleanup; The Marine Mammal Center rescuing injured and ill marine mammals; Pacific Wildlife Care center for injured wildlife; The Sierra Club working on many environmental issues; SLO Science and Ecosystem Alliance studying and supporting marine resources; Morro Bay National Estuary Program; Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center; and The Nature Conservancy completing its fishery enhancement work with Morro Bay fishermen to ensure sustainable fishing practices.

Groups maintaining outreach programs to schools and the community, educating with beach signs and docent programs, and websites advocating ocean protection include: The Pecho Coast Trail docent program; the San Luis Lighthouse Keepers; Friends of the Otter; Friends of the Elephant Seal; Cambria Land Trust; the Northern Chumash Tribal Council; the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation; Citizens Against Seismic Testing, and the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife’s Marine Protected Area Collaborative Implementation Project (MPA CIP) for the Central Coast MPA Network. The California State Parks, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties have ranger and junior ranger programs that conduct marine educational outreach.

A proposed sanctuary could encourage access and good stewardship through a Chumash Heritage Trail. The trail could expand the NOAA-endorsed Whale Trail and offer information for wildlife viewing sites, interpretive messages about Chumash heritage and seagoing history; ancient communities in the area; stewardship messages explaining Thrivability; historic shipwreck information and MPA education. In the region, there are markers along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail primarily along the coastal bluffs and camp sites. Signage could be augmented to include these interpretive themes and expand the historic dialogue to include under represented indigenous history and culture.

Consideration 3 - Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

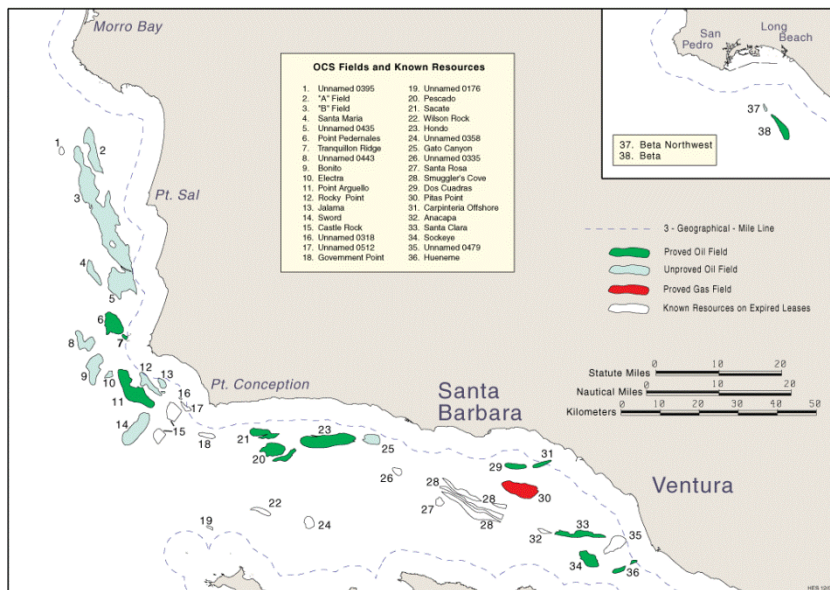


Figure 7 - Known oil and gas fields in federal waters off California's Central Coast (U.S. Minerals Management Service).

The oil spill off Santa Barbara in 1969 resulted in environmental devastation and spawned the call for national marine sanctuaries. Tragically, an oil spill on May 19, 2015, in the same region has prompted a call for both emergency and long-term protection from the threats associated with off-shore oil drilling. A proposed sanctuary would benefit the region by providing resource protection staff familiar with the area that are first responders to emergency incidents in sanctuary waters, such as vessel groundings, airplane crashes and oil spills.

Central Coast communities have seen an increase in other offshore industrial activity and proposed development. The adjacent CINMS and MBNMS have succeeded in protecting the natural resources of the California coast, leaving the coastal region in between a target for escalating development (see Figure 7). National marine sanctuary designation will protect the ecosystem, historic and cultural heritage sites of the Chumash people and vulnerable intertidal and shoreline natural resources from oil and gas drilling or exploration, harmful seismic surveys, and other disturbances of the sea floor and habitat.

Threats to Central Coastal waters have included attempted ocean disposal of Central Valley agriculture waste, air gun seismic blasting in near shore areas and proposals for slant drilling from onshore facilities into the marine environment. Harmful discharges to the proposed sanctuary waters include:

- California Men's Colony waste water treatment history of overflow discharges that flow through the Morro Bay National Estuary.
- Sewage outfalls discharging into the ocean.
- The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant once-through cooling technology that kills billions of organisms and discharges unnaturally warm water.

Central Valley Drainage Project. On two occasions, in 2002 and 2005, the Bureau of Reclamation considered the project “Drainage service to the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley” to dump untreated selenium and pesticide-bearing agricultural waste water from the San Joaquin Valley in Estero Bay a mile and a half from shore and 15 miles south of MBNMS waters. The Environmental Impact Statement for the project stated that a potential northern location for the disposal site had been eliminated from consideration because that site would have been within the boundaries of MBNMS.

Concerns raised by scientists and the public included a myriad of deleterious impacts. Discharge of untreated nutrient-laden agricultural irrigation waters creates "dead zones" and stimulates harmful algal blooms toxic to marine mammals, humans and birds. Bacteria, viruses and parasitic protozoal cysts are introduced into the marine environment, resulting in potential pathogen bioaccumulation in the marine food chain impacting marine ecosystems far beyond the point of discharge. Mercury, boron, molybdenum, chromium, copper, nickel, nitrates, ammonia, phosphates, herbicides and pesticides at very high concentrations pollute the ocean water quality. The communities responded to these threats through a county-wide movement against the project resulting in the removal of the Estero Bay site as a project alternative. These community members welcome the proposed sanctuary as a better alternative for consistent ocean protection and ecosystem management through a prohibition on harmful discharge into sanctuary waters.

Diablo Canyon Seismic Survey. In 2012, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company proposed an offshore seismic survey, using towed arrays of 250db air guns to determine nature and strength of seismic faulting around Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Concerns about short and long term damage to marine life from the surveys were raised by the community. Known impacts on marine species from air guns range from hearing and organ damage to displacement from important feeding or mating areas, masking or obscuring of sounds and behavioral effects, and catch reductions. Humpback, Baird's, fin and beaked whales and vulnerable Morro Bay harbor porpoise stocks are particularly sensitive to the air gun blasts.

PG&E proposed that a seismic vessel tow air guns through prime Central Coast fishing grounds, firing 250-decibel blasts every 15 seconds, 24 hours a day, for a month. Every commercial and recreational fisher on the Central Coast would have been ordered to tie up their boats at the dock for the duration. Originally the project design called for northern survey track that extended into MBNMS. The design was subsequently revised to remove the proposed survey track in MBNMS.

Thus, the seismic survey proposal shared a similar feature in common with the Central Valley Drainage Project and grassroots community campaigns to avert those potentially disastrous environmental consequences: The proposed project site was located adjacent to, but deliberately not within, the waters of a neighboring national marine sanctuary. The Central Coast will continue to be the target for such projects as long as it lacks national marine sanctuary protections. ONMS and NMFS collaboration in reducing wildlife disturbances will protect our diverse and bountiful species from harmful impacts.

Diablo Canyon Once-Through Cooling. Since 1986, the two-unit nuclear power station has drawn in and discharged 2.5 billion gallons of heated water a day into Diablo Cove's rocky intertidal zone. The intake volume is equivalent to a square mile of water to a depth of 14 feet, passed through the power plant intake into the plant's cooling system. This results in the entrainment of marine species, killing all the plankton, fish and fish larvae removed from the cove. The coolant system discharges the water, warmed to a higher than ambient temperature and altering the abundance of many marine life species. Indigenous species around reactor discharge systems are displaced and replaced by others unnatural to that environment. Warmer waters also attract sea turtles, fish, crabs, sea birds, and other organisms. Periodically, reactors are shut down, the flow of warm water stops, and temperature abruptly drops, resulting in cold-stunning species in the waterway.

Warming water decreases reproduction and increases mortality in seabirds. The once-through cooling kills organisms that nurture ocean life. This degradation of the marine environment causes serious repercussions for the ecosystem. The science of ecology recognizes that destruction or disturbance of vital life cycles or balance of a wildlife species in one part of the world may have a profound effect upon the health and welfare of people in distant parts. The effects of the warm water discharge have expanded beyond Diablo Cove and are greater than predicted. In March 2000, the Dept. of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Board concluded that the discharge caused loss and degradation of habitat, decreases in several species' diversity and density, and loss of entire species. The discharge does not provide for protection or propagation of species or habitat suitable for indigenous species.

Low density population and development with increasing pressures from densely populated metropolitan areas. The population of San Luis Obispo county is under 300,000 (2010 census) and

Santa Barbara county around 400,000 (2010 census.) Sandwiched in between San Francisco and Los Angeles metropolitan areas, the central coast is facing tremendous pressure to develop coastal zones. Technology companies are attracted to the area for its beauty and are locating new businesses here. This brings added development with attendant impacts on water quality and marine habitat.

Increasing human populations pose threats to the survival of the ocean ecosystem. As coastal and inland populations grow, their pollutant load impacts and development and conversion of coastal habitats can be expected to grow as well. Nutrient pollution has increased dramatically with the increasing use of fertilizers, growth in domestic and industrial sewage, and increased aquaculture. Increasing fishing pressures have left many major fish stocks depleted or in decline.

