



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

Merrick Burden
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Ste 101
Portland, OR 97220

October 16, 2024

Dear Director Burden:

As required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. 1433(b)(2)), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is providing notice of a final rulemaking published today to designate Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in the waters along and offshore of the coast of central California to recognize the national significance of the area's ecological, historical, archaeological, and cultural resources and to manage this special place as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System. The sanctuary encompasses 4,543 square miles of coastal and ocean waters, and 116 miles of California coast off the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. The sanctuary will span a maximum distance of 60 miles from shore, and reach a maximum depth of 11,580 feet below sea level.

A broad coalition of community leaders, led by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, nominated the area for national marine sanctuary designation in July 2015. NOAA began the sanctuary designation process in November 2021 with publication of a notice of intent to conduct scoping and prepare a draft EIS (86 FR 62512), which was followed, in August 2023, by release of the draft designation documents, including a proposed rulemaking, terms of designation, draft management plan, and draft EIS (88 FR 58123). The final environmental impact statement was published on September 6, 2024 (89 FR 72841). For more information, please visit <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>. The sanctuary will become effective after 45 days of continuous session of Congress. If you have any questions about this final action, please direct them to Mike Murray, Acting West Coast Regional Director, at 805-203-6273 or michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



John Armor,
Director



cc: Kelly Ames, Deputy Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Kerry Griffin, Council Staff, , Pacific Fishery Management Council