



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Reviewer:

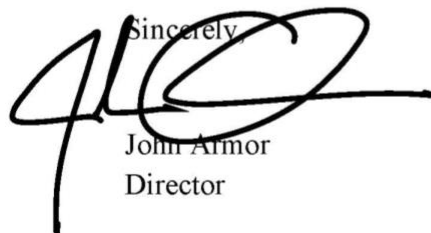
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed designation of a portion of the central California coast and offshore waters as a new national marine sanctuary.

The area nominated by the community in 2015 and evaluated by NOAA for designation as a new national marine sanctuary spans portions of the historical areas of multiple Chumash and Salinan peoples and specific locations important to multiple tribes and Indigenous communities. ONMS wishes to acknowledge all Chumash- and Salinan-affiliated tribes and associated organizations in the region.

NOAA prepared this document to assess the environmental impacts of designating a national marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). The NMSA requires that an EIS be prepared for designation of a national marine sanctuary regardless of the significance of the impacts of the proposed action.

This document announces the availability of the draft EIS for public comment. NOAA is also publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking and draft management plan for public comment along with the draft EIS. Comments will be accepted until October 25, 2023 and should be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. To submit a comment electronically, go to www.regulations.gov and search for docket NOAA-NOS-2021-0080. For those wishing to comment orally at a public comment meeting, please find details at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>. Written comments may also be directed to the sanctuary official identified below.

Sanctuary official: Paul Michel, West Coast Regional Policy Coordinator
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific St #100f
Monterey, CA 93940

Sincerely,

John Armor
Director