A mecca for tourism, the area also draws international visitation for the beautiful coast and beaches; major wine country businesses; numerous wine, lifestyle and film festivals; and the draw of major attractions like Hearst Castle, Oceano dunes and the Santa Barbara “American Riviera.” This popularity equates to increasing wildlife harassment, beach degradation, marine debris and other harmful impacts. Sanctuary designation would provide helpful outreach and education to highlight good stewardship and curb these escalating deleterious impacts.

Offshore industrialization. Several wave power projects off the Central Coast are in the preliminary stages. In December 2013, Florida-based Archon Energy announced its intention to build wave energy parks off of Morro Bay and Purisma Point and has filed permit requests for both with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) Starwood Energy is working with Dynege, owner of the decommissioned Morro Bay power plant, on re-purposing the coastal natural gas power plant for some other form of energy generation.

At the most sacred of places, Point Conception, Chumash and many local Santa Barbara organizations successfully fought and won a battle to stop the development of a proposed liquefied natural gas receiving terminal at Cojo Bay. The plan called for the unloading of 127 ocean tankers annually from Indonesia and Alaska at a proposed marine terminal on the sacred site. Local landowners, environmentalists, Chumash tribes, surfers, kelp harvesters, and fishermen pressed for its defeat.

Given the extent of threats this area has faced, there is a likelihood that there will be more in the future. Sanctuary protection against seabed disturbances and prohibition against taking artifacts would provide much needed protection for sacred cultural and historic Chumash region coastal zone and submerged artifacts. Prohibition against offshore industrialization would protect the water quality and habitat. The Chumash and coastal communities recognize that all these current, future and proposed activities are threats to the area’s beauty, water quality, ecosystem health and natural resources. National marine sanctuary designation is imperative in protecting and sustaining the Central California coast.

Consideration 4 - *A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.*

As the only effective and comprehensive ecosystem based ocean management regime that allows for multiple uses compatible with preservation, a proposed national marine sanctuary would protect the Central California coast natural resources while promoting ecologically sound recreation and

commercial economic uses. Only a national marine sanctuary stretching across state and federal waters can provide this conservation, management and promotion of multiple uses and access.

Sanctuary prohibition against petroleum development will provide much needed conservation value. The sanctuary's proscriptions against dumping, drilling, disturbance of the seabed and harmful discharges will be uniquely protective of Chumash submerged sites, historic shipwrecks and diverse habitats of kelp forests, seagrasses and rocky intertidal zones. With a history of oils spills in this region, the ONMS experienced resource protection staff for incident response in oil spills, boat groundings and other emergencies is particularly relevant and compelling for our coast. Communication coordination, mobilization of response assets, contingency planning and preparedness would benefit the vulnerable region and add immense conservation value.

The leader in maritime heritage programs, ONMS sanctuary designation will provide the area's numerous shipwrecks, Chumash heritage sites and marine cultural landscape with coordinated conservation, scientific research, and opportunities for educating the public. While much is known about the heritage resources on land, there is great potential for further study and description of historic and prehistoric resources submerged in the proposed sanctuary.

The ONMS initiatives to expand collaboration with recreation and tourism businesses will assist a major regional economic sector by recognizing the area's special significance to enhance branding on well-known visitor destinations. The region's efforts at marketing will benefit by sanctuary designation and the natural resource protection messaging reaching out to the expansive visiting public. This will strengthen and improve the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast and provide a platform for teaching stewardship to local, national and international visitors.

Management will be supplemented by the community and citizen engagement with continued local input through ONMS's well recognized public processes and via the sanctuary advisory council informing sanctuary management and policy. The sanctuary advisory council will be made up of diverse representation by local government, Chumash, agencies and other stakeholders. Our communities have a history of extensive involvement in public issues and look forward to participating in the process.

Adjacent national marine sanctuary programs for citizen science monitoring and surveying of beach conditions and water quality testing could easily be expanded to include the proposed sanctuary. These volunteer efforts would provide a great benefit to the region and provide invaluable information about the coastal zone condition to the science and management of marine resources. Team OCEAN, BeachCOMBERS, Snapshot Day, beach cleanup, Naturalist Corps, MERITO and other programs expand the mission of natural resource protection, education and outreach. They are powerful tools to involve public participation and expand awareness and understanding of ONMS.

Consideration 5 - *The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.*

National marine sanctuary designation will supplement the conservation and management goals for the area by collaboration with state marine management and providing additional protections the state laws do not provide. The Marine Protected Areas established under the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) can benefit from sanctuary protections from oil and gas development; prohibition of seabed disturbance and prohibition of harmful discharges. The MLPA does not

protect the ocean from fracking, oil development and other human impacts other than sustainable fishing and gathering. A proposed sanctuary will complement, enhance and supplement the research, management and natural resource protection of the first MLPA-established Central Coast MPA system.

The ONMS's ecosystem based management goals are in keeping with the MPA system's focus on an integrated approach to ocean science and management. The communication and collaboration between the MPA network and the ONMS program strengthens the ecosystem management and a unified approach to managing protected areas. National marine sanctuaries in California already assist with implementation of the statewide network through activities in research, monitoring, outreach and education and enforcement.

- Broad community involvement has laid the groundwork for increased stewardship and compliance in support of effective state MPA management. These engaged communities are ready to support the natural resource protection goals of the ONMS program.
- Partnerships established by the Central Coast MPA system include academic institutions, citizen scientists, fishing communities and state and federal agencies.

Conservation and management of this area's resources are crucial to preserve and protect this productive ecosystem. The citizens of California share this conservation and management goal passing an initiative ultimately creating the California Coastal Commission (CCC.) The CCC addresses issues of shoreline public access and recreation; terrestrial and marine habitat protection; and visual resource standards applied to planning and regulatory decisions of the CCC and local governments. The CCC and NOAA have a long history of successful partnerships in protecting water quality, marine and coastal habitats, recreational access, and archaeological and aesthetic resources. The CCC has written a letter of support for a proposed sanctuary. (See Appendix.)

The region's harbors, state MPAs, estuaries, Harbor Patrol offices and U.S. Coast Guard facilities will be complemented by the collaboration with a national marine sanctuary and federal enforcement authorities.

A sanctuary will also supplement the conservation goals of coastal parks in the region such as Harmony Headlands State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay State Park, Elfin Forest Natural Preserve, Montaña de Oro State Park, Pismo State Beach, Oceano Dunes Vehicular Recreation Area, Pismo Dunes, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, Santa Maria Estuary Beach, Point Sal, Lompoc Surf Beach, and Jalama County Beach. A sanctuary will enhance the communication between the land-based partners and the connection of the watershed, coast and ocean management and protection.

Consideration 6

There are commitments or possible commitments for partnerships opportunities such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.

Commitments of Support and Partnership

Partnerships currently exist between the national marine sanctuaries and the CAL POLLY's SLO SEA vessel research program, Center for Coastal Marine Sciences (CCMS,) the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife MPA Collaborative Implementation Project and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.

California Coastal Commission

The Coastal Commission and NOAA have a long history of successful partnership. In support of the sanctuary nomination, the Commission has expressed that it is prepared to support the effort in a collaborative manner that furthers both state and federal goals including coordination and review between NOAA and the Commission under the Coastal Zone Management Act for the establishment and management of the sanctuary.

Education Institutions

California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo - Ethnic Studies Department

The Ethnic Studies Department wants to partner to develop on-going educational opportunities to highlight Chumash archaeological sites and preserve the history, lifestyle and culture of the Chumash. Faculty will benefit from such a partnership in increase understanding and protecting coastal ecosystems and submerged cultural resources.

University of Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science and Management - One of the top schools of its kind in the nation, the Bren School strongly supports and wants to partner with the proposed sanctuary. The special dynamics of this ecological region provide a critical ocean laboratory their work on national and world's coastal oceans.

Antioch University Environmental Studies Program – The program strongly supports the proposed sanctuary and identifies the desperate need of conservation and management of the vital area with their intertidal monitoring program.

Tribal Trust Foundation – A foundation with an indigenous education focus, The Tribal Trust Foundation supports the proposed sanctuary with its significant cultural, environmental and ecological assets. The foundation supports ecocultural preservation and curriculum development.

Business and Tourism

Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce and Visitors and Convention Bureau

The Chamber and Visitors Bureau is eager to partner with the proposed sanctuary. The Bureau is interested in being active in the type of public-private partnerships with tourism and recreational industries called for by the Sanctuary Advisory Councils in 2014 to promote visitor centers, foster citizen science by engaging visitors in data collection and develop an ocean steward program.

Central Coast Tourism Council

The Central Coast Tourism Council has pledged their support for a proposed sanctuary. The Council promotes the area with a multimedia outreach and education effort to encourage tourism and recreation in the Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura regions. A major theme in their outreach is outdoor adventures, pristine beaches and local events. They publish maps, brochures and itineraries for visitors and residents designating areas for surfing, kayaking, hiking and fishing. They will include the proposed sanctuary in their tourism promotion efforts.

La Isla Fashion Group

A regional manufacturer of socially conscious and eco-friendly swimwear using recycled materials, the company offers its support for a proposed sanctuary and an offer to highlight the sanctuary in their advertising materials, social media and public relations efforts.

