

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16-17, 2022**

Prepared on June 3, 2022

**ITEM NUMBER:** 6

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Designation of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary – Process Overview and Update by Paul Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator, NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Regional Office

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**KEY INFORMATION**

**Location:** Coastal and offshore waters from Cambria to the Gaviota Coast between the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties)

**ACTION:** Information and Discussion

**SUMMARY**

Paul Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Sanctuaries, West Coast Region, will provide a brief overview of National Marine Sanctuaries (<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>) and give an update on the process underway to consider designating the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>) on the central coast to protect the region's important marine ecosystem, maritime heritage resources, and cultural values of Indigenous communities. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council submitted the sanctuary nomination in July 2015 on behalf of a broad community consortium, and NOAA initiated the designation process in November 2021. NOAA is in the process of implementing a multi-year designation process to consider public and agency input and develop draft documents for review before making a final decision. This item is intended as an informational item for board and public engagement.

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