

Resolution of the  
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

RESOLUTION to submit a letter of support for extending the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) nomination

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (the SAC) recommends that the CHNMS site nomination remain active on the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s list, as a relevant asset in NOAA's inventory of successful nominations to be considered in the future for potential sanctuary designation. In response to the public comment period closing June 15, 2020, the SAC will submit a letter expressing this support.

Attachment: Support letter

cc: Maria Brown, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent

This resolution was passed with majority vote by a quorum of primary members (or alternate members serving in place of primary members) at a public meeting on June 15, 2020 held via Google Meet.

***The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.***

**NON-GOVERNMENT SEATS**

**Commercial Fishing**

Barbara Emley (Secretary)/Primary  
Sarah Bates/Alternate

**Community-at-Large San Francisco/San Mateo**

Joe Fitting/Primary  
Kris Lannin Liang/Alternate

**Community-at-Large Marin**

Dominique Richard (Chair)/Primary  
George Clyde/Alternate

**Community at-Large Mendocino/Sonoma**

Cea Higgins/Primary  
Nancy Trissel/Alternate

**Conservation**

Richard Charter/Primary  
Bruce Bowser/Primary  
Francesca Koe/Alternate  
Kathi George/Alternate

**Education**

Vacant/Primary  
Bibit Traut/Alternate

**Maritime Activities - Commercial**

John Berge/Primary  
Julian Rose/Alternate

**Maritime Activities - Recreation**

Abby Mohan (Vice Chair)/Primary  
Joshua Russo/Alternate

**Research**

John Largier/Primary  
Jaime Jahncke/Alternate

**Youth**

Ezra Bergson-Michelson/Primary  
Owen Youngquist/Alternate

**GOVERNMENT SEATS**

**California Department of Natural Resources**

Mark Gold/Primary  
Michael Esgro/Alternate

**National Park Service**

Cicely Muldoon/Primary  
Ben Becker/Alternate

**U.S. Coast Guard**

LCDR Lee Crusius/Primary  
LT Jacob Joseph/Alternate

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Chris Barr/Primary  
Gerry McChesney/Alternate

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

Chris Mobley/Primary  
Mike Murray/Alternate

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Paul Michel/Primary  
Dawn Hayes/Alternate

**Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Dan Howard/Primary  
Michael Carver/Alternate

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Primary/Alternate

**At-Large Marin**

Dominique Richard/George Clyde

**At-Large Sonoma/Mendocino**

Cea Higgins/Nancy Trissel

**At-Large San Francisco/San Mateo**

Joe Fitting/Kris Lannin Liang

**California Resources Agency**

Mark Gold/Michael Esgró

**Commercial Fishing**

Barbara Emley/Sarah Bates

**Conservation**

Richard Charter, Bruce Bowser  
/Francesca Koe, Kathi George

**Education**

Bibit Traut/Vacant

**Maritime Activities/Commercial**

John Berge/Julian Rose

**Maritime Activities/Recreational**

Abby Mohan/Joshua Russo

**National Park Service**

Cicely Muldoon/Ben Becker

**Research**

John Largier/Jaime Jahncke

**United States Coast Guard**

LCDR Lee Crusius/LT Jacob Joseph

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Chris Barr/Gerry McChesney

**Youth**

Ezra Bergson-Michelson/Owen Youngquist

National Marine Sanctuary Reqs

**Channel Islands**

Chris Mobley/Mike Murray

**Cordell Bank**

Dan Howard/Michael Carver

**Monterey Bay**

Paul Michel/Dawn Hayes

Officers

**Chair**

Dominique Richard

**Vice Chair**

Abby Mohan

**Secretary**

Barbara Emley

## Sanctuary Advisory Council

### GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

June 15, 2020

Mr. John Armor, Director  
NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program  
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor  
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Armor,

In 2015, after the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published the rules to re-establish the process by which American communities nominate a “special place” for inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary system, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, along with letters of support from diverse stakeholders in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, submitted a proposal to nominate the *Chumash Heritage NMS* (CHNMS), a stretch of ocean between Cambria and Santa Barbara. However, because this proposal has not been moved to a designation process in the last five years, a request to extend the nomination beyond 2020 needs to be submitted.

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) supports the extension of the nomination on the following grounds:

1. Named after the local native American tribes, the new sanctuary would reflect the contribution of the coastal Chumash tribes and the First Nation to the health of the ocean. Indeed, their rich maritime heritage underscores the deep significance of the ocean to humanity. The ocean is a living part of their mythology, and they continue honoring their ancestors through a “pilgrimage” that involves crossing the water between the mainland and the Island of Santa Cruz in their traditional Tomol, a redwood canoe recognized as a superb example of naval architecture. The SAC recognizes the value of diversity in stakeholders and values diverse stakeholder representation, in particular with regard to maritime and Native American heritage. In light of dramatic climactic and cultural shifts occurring now, there is an urgent need for tribal entities and federal agencies to take a cooperative stewardship role.

2. The proposed sanctuary is designed to include the continental shelf as well as the escarpment rich with deep underwater canyons. It is influenced by the California Current and subjected to the yearly upwelling that yields some of the most productive waters on Earth. It provides a link between its three sister sanctuaries to the north (Monterey Bay, Greater Farallones, and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries) and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south, from Point Arena to Santa Barbara. Furthermore, it sets aside a stretch of ocean that would help science better assess the biological productivity of this system and enhance its understanding of ocean dynamics in the context of climate change.

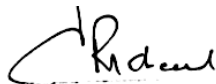
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3. By virtue of its designation as a sanctuary, CHNMS would be protected from oil and gas exploration as well as seafloor ocean mining, restrictions which would help protect local fisheries and the clean coast economy. Both of these industrial activities now pose an increased threat to the region. CHNMS would also be able to implement regulations against large ship discharges which has been identified as an environmental problem.

4. Located near Santa Barbara, only two hours from Los Angeles, and in near proximity with picturesque California Highway 1, CHNMS, as a tourist destination, could become a premier site to promote the sanctuary system and its mission to the Southern California public as well as to national and international visitors.

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recommends that the CHNMS site nomination remain active on NOAA's list, as a relevant asset in NOAA's inventory of successful nominations to be considered in the future for potential sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Dominique Richard, Chair, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc:

Maria Brown, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent  
William Douros, ONMS West Coast Region Director