Possible non-regulatory opportunities to collaborate with coastal zone partners

Wine Coast County Stewardship Travel San Luis Obispo County

A well-established program in San Luis Obispo County Wine Coast County Stewardship Travel offers outreach to tourism and recreational visitors with an emphasis on responsible stewardship. This program already actively participates in and supports the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Coastal Discovery Center through advertising, outreach and a

donation opportunity. Tours covering history, culture, farmer's markets, agriculture, outdoor activities, state parks, wine, craft beer, culinary events, hikes, guided walks, boardwalks, dog friendly activities, relaxation, spas and family activities are encouraged. There is a list of several volunteer activities for visitors to clean up a beach, learn about toxic algal blooms, take a nature walk on conservation or park land, or learn about the natural history of cultural or historic site.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is a yearly eco-tourism event promoting an understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife and an awareness of environmental and conservation issues of the Central Coast, while contributing to the well-being of the Morro Bay community. The event is sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society with California State Parks, the Central Coast State Parks Association, and the City of Morro Bay. Located on the Pacific Flyway, Morro Bay is a Globally Important Bird Area and a designated State and National Estuary. Over 200 different bird species were spotted during the 2014 Festival. The Festival features pelagic cruises, boat rides and kayaking in the Bay and in wide variety of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. There is a natural resonance of the Audubon mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, Chumash Thrivability and the ONMS mission of natural resource protection.

Santa Barbara Land Trust

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County protects nearly 23,000 acres of rolling hills, working ranches and farms, watersheds, oak woodlands and coastal bluffs in Santa Barbara County. It shares knowledge of land conservation strategies with landowners, planners, public agencies and conservation organizations. SBLT educates the community through field trips with experts in ecology, agriculture and the arts promoting responsible stewardship. The Sanctuary is a natural partner for integrating the land-sea connection with stewardship and natural resource protection.

Film Festivals

Two well-established and successful International Film Festivals are located in the area. The Santa Barbara International Film Festival and San Luis Obispo International Film Festival regularly sell out to capacity crowds. This can be a platform for ocean-themed productions that would provide outreach and education to community residents, international visitors and the media.

Consideration 7 - *There is community-based support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests.*

The supporters of the proposed sanctuary are numerous and diverse. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council and tribe strongly support this sanctuary. Other indigenous support comes from the Bakersfield Chumash Tribal Council and the Modoc Nation-Government for the Modoc People of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Community supporters include archaeologists, businesses, colleges, community organizations, conservation organizations, corporations, education networks, indigenous peoples and foundations, kayak and surf shops, recreational fishers, students and universities.

The Appendix contains letters of support from:

- Elected officials and agencies: the California Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo City Council, California State Senators Fran Pavley and Hannah-Beth Jackson, California Assemblymember Das Williams, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson and Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr
- Regional education centers: Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UCSB; Uta

Passow, Ph.D, Marine Science Institute, UCSB; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Ethnic Studies Dept.; Kristina Foss, Native American Studies, Santa Barbara City College; Lisa Mifsud, Anthropology Professor, Cuesta College; and the California Regional Environmental Education Network.

- NGOs: more than 30 non-governmental organizations representing local, regional, state and national memberships, including the California Central Coast Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Earth Law Center, Environmental Defense Center, Friends of the Sea Otter, Los Padres Forest Watch, Sierra Club, SLO Clean Water Action, SLO Coastkeeper and Surfrider Foundation.
- The community: Santa Maria Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau, 60+ regional professionals, businesses and corporations; and more than 500 community members.
- The 2010 update of San Luis Obispo County's General Plan commits to:

Make every effort to secure permanent protection and management of the County's ecologically and economically significant marine resources using the National Marine Sanctuary, National Estuary, or other programs and legislation as vehicles for protection and management.

Our communities stand ready to be key partners enhancing the goals of ONMS.

Supporting Sanctuary: A Grassroots Effort

The broad local support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is the result of years of work by community volunteers and local non-profits. Outreach has consisted of articles, viewpoints and letters to the editor in local papers, tabling at local events, town hall meetings, postcard mailings and support forms printed in newsletters, interviews on local radio and cable news shows, websites, a business luncheon at a local coastal resort keynoted by Congresswoman Lois Capps, a benefit screening of a documentary on the historic



I support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Name Riikka Madocks

Business Branch Mill Organic Farm/ Riikka Herbal Remedies

Address 2915 Branch Mill Rd Arroyo Grande 93420

e-mail rmadocks@aol.com

mail to: santa lucia chapter of the sierra club - p.o. box 15755 - san luis obispo, CA 93406

I support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Name Mr. & Mrs. E. Gulovsen

Business Ventura, CA

Phone 149-6544

e-mail ecomm@global.net

mail to: santa lucia chapter of the sierra club - p.o. box 15755 - san luis obispo, CA 93406

efforts that saved San Francisco's Golden Gate from development, and community volunteers going door to door to local coastal businesses asking the owners to sign on in support of the sanctuary. The Sierra Club organized the submission of over 10,000 comments to NOAA in support of the revived Site Evaluation process. Community volunteers are continuing to spread the word on the benefits of sanctuary designation throughout San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.



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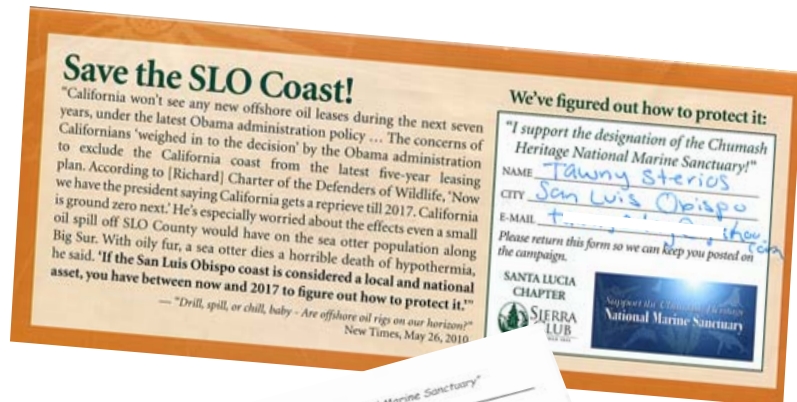
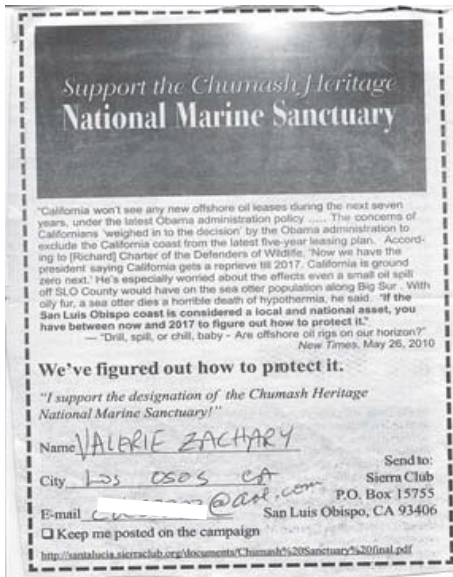
Timing is right for Chumash national marine sanctuary



BY DAN HAIFLEY AND P.J. WEBB
Special to The Cambrian March 25, 2015

Designating the waters off the Central Coast as a national marine sanctuary "offers integrated management, a means of resolving issues, and promotion of education and research," and "results in specific protection for habitat and resources."

That's what San Luis Obispo County said in a proposal submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1990.



COME SEE WHY WE NEED A MARINE SANCTUARY ALONG THE CENTRAL COAST

Learn about our marine environment
How it changes due to rising sea levels
And how you can help protect and preserve our central coast



Short Documentaries of Marine life in SLO County Ocean
When: Friday, July 10th, 6-8 pm
Where: La Perla Del Mar, 205 Windward Ave., Pismo Beach
Admission: \$5

See Biologist Terry Lilley's amazing HD underwater footage used in television documentaries with Sylvia Earle of National Geographic



~ See hundreds of unusual creatures
~ New species never before filmed

And read "Sanctuary!" <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/uscian/2009/06/mc.pdf>

For more info contact
Terry Lilley (805) 441-2206 or
Barrie Valencia (805) 543-8717



A benefit for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Campaign

Director/Producer Nancy Kelly, John Hart, author of *Storm Over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future*, and Fred Collins of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council will speak after the film.

Project made possible by
in partnership with the
National Endowment for
the Humanities



Sunday, May 18
12:30 - 2 p.m.
Palm Theater
817 Palm Street, SLO

References

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Masters, P.M. 1983. Detection and assessment of prehistoric artifact sites off the coast of southern California, in P.M Masters and N.C. Flemming (Eds.) *Quaternary coastlines and marine archaeology: towards the prehistory of land bridges and continental shelves*: 189–214. London: Academic Press

Masters, P.M. 1996. Paleocoastlines, ancient harbors, and marine archaeology. *Shore and Beach* 64: 8–17.

Score Ph.D., J. Kildow, Ph.D. “The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary,” J. September 2014.

<https://chnms.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/chumash-sanctuary-ecomonic-report-100814.pdf>

<http://chumashsanctuary.com/home/>

Shipwrecks

SHIP	SUNK DATE	NOTES	COORDINATES
SS Montebello	23 December 1941	An oil tanker that was torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-21 off Cambria, California.	35 35 N 121 16 W
USS Chauncey (DD-296)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
SS Cuba (1920)	7 September 1923	A German steamboat that was seized by the United States in 1917, and eventually ran aground off San Miguel Island, on the same day as the “Honda Point Disaster”	
USS Delphy (DD-261)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
USS Fuller (DD-297)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
USS McCulloch (1897)	13 June 1917	A cutter boat that collided with the "Governor" off Point Conception, California	
USS Nicholas (DD-311)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
Sibyl Marston (ship)	12 January 1909	A schooner that ran aground off Lompoc, California	34.653474 -120.61747

USS S. P. Lee (DD-310)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the " <i>Honda Point Disaster</i> ".	34.602067 -120.644109
USS Woodbury (DD-309)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the " <i>Honda Point Disaster</i> ".	34.602067 -120.644109
Yankee Blade	1 October 1854	A steamboat that ran aground at Point Arguello Light. Point Arguello, California	34 34 37 N 120 38 50 W
USS Young (DD-312)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California.	34.602067 -120.644109

Sensitive species

- E Abalone, White North America (*Haliotis sorenseni*)
- E Albatross, short-tailed Entire (*Phoebastria (=Diomedea) albatrus*)
- T Gnatcatcher, coastal California Entire (*Poliophtila californica californica*)
- E Goby, tidewater Entire (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)
- T Murrelet, marbled CA, OR, WA (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
- T Otter, southern sea (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)
- T Plover, western snowy Pacific coastal pop. (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)
- E Rail, California clapper Entire (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)
- E Rail, light-footed clapper U.S.A. only (*Rallus longirostris levipes*)
- T Salmon, Chinook California Coastal ESU (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) tshawytscha*)
- E Salmon, coho Central California Coast ESU (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) kisutch*)
- T Seal, Guadalupe fur Entire (*Arctocephalus townsendi*)
- T Sea turtle, green Except where endangered (*Chelonia mydas*)
- E Sea turtle, leatherback Entire (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- T Sea turtle, olive ridley Except where endangered (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- E Snail, Morro shoulderband (=Banded dune) (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*)
- T Steelhead Central California Coast DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- T Steelhead Northern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- T Steelhead South-Central California Coast DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- E Stickleback, unarmored threespine Entire (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*)
- E Tern, California least (*Sterna antillarum browni*)
- E Whale, blue Entire (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
- E Whale, finback Entire (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
- E Whale, humpback Entire (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
- E Whale, killer Southern Resident DPS (*Orcinus orca*)
- E Whale, Sei Entire (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
- E Whale, sperm Entire (*Physeter catodon (=macrocephalus)*)

Believed to or known to occur within the waters of the proposed sanctuary as of 02/13/2015. Source: USFWS

Supporters

Organizations and Entities

Cambria Fishing Club
Big Sur Advocates for a Green Environment
CA Central Coast Marine Sanctuary Alliance
Clean Oceans Competition
COAST (Citizens Opposed to Acoustic Seismic Testing)
Dolphinmotion – Netherlands
Earth Law Center
Friends of the Earth U.K.
Friends of the Elephant Seal
Bakersfield Chumash Tribal Council
Friends of the Sea Otter
Grandmothers for Peace, San Luis Obispo County Chapter
Greenspace-The Cambria Land Trust
Hands Across the Waters,
The Modoc Nation- People of Southern Oregon and Northern California
Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara
Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth, Bennington VT.
Inter-Nation Cultural Foundation (INCF)
KayakMorroBay
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
No Ocean Outfall
Ocean Defenders Alliance
Sail Channel Islands, Oxnard
The Sierra Club
The California Regional Environmental Education Community Network
Safe Beach Now
Save Our Seas-Hawaii
Terra Foundation
Information Press
Center for Biological Diversity
Surfrider Foundation
Environment in the Public Interest
SLO Coast Keepers
Los Padres Forestwatch
Ocean Outfall Group
SLO Clean Water Action

Businesses

A Cut Above Beauty Salon
Ambiance
Archaeological Assessment and Management
Laurence W. Spanne, M.A.
Art Central
Best Western Trade Winds, Morro Bay
Boo Boo Records
Branch Mill Organic Farm/ Herbal Remedies
Central Coast Kayaks, Pacific Outfitters
Central Coast Pathology Consultants, SLO
Curry Fine Arts
Doctor's Hearing Aids
Dr. Cain's Comics
ENT Specialists
Gentle Giant Chainmaille
Gino's Pizza
Golden Donut
Grand Central Music
Harper Jo Clothing
Heating Hands of Happy Hill
Hidden Coast Outdoors
Honeymoon Café, Shell Beach
Introbalance Yoga
Law Offices of Tarren Collins
Lightning Joe's Guitar Heaven

Mission Kitchens
Nordic Mart Inc
Native Herb & Honey Co.
Ocean Friendly Gardens
Ocean Grill Avila Beach
One Rainforest Beacon
Pacific Naturopath Medical Center
Peoples Choice Services
Phoenix Books
PhotoMorroBay

Pismo Collection
Problem Solved, Cambria
Rootamental
Sale Channel Island, Oxnard
Seaside Café & Bakery
Shell Beach Liquor
Shell Beach Surf Shop
Steynberg Gallery
The Big Red House, Cambria
The Drum Circuit
The Fitting Image
The Golden Paw
The Moose Deli & Brew
The Photo Shop
The Sky's The Limit, Pismo Beach
Tigerlily Salon
Trophy Hunters
Verena's Go Gourmet
Young Digital Marketing, San Luis Obispo
New Frontiers Market, Lompoc
Baby Blue, Los Angeles
La Isla Fashion Group, LLC, SLO
Hoola Hut, Avila Beach
Starbelle Enterprises, San Jose
Willow Tree Wildlife, Cayucos
Healing Arts, Morro Bay
Sacred Earth Remedies, Morro Bay
Central Coast Kayak, Pismo Beach
SLO Upholstery, SLO

Individuals

Bill Denneen, Nipomo
Dana Abbott, San Jose
Janette Acosta
Rusty Adams, Arroyo Grande
Nancy Albee, Cayucos
Evan Albright, Cambria
Ameralieta, SLO
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Elizabeth Apfelberg
Jesse Arnold, Cambria
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Shannon Klisch, SLO
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Charmaine Coimbra, Cambria
Steven Matachek, SLO
Joyce Dean, Northridge
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Denis Murphy, Arroyo Grande
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Dani Nicholson, Cayucos

Connie Wilkinson, Pismo Beach	Heidi Petersen
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Bruce Basil Mathews, Apple Valley	Barbara Deborah Schlanser
MJ Allen, Cambria	Michele S. Jang
Maria Rowe, Cambria	Derek Schmidt
Craig Heyl, Cambria	Nancy Rucci, SLO
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David Guido, Huntington Beach	Monlyn Farmor
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Patricia Gomez, SLO	Allison Delute, Santa Maria
Ingrid Pires, Pismo Beach	Gina Mori, Arroyo Grande
Gina Mori, Arroyo Grande	Izabela Bhering, Santa Barbara
Jennifer York, Sebastopol	Robert Moore, Exeter
Kathleen Martin, Morro Bay	Alison Delute, Santa Maria
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Amy Anderson, Santa Maria	Dianne O'Quinn Burke, Los Osos
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Amber Eckert, Arroyo Grande	Grisel Puig-Snider, Los Osos
Charles Tribbey, SLO	Joy Cary, Morro Bay
Abram S. Perlstein, Los Osos	Monique Grajeda, SLO
Kristin Charf, Morro Bay	Jason Chang, SLO
Diana Robertson, Pismo Beach	Jim Brock, SLO
Leslie Nelson, SLO	Justin Stanley, Arroyo Grande
Paula Schultz, SLO	Jeanne Blackwell, SLO
Ana Granskog, SLO	Silvia Suarez, Los Osos
Linda Mulvey, Atascadero	Cassie Blackwell, SLO
Jay Klaus, SLO	Leslie Krinsk
Brett Block, SLO	Josef Reithofer, Nipomo
Sharlene Lucina, SLO	Jill Knight, Cambria
Noach Tangeras, Morro Bay	Peter Steynberg, SLO
Amanda Alvarez, SLO	Sandra Rakestraw, Altos
Harold Wood, Visalia	Ron Garcia, SLO
Karl Blum, Grover Beach	Michael Baugh, Paso Robles
Kelly Macdonald, Shell Beach	Don Henderson, SLO
Chelsea Ray, SLO	Mary Hudson, SLO
Jessica Sanzek, Shell Beach	Suzanne Dannenbring, Los Osos
Rob Nieto, Shell Beach	Nichole Mercier, San Anselmo
Phillip Tociello, SLO	Thomas Reynolds, Los Osos
Jennifer Harbers, Cayucos	
Judy Young	
Kim Ramos	
Karen Van Spuche	

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Ariana Brandao	Anthropology and Geography
Andrew Krumwiede	Landscape Architecture
Lauren Lange	Comparative Ethnic Studies
Tess Millar	Animal Science
Mario Espinoza	Comparative Ethnic Studies
CHRISTINA TRISTE	Sociology
Baylie Hanrahan	Environmental Management & Protection
Legn Cooper	Comparative Ethnic Studies
Sheila Mann	Master of Public Policy
NESTOR VELOZ-PASSALACQUA	MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY
Adam Redding-Kaufman	Economics
Julia Mills	Java RPTA
Kimberly Adams	History
Espie Wilkinson	PSY
Megan Bradbury	Psychology
Skye Gamble-Rainey	Art + Design
Will Greene	Mechanical Engineering
Tim Goulet	Kinesiology
Kaleigh Nunez	Biology
Kristyn Halvorson	Child Development
Hayden Gardner	Plant Sci.
Angela Gunn	Psychology

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Name	Major
Hannah Hester	Graphic Communication
Leah Thomas	Psychology
Cass Bellini	environmental management
Mia Shepard	APCE
Jake Wagner	Business/Entrepreneurship
SOPHUSIT ABOUTALEBI	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Nick Muetterich	Mechanical Engineering
Madison Fleming	Industrial Technology
Andrea Fieber	Environmental Science
Alyssa Parr	Architecture
Dylan Robertson	Civil Engineering
Shane Bennett	ENVM
Jesse Gibson	ENVM
Alexis Montgomery	AEPS-Sustainable Landscape Management + Design
Shayne Jarnett	Child development
Hannah Zanudin	Liberal Studies
Lydia Gregan	Business Admin.
Michael Joerges	Business Administration
Gerardo Ramirez	Civil Eng.
Tiffany Parre	As. Business
Amy Anigrim	RPTA
Natasha Proctor	PHYSICS

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Name	Major
Andrew Pedroni	ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Eric Norling	Aerospace Engineering
Kade Stabenow	Mathematics
Marguerite Metlak	Sociology
R. Leg, Quirk	Materials engineering
Robert Heim	Biological Sciences
Alexandra Hoff	Environmental mgmt + Protection
Sam Patterson	Business Admin
Anna Seskind	Business
Kristen Corey	Communications
Regina Hurley	Philosophy
Alessandra Elliott	Environmental Management
Kaitlyn Johnke	Anthropology and Geography
Amy Parker	B-Med Eng.
Kylie Hensley	ENUE, alumni
Kylie Hensley	Liberal Studies
Heather David	
Colin Empey	Materials Engineering
Dagur Gudmundsson	Environmental Management
Jordan Levy	Computer Science
LINDA VANASUPA VanVanamya	MATERIALS ENGINEERING
Reid Fuhr	Liberal Studies
Emily Dames	journalism
ANNABEL GREALISH	INDUSTRIAL TECH
Stephanie Chin	Business Admin
Ben van Hamersveld	Mechanical Engineer
Cristal Van	Environmental management

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Name	Major
Gabrielle Watson	g.watson@calpoly.edu
Kyle Jordan	kwjordan@calpoly.edu
Kevin White	Environmental Management
Eric Skinkis	Electrical Engineering
Sasha Miller	ARCHITECTURE
Christian Sulyer	Mathematics
Annelise Fenn	Earth Science
Blaise Skibicki	COMS/MLL
Kate Regan	RPTA
Laura Hoover	Journalism
Priya Vase	Business
Dylan Robertson	CE
Rachael Toschi	CEP
Jacob Burg	Anthro/Geography
Chase Hemmer	Construction Management
Abby Andgrim	RPTA
Jeevan Vase	Computer Science

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Zachary Griffith	Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies
Christina Kirdmoff	Biology
Emily Birtz	Animal Science
Amanda Drennan	Statistics
Tona than Schaffer	Psychology
Holly Ryan	Biology
Aubree Boswell	Kinesiology
Dustin Ho	Marine Biology
John Seruce	Agricultural Business
Teghan Shore	Animal Science
Jamie Ko	Biology
John Thomas	Fruit Science
JACKSON NEWEL	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
Julia Stohr	Kinesiology
Brennan Krasny	Biology
Georgia Reeves	Biology
Caitlin Scott	Animal Science
Jacob Smith	Industrial Technology
Katelynn Lee	Biology
Ryan Kadlec	History
Janae Samano	Anthropology & Geography
Grace Montgomery	Philosophy

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Eten Knapp	Anthropology / Geography
Alexis Arens	Theatre Arts
Joshua Elson	Environmental Management

Timestamp	To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.	Please submit your Cal Poly major.
4/8/2015 8:40:02	Lindsey Bowles	Environmental management and protection
4/8/2015 8:40:44	Brandon Miller	civil engineering
4/8/2015 8:55:17	Madison Fleming	Industrial technology
4/8/2015 9:23:30	Michelle Marshall	Business Administration
4/8/2015 9:28:57	Hayley McIntyre	Wine and Viticulture
4/8/2015 9:30:54	Madeline Smit	Environmental Management and Protection
4/8/2015 17:27:00	Allan Isbell	Business Administration
4/9/2015 1:50:49	Bryce Parry	Physics
4/11/2015 13:31:18	William Osselburn	Anthropology & Geography
4/14/2015 14:56:37	Damicela Grace Calhoun	Kinesiology
4/14/2015 14:57:05	Madison Jacoby	Kinesiology
4/14/2015 16:55:51	Christian Antaloczy	Economics
4/14/2015 17:30:07	Luke Breazeale	Journalism
4/14/2015 18:18:18	Greg Lutgen	Biological Sciences
4/14/2015 22:48:29	Daniel Tatum	Microbiology
4/15/2015 11:03:58	Nicolas Higuera	Computer Science
4/15/2015 17:09:05	Danielle Skipper	history
4/15/2015 21:08:39	Nick Jaffe	
4/15/2015 21:23:12	Lucy Haworth	ENVM



Cambria Fishing Club, Joslyn Center
950 Main St, Cambria, CA 93428
805-927-3364
www.cambriafishingclub.com

December 3, 2014

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Site Evaluation Proposal

The Cambria California Fishing Club is the oldest recreational fishing club on the central coast of California. We have a long history of support for measures that help further the goals of recreation and preservation of our abundant local marine resources. It is towards that end that we encourage the Director to consider the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal, a rare opportunity to provide both ecological and cultural preservation along the California coast.

We live on the central coast and frequently fish in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We know that a sanctuary designation has not and will not interfere with the pursuit of our sport. With the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south, we need protections for the irreplaceable resources that lie between the two sanctuaries.

Filling this gap makes sense ecologically and administratively. It is also the ancestral and present day home of the Chumash people, who have occupied this section of the coast for thousands of years. Their deep connection with the land and water of the central coast has led to a history of stewardship. Their desire to preserve significant cultural sites, many of which are now submerged, should be supported.

Please consider carefully the site proposal for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. We hope, along with many in the region, that this hole in federal protections along the central coast of California can finally be filled. Ending the disturbance of ancient Chumash cultural sites will preserve the dignity such places deserve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jordan Pavacich', is written over the 'Respectfully,' text.

Jordan Pavacich, President

DONALD BREN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
STEVEN D. GAINES, DEAN

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106
<http://www.bren.ucsb.edu/>

May 1, 2015

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Bill:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The chance to expand the nation's National Marine Sanctuaries is a rare and important opportunity. The Sanctuary program has played an incredibly valuable role in preserving and promoting many natural and cultural treasures in the coastal waters of the US. The opportunity to expand this important network with new sites deserves careful evaluation of what any new proposed site would bring to the Sanctuary program.

I believe the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would be an outstanding choice with rich cultural, ecological and economic benefits. On the cultural side, the proposed site includes a unique collection of Chumash historical sites that are now submerged. Celebrating and protecting this cultural history from the region's earliest residents is extremely important and would provide an educational and scientific platform for further learning. On the ecological side, this region has incredible biological assets that warrant protection – some of the highest diversity of marine mammals on the entire planet, one of the world's sharpest biogeographic transition zones at Pt. Conception, extremely productive and diverse ecosystems fueled by intense upwelling of nutrient rich waters, and an incredible richness of habitats that range from the shoreline to deep nearshore submarine canyons. Finally, on the economic side, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary could greatly enhance the tourism draw of this coastal region by branding and highlighting these incredibly important cultural and ecological assets.

In my own career, I have worked closely with the National Marine Sanctuary program on a wide range of scientific and policy projects. These partnerships have led to important discoveries about how our coastal ecosystems work, how people can interact with them in sustainable and profitable ways, and how our public and private institutions can effectively manage these important assets for today and for future generations. Such partnerships with the academic community have been greatly facilitated by the Sanctuary program. Indeed, most would not have been possible without the opportunities that sanctuaries provide. I believe that the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would drive enormous interest for similar partnerships with local institutions such as California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and the University of California, Santa Barbara. As just one example of this draw, the

October 23, 2013

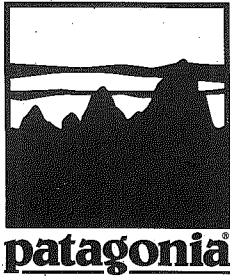
proposed Sanctuary region is the boundary between two very different regions of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. This boundary separates very different ecological communities and very different physical regions. Its dynamics, however, are incredibly sensitive to climatic variation. Changes in this boundary region foretell major changes that will occur elsewhere along the coast, albeit much more slowly. The dynamics of this ecological region provide a critical ocean laboratory for studies of our nation's and the world's coastal ocean. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would facilitate important research efforts on this and other critical issues. By filling the gap between the Monterey and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries it would also create a contiguous set of sanctuaries of a size that would be among the largest marine protected regions along an urban coastline.

I am a very strong proponent of this proposal and believe that will would be an outstanding addition to the nation's National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven D. Gaines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Steven D. Gaines
Dean
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
University of California, Santa Barbara



July 8, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

I'm writing to convey Patagonia's support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, proposed off the coast of California, between Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria.

The proposed new sanctuary, positioned between the current Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, would expand critical protection for key cultural and natural resources in our region. These include submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. As indicated in the proposal, there are "25 threatened and endangered species in the proposed sanctuary including white North America abalone, southern sea otter, Southern California steelhead, as well as killer and humpback whales."

Having recently experienced the May 19, 2015 oil spill off the Gaviota Coast, we are particularly attuned to the impact of industrialization, particularly off/ on-shore oil exploration, on our coast. The proposed new marine sanctuary would help protect our fragile coastline from future expanded development of this kind.

Many of our employees and customers recreate on this stretch of California coastline – and we support protection of these opportunities to enjoy our natural resources. In particular, we support the intent of this proposal to not impose additional restrictions on recreational fishing, given an already strong system of Marine Protected Areas and regulations in place.

Following this nomination and proposal process, we look forward to a full public-facing process that will include input from all key stakeholders and communities. And, we will continue to engage in that process, as it unfolds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hans Cole
Director of Environmental Campaigns and Advocacy
Patagonia, Inc.
(805)667-4652
Hans.cole@patagonia.com

259 West Santa Clara Street, 93001-2717, P.O. Box 150 Ventura, CA 93002-0150 . (805) 643-8616 FAX (805) 653-6355 patagonia.com

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Patagonia, Inc. is a member of 1% For The Planet.



CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4035
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4027
FAX (916) 651-4927

DISTRICT OFFICE
5016 N. PARKWAY CALABASAS
SUITE 222
CALABASAS, CA 91302
TEL (818) 876-3352
FAX (818) 876-0802

California State Senate

SENATOR
FRAN PAVLEY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
CHAIR
ELECTIONS
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

July 28, 2014

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

With the call for nominations for new National Marine Sanctuaries, I would like to convey my support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. Closing the gap between the protected and unprotected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area also features the Santa Lucia Bank with benthic communities of world-wide significance where 13 species of whales and dolphins gather and feed; three major upwellings; a 3,000 meter deep five-fingered submarine canyon; and cetacean gathering areas and migration lanes. There is a vibrant marine ecosystem with kelp forests, sea otters, world-class fish diversity, and harbor seals. The wetland and on-shore ecosystems include coastal dunes, estuaries, and rookeries.

Active community support for the designation includes the following organizations: the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Santa Lucia Chapter of Sierra Club, SLO Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, COAST, and Northern Chumash Tribal Council. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity in healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast.

I request that you strongly consider the nomination for the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Seward at (818) 876-3352 in my District Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fran Pavley".

Fran Pavley
California State Senator
27th District

Cc: Marine Sanctuary Alliance
Mr. Frank DePasquale

California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

February 2, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Attn: Mr. William Douros

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

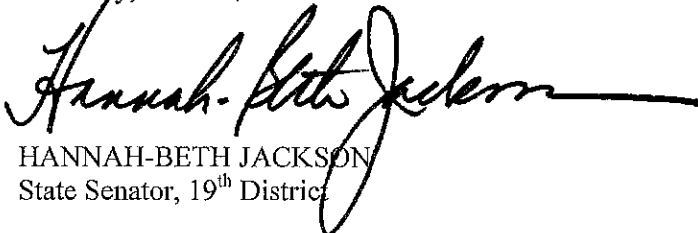
With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. This proposed site will effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The proposed sanctuary contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. The proposed site is a rich marine ecosystem and includes on-shore wetland and other ecosystems that include coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

According to the NOAA nomination guidelines, acceptance requires "broad-based community support." Support for the proposed sanctuary includes the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Center, COAST, the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, among others.

I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's central coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HIGHER EDUCATION
EDUCATION
NATURAL RESOURCES
BANKING AND FINANCE

CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INNOVATIVE GREEN FINANCING
MECHANISMS

Assembly California Legislature



DAS WILLIAMS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037
FAX (916) 319-2137

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE F
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 641-3700
FAX (805) 641-3708

March 5, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Attn: Mr. William Douros

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. This proposed site will effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The proposed sanctuary contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. The proposed site is a rich marine ecosystem and includes on-shore wetland and other ecosystems that include coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

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I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's central coast. Thank you for your consideration.

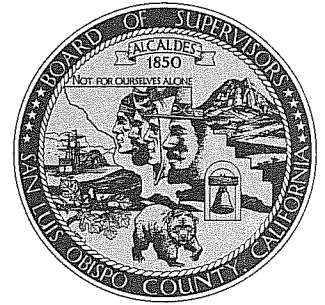
Sincerely,


DAS WILLIAMS
Assembly Member, AD 37



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1055 MONTEREY, ROOM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408-1003 • 805.781.5450



December 15, 2014

BRUCE GIBSON
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT TWO

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

I write in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey Bay. Closing the gap between the protected and unprotected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources, including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites.

The area also features the Santa Lucia Bank, with benthic communities of world-wide significance, where 13 species of whales and dolphins gather and feed; three major upwellings; a 3,000 meter deep five-fingered submarine canyon; and cetacean gathering areas and migration lanes. This extraordinary offshore environment is deeply connected to shore ecosystems that include wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries, and rookeries.

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity, ensure healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast.

The nomination has gained the support of a wide variety of groups, including environmental, tribal and fishing organizations. I request that you support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 805-781-4338. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRUCE GIBSON
Supervisor, District Two
San Luis Obispo County

DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



**OFFICE OF THE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2192
Fax: (805) 568-2883
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 27, 2015

NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed Marine Sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. If nominated, this site would effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The zone contains vital cultural assets, including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's Central Coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

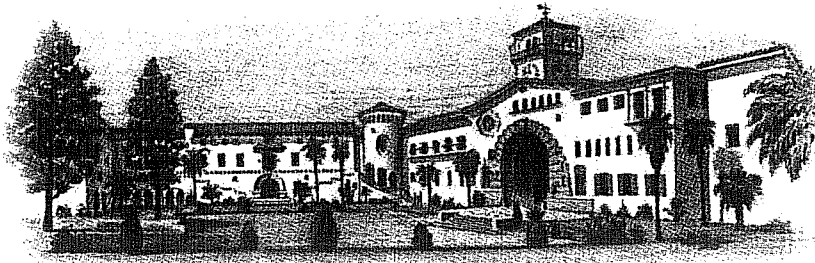
Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District Supervisor

JEREMY TITTLE
Chief of Staff

ERIC FRIEDMAN
District Representative

**LISA VALENCIA
SHERRATT**
District Representative



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TELEPHONE: (805) 568-2186
FAX: (805) 568-2534
www.countyofsb.org/bos/carbajal
E-mail: Scarbajal@sbcbos1.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 2, 2015

NOAA Office National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93490
Attn: Mr. William Douros

RE: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

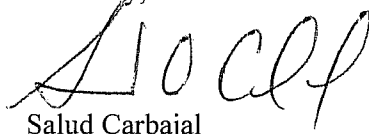
I am writing to express my support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the Central Coast of California. This area contains significant cultural, ecological and environmental resources that are important to the region.

As First District Supervisor for Santa Barbara County, I have witnessed the important protections and resource management that the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary has provided to the marine ecosystem of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The experience here as well as that of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary to our north underscores the need for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary which would be located between them. It would strengthen the network of marine protections along California's coast and extend benefits that include enhancing wildlife protections, improving safeguards for sensitive coastal ecosystems such as wetlands and estuaries and protecting sacred cultural sites of the Chumash.

The sanctuary will also benefit regional economic interests. This area is both a recreational and tourist destination and possesses an active fishery. National Marine Sanctuary status will include stronger regulations and enforcement of harmful ocean discharges, improved water quality and prohibiting offshore industrial development. In addition, there will be enhanced interactions and partnership opportunities with U.C. Santa Barbra and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo which are local world class research and academic institutions with strong environmental programs. These partnerships would facilitate in-depth analysis of the efficacy of the Sanctuary.

I strongly urge you support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This is a unique area with an historical legacy worthy of protection for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,


Salud Carbajal



Office of the City Council

990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249
805.781.7114
slocity.org

January 28, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey, Room D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1003

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

On behalf of the City of San Luis Obispo and the community members we serve, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Northern Chumash Tribal Council for its nomination to create a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in the coastal waters off of San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.

The City of San Luis Obispo is happy to join the vast number of supporters advocating for the Tribal Council's nomination to protect our pristine south Central California coastline and designate these local ocean waters to be protected by the highest levels of preservation for future generations. In addition, we are supportive of the recreational benefits as well as the economic benefit of increased permanent, local jobs in our region.

The City of San Luis Obispo strongly supports this conservation effort of an irreplaceable ecosystem which provides numerous environmental benefits to wildlife and people alike. We look forward to the approval of the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,


Jan Howell Marx
Mayor

CC: Northern Chumash Tribal Council

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
TDD (415) 597-5885



January 6, 2015

William Douros
West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for Chumash National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Mr. Douros:

I write on behalf of the California Coastal Commission in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary offshore San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. These waters have nationally significant marine, geological, biological and cultural characteristics, including abundant populations of diverse marine mammals and fish species, sensitive benthic habitats and kelp forests, major oceanic upwellings, and areas of unique beauty and cultural significance for the region's indigenous peoples. There is also significant public support for the designation of coastal waters from Santa Rosa Creek to Gaviota Creek as a National Marine Sanctuary, reflecting a growing consensus that the marine waters off the Central Coast are worthy of additional study and protection.

National Marine Sanctuary status is complementary with the California Coastal Act policies including those protecting water quality, marine and coastal habitats, recreational access, and archeological and aesthetic resources. The Commission and NOAA have a long history of successful partnership with respect to coast and ocean stewardship in and around the four existing marine sanctuaries in California. Integrated coastal management also will be increasingly important as we move forward with climate change adaptation, including addressing sea level rise and ocean acidification, proposed desalination facilities, coastal erosion and a whole host of related challenges. Sanctuary status enhances coordination efforts, scientific research relating to marine ecosystems and conditions, and funding opportunities.

Should the current proposal move forward, the Commission is prepared to support the effort in a collaborative manner that furthers both state and federal goals. This review will include coordination and review between NOAA and the Commission under the Coastal Zone Management Act for the establishment and management of any new or expanded National Marine Sanctuary. We look forward to our on-going shared management and protection of California's marine waters, including potential designation of a new marine sanctuary. Please let me know how my staff or I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Lester".

CHARLES F. LESTER
Executive Director



May 31, 2015

Dear Mr. Douros,

The Tribal Trust Foundation is a non-profit organization working to empower indigenous people and preserve the environment. The Tribal Trust Foundation Board endorses eco-cultural preservation and curriculum development. With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, the Board supports the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California as this proposed site contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are imperative to protect.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The marine environment between these two existing sanctuaries is in desperate need of conservation and management. A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value as there is much oil drilling in the area that can harm the coastline and resources, submerged Chumash villages, and numerous sacred Chumash sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are imperative to protect.

We strongly support this nomination and implore you to advocate for the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This sanctuary would preserve a truly unique and significant marine and near shore ecosystem and strengthen the economy along California's Central Coast.

Sincerely,

Tribal Trust Foundation Board
President, Barbara Savage
Vice President, Dawn A. Murray, Ph.D.
Bob Orenstein, Esq.
Sarah Fretwell
Anne-Marie Charest, Ph.D.



SMVCC

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau

March 23, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau offer our wholehearted support for the creation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California in Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

The protection and promotion of our beautiful, historically significant coastal area is hugely important in the promotion of rural tourism in both counties. In particular, the town of Guadalupe, home to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve and Oso Flaco Lake, would benefit substantially from tourism should this sanctuary be dedicated.

Between 2005 and 2009, when overall US employment dropped by 2.3 percent, ***the coastal tourism economy grew by 2.7 percent and helped our nation survive the recession.*** This booming coastal tourism industry is founded on clean and healthy habitats, abundant fish and wildlife, and the visitor opportunities they support.

The creation of this sanctuary would fill the gap in the chain of national marine sanctuaries that protect most of California's extraordinary coastal waters, and would allow for advances and collaboration in the protection of our waters, marine wildlife and coastal economy.

The coast of California was first inhabited by one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the New World. Ancient submerged Chumash village sites extend offshore, and more than a dozen coastal sites have been continuously occupied for more than 9,000 years. The Central Coast is the site of the most significant wetlands on the West Coast, the highest coastal sand dunes in the state, kelp forests, coral reefs, and a major population center for sea otters, sea lion haul-outs, and whale and porpoise feeding areas.

We ask that you take action now to create a way for our communities to actively thrive while protecting and promoting the treasures that lie in our backyard.

We are aware that in June 2014, all National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils called for sanctuaries to forge innovative public-private partnerships with recreational industries, promote visitor centers, foster citizen science by engaging visitors in data collection, and develop ocean steward program.

The Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau is eager to participate in such a partnership. We are in dire need of this on the Central Coast. Please help us move forward with the creation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast of California forward.

Sincerely,

Gina Keough
Director, Santa Maria Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

ANTIOCH
UNIVERSITY
SANTA BARBARA

602 Anacapa Street | Santa Barbara, CA 93101 | 805.962.8179 | www.antiochsb.edu

May 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Douros,

I am a marine biology professor and started the Environmental Studies Program at Antioch University Santa Barbara. During my dissertation, Dr. John Pearse and I created an intertidal monitoring program (rocky shore and sandy beach) and students are still collecting long-term comparable data in the Sanctuary system today with the program - LiMPETS. With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my deep support for the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California.

I am also the Vice-President of the Tribal Trust Foundation, supporting eco-cultural preservation, and this proposed site contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are incredibly necessary to protect.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The marine environment between these two existing sanctuaries is in desperate need of conservation and management. A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value as there is much oil drilling in the area that can harm the coastline and resources, submerged Chumash villages, and numerous sacred Chumash sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are imperative to protect.

I strongly support this nomination and implore you to advocate for the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This sanctuary would preserve a truly unique and significant marine and near shore ecosystem and strengthen the economy along California's Central Coast.

Sincerely,



Dawn A. Murray, M.S., Ph.D.
dmurray2@antioch.edu



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

William Douros

West Coast Regional Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F Monterey, CA 93940

Where Lifelong Learning Happens

April 23, 2015

RE: Support for Chumash National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.)

Dear Mr. Douros:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary offshore San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. I write you to offer my insight to Chumash culture. First, let me qualify my assessment by highlighting my background. I am a professor of Anthropology at Cuesta College where I teach courses in California Indians, Cultural Anthropology, and Native North Americans. I also work as a bioarchaeologist for the Chumash. I excavate, identify, and repatriate disturbed burials in culturally appropriate decorum.

In this capacity, I see firsthand the tenuous balance between the need for development, cultural sensitivity and misaligned goals stemming from cultural misunderstandings. To this end, I will endeavor to articulate land's cultural significance to California Indians. While California's indigenous populations recognized nature's value, very few cultures had a concept of land ownership. Rather, they see themselves as stewards of nature, safe-keeping natural resources for future generations. The natural world is a place of religious significance, offers an abundance of food, provides shelter and raw materials, medicines to promote health, and is the point of origination for their culture. This is a philosophy of a culture who sees themselves as part of nature, and not superior to it.

The cultural significance of land is a commonality between cultures. Preservation of our coasts, marine life, and native cultural heritage presents a unique opportunity to work together, learn from one another and strive to achieve environmental protections which benefit us all. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lise M. Mifsud, M.A.

Anthropology Professor

Cuesta College



San Luis Obispo County
★ **Democratic Party** ★

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 15155
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

(805) 546-8499
slocdp.org

Office Headquarters:
3592 Broad Street, Suite 100
San Luis Obispo, CA

FPPC: 742552/FEC: C00276659

June 12, 2015

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100 F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

The San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party supports the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Our communities have long supported protection of the beautiful natural resources of our coastline and ocean. Our local economies depend on protecting the habitat that provides food, clean water, jobs and a healthy environment for our families, our neighbors and our visitors.

The sanctuary can protect our business, recreation and tourism economies by prohibiting harmful ocean discharges, maintaining water quality and prohibiting offshore industrial development. The fisheries benefit through protection of the vital habitats that provide nurseries and nutrients for fish. The established and growing education and research institutions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties will benefit from an even stronger partnership with NOAA ocean research projects that can improve adaptive management of the ocean. Existing stewardship outreach and education programs can collaborate and partner with the sanctuary to encourage conservation and protection of the land, the watersheds, the intertidal, the coast, the ocean and our planet.

Chumash heritage provides a special significance to this nomination. Protecting the vital habitat and sacred cultural sites will establish a distinctive opportunity to preserve, interpret and educate our communities and visitors about the heritage and history of the Chumash. The history and cultural stories of indigenous peoples have been underrepresented in our public dialogue. The connection between the historic seafaring Chumash, the beauty of this coast, Chumash cultural values to protect all of nature and NOAA sanctuary designation combine to make this a place of exceptional national significance.

We add our voices to the strong grassroots support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Harris".

Pat Harris, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party

May 24, 2015
Kristina W. Foss
2925 Valencia Drive
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105

Dear Staff of NOAA,

I urge you to consider adding the area designated for a Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary to the list of sites for NOAA to consider for such status. Further, I can enthusiastically endorse acceptance of this area as a fully recognized federally designated Marine Sanctuary. This section of California's Central Coast is often called by biologists "America's Galapagos" due to the incredible variety of species found in its' waters. It is a unique habitat where species from both northern and southern habitat zones meet and are found together.

The coastal area is very fragile and subject to increasing intrusions and environmental damage as populations and resulting human activities in the coastal region increase without added protections and regulation. A designation as a Marine Sanctuary would help mitigate these growing intrusions and damage. The current devastation of the Gaviota coastline is a prime example of the intrusions that can wreak havoc on the area unless NOAA takes action.

I have taught Native American Studies, including a course on Chumash culture and history, at Santa Barbara City College for over 40 years. As such I am well familiar with the history, habitat and cultural uses and preservation of the area by the Chumash. I have been involved in numerous preservation efforts and organizations as well as served 18 years on the Board of the Quabajai Chumash Association here in the Santa Barbara area. Although my Native heritage is not Chumash, I have been deeply involved in their preservation efforts over the years. I am also the Museum Director of Santa Barbara Mission and the Cultural Resource Manager of the Mission National Landmark. I am therefore, aware of the many problems extant in the field of preservation –whether it covers historic or whole environment preservation. I am currently engaged in preservation work under a Federal government NPS Save America's Treasures grant, so am familiar with the many conflicts and interests involved in preservation. I also know it is both important and feasible to protect these American resources for ourselves and future generations.

Designating the name of the sanctuary as the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would be highly appropriate as the Chumash people have been the caretakers of this region for thousands of years. Down through the centuries they have both made a living and protected the habitat in successful ways, preserving it for future generations. The name will encourage us all to do likewise, following their wise example for the generations to come. Please designate the area mapped as the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary as a fully recognized unit of the Marine Sanctuary program, with all the appropriate protections that designation will provide. I urge you to go forward immediately with the investigation and public review process that will make clear to all the importance of following through with this historic designation. I fully support the efforts of the Chumash people and the Sierra Club of California to gain approval for this sanctuary designation. It is truly needed for the preservation of ocean wildlife and coastal marine habitat in the area.

Sincerely Yours,
Kristina W. Foss,
Native American Studies, SBCC

Uta Passow, Ph.D.,
Biological Oceanographer, Researcher
264 Alost Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010

31 March 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey CA 93940
Attn.: Mr. W. Douros

Re: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

The proposed sanctuary would include important oceanic and coastal ecosystems and Chumash sites, all of which are worthy of protection. As a scientist studying the consequences of ocean acidification, my main concern is to mediate the effect of lowered pH to allow organisms and ecosystems along our coast to continue to thrive. Due to upwelling and local impacts changes in pH are exceptionally large off the CA coast and current conditions are already at levels expected in the future in other regions of the world oceans. Research of the past years has shown that many of the organisms living in this environment are impacted by the pH of the water. It is also beginning to become increasingly clear that the specific response of marine organisms and populations to ocean acidification depends on the presence of other environmental stressors. Organisms may be able to prosper even under low pH conditions, if the other environmental conditions exert little or no stress, but this takes additional energy for the organisms. The simultaneous onslaught of several environmental stressors, however, can't be mediated. Ecosystems that are threatened by several perturbations thus have a much smaller chance of surviving ocean acidification than their healthy counter parts. Protection will hopefully reduce the environmental perturbations and allow populations and ecosystems to survive the coming changes. The proposed sanctuary contains several different ecosystems, including upwelling systems, a deep canyon, wetlands, dunes, estuaries and rockeries all of which are in urgent need of protection, before it is too late. I would like to express my strong support for establishing the proposed sanctuary in this area of the Californian coast.

Uta Passow





For Wildlife in Distress, call our Hotline
805-543-WILD (9453)

Pacific Wildlife Care
PO Box 1134
Morro Bay CA

February 13, 2015

Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway N/NMS 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pacific Wildlife Care has been rescuing and rehabilitating the wildlife of San Luis Obispo County since 1986 and the Board of Directors would like to add our voices to the chorus of local citizens asking that our coastal waters be designated as a National Marine Sanctuary. As has been noted, this would link together the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay sanctuaries thus protecting this rich coastal region that is important to marine life and is a critical part of the Pacific Flyway. Pacific Wildlife Care is only too familiar with the damage and destruction caused by the abuse of our natural resources and we strongly support the Northern Chumash Tribal Council's efforts to ensure the oversight and management that would come with this designation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret R. Crockett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret R. Crockett, President
meg@pacificwildlifecare.com



January 27, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Sent via e-mail: william.douros@noaa.gov

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, the Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”) would like to convey its support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The EDC protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. EDC’s marine work has a long history of supporting expanding protection in our region, and we were among the first to advocate for creating both a National Park and National Marine Sanctuary at the Channel Islands.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public’s interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, back in 2005. EDC has closely tracked sanctuary proposals in our region and supports a new or expanded marine sanctuary off the Central Coast.

Following nomination, it is our understanding that NOAA will conduct an initial review. If the proposal meets designated standards, it will undergo further consideration. During this process, we expect NOAA will examine the ecological, historical, archaeological and cultural importance of the proposed region. We look forward to a NOAA process that will engage communities, native groups, and other entities before any nomination is accept or rejected. According to the NOAA nomination guidelines, acceptance requires “broad-based community support.”

We look forward to continuing the conversation about on-going management and protection of California’s marine waters, including potential designation of a new or expanded marine sanctuary. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Kristi Birney at (805) 963-1622 or kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org.

Sincerely,



Linda Krop
Chief Counsel



Kristi Birney
Marine Conservation Analyst



January 27th, 2015

Surfrider Foundation
PO Box 6010
San Clemente, CA
92674-6010

Mr. William Douros
Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Mr. Douros,

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves, and beaches. We write to express our strong support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the central California coast on behalf of our 250,000 members and supporters in the United States.

The Surfrider Foundation has been actively working with a myriad of stakeholders to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) in California waters and we believe the establishment of the Chumash Sanctuary will complement the hard work of many residents to protect special, biologically rich places and ecosystems. The proposed sanctuary will provide crucial protection from offshore oil and gas development for the marine ecosystem and adjacent coastal communities. The area of expansion is one of the most ecologically significant in the world and contains a diverse assemblage of marine life and habitats. These outstanding natural resources must be protected from the risky and environmentally damaging practice of offshore drilling.

The establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will also enhance marine science and education opportunities, and help protect vital socioeconomic benefits that result from a healthy and productive marine ecosystem. The coastline of interest is used by thousands of Surfrider members and supporters for a variety of activities including surfing, diving, kayaking, beachcombing, fishing, and aesthetic enjoyment. Moreover, these recreation and tourism opportunities support many local businesses such as motels, restaurants, and shops that depend directly on the health and beauty of coastal environment. Establishing the Chumash Sanctuary will help ensure these uses and values are protected for generations to come.

Finally, the Surfrider Foundation would like to acknowledge the efforts of our local San Luis Obispo Chapter, which has actively participated in the development of the proposal with the Chumash Tribe, the Sierra Club, and other partners. As a grassroots organization, we encourage

the robust engagement of our members and chapters in the planning of marine protected areas. We believe that MPAs, including national marine sanctuaries, should be developed thoughtfully and in close consultation with affected communities and stakeholders. This has certainly been the case with the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal, as evidenced by the number and diversity of its supporters.

Sincerely,

Pete Stauffer
Senior Ocean Program Manager

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn
California Policy Manager

Jennifer Jozwiak
Co-Chair, San Luis Obispo Chapter

Niel Dilworth
Co-Chair, San Luis Obispo Chapter

Mark Morey
Chair, Santa Barbara Chapter

January 12, 2015

William Douros
Western Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940



Re: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for nominations for new National Marine Sanctuaries, we would like to convey our strong support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that deserve protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Monterey. Closing the gap between the protected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary with environmental, economic, and cultural benefits.

The mission of ECOSLO is to promote resilient ecosystems and healthy lifestyles so San Luis Obispo County can thrive. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources and is known for three major upwellings offshore that feed multiple species of whales, dolphins and world-class fish diversity. A sanctuary designation will protect these coastal resources for future generations and promote a resilient and thriving community in San Luis Obispo. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity in healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast as outlined in the significant economic study submitted as part of the nomination documents.

We request that you strongly consider the nomination for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact ECOSLO at 544-1777

Sincerely,

Melody DeMeritt

Interim Executive Director representing the ECOSLO Board of Trustees

cc: Marine Sanctuary Alliance

75 Higuera Suite 100, PO Box 1014, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

www.ecoslo.org



San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER®



North County Watch

Looking Out Today For Tomorrow



SIERRA
CLUB
SANTA LUCIA
CHAPTER

February 2, 2015

Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Basta,

We are writing to support the nomination and designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast of California.

This region was first inhabited by one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the New World. Ancient submerged Chumash village sites extend 13 miles offshore, and more than a dozen coastal sites have been continuously occupied for more than 9,000 years. The Central Coast is the site of significant wetlands, kelp forests, coral reef, and the highest sand dunes in the state. The existence of one of the only non-seasonal upwellings of nutrients off the west coast makes it a major population center for sea otters, sea lion haul-outs, and a cetacean feeding area.

The history of efforts to utilize these waters for oil exploration and the dumping of toxic agricultural runoff are a consequence of the lack of National Marine Sanctuary protection and emphasize the need to secure that protection. National Marine Sanctuaries serve to enhance public awareness and understanding of marine resources, support and help fund scientific research, allow local stakeholders to present a united position on matters of mutual concern (including oil and gas exploration and development, ocean dumping and marine mammal issues); and facilitate a proactive approach to ocean protection.

We believe the waters of the Central Coast meet the standards of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act for the recognition and protection of nationally significant oceanographic, geological, biological and archaeological characteristics. We urge NOAA to pursue the proactive approach to ocean protection, support for scientific research and the enhancement of public understanding of the Central Coast's unique marine habitat which the creation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would facilitate.

Sincerely,

Gordon Hensley,
SLO CoastKeeper

Sue Harvey, President
North County Watch

Jeff Kuyper,
Los Padres ForestWatch

Michael Jencks
Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter

La Isla Fashion Group, LLC

2150 King Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-455-5389
esr@laislabrand.com

May 20, 2015

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Mr. W. Douros,

Since I founded my company in 2001, I have always been passionate about the protection of our oceans. Moving to San Luis Obispo county four years ago made this passion grow even stronger. I have had the privilege of having a first hand experience with the immense diversity and beauty of the local marine environment during this time. I fully support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

If the sanctuary were to be nominated, I would personally look into the different ways in which my business could partner with it. I would be interested in incorporating the sanctuary into our advertising materials, public relations efforts and our social media amongst others.

Respectfully yours,



Enrique Sánchez-Rivera
Chief/Executive Officer
Managing Partner

La Isla Fashion Group, LLC

