

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Vijaya <vjinsb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 12:01 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Dec.14 2021 BOS Meeting Agenda Item A-44 on Designation of the Chumash Heritage NMS Resolution
Attachments: Chumash Heritage NMS Support Letter 12.14.2021.docx



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Please find, attached, a joint letter of support from the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara and the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley on the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Resolution.

Sincerely,
 Vijaya Jammalamadaka (she, her)
 President
 805-462-7126

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy
 328 E. Carrillo Street, Suite A
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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December 14, 2021

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Re: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria Valley support the Board's Resolution to support designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear County Supervisors,

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB) and Santa Maria Valley (LWVSMV) strongly support the Board's Resolution to support designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). The designation of the CHNMS would protect sacred Chumash sites, feeding grounds for numerous species of whales and dolphins, sea otter populations, kelp forests, and is home to vital commercial and recreational fisheries.

In the face of the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss and their resulting impacts to communities, culture, traditions, and economies, national marine sanctuaries are critically important management tools to conserve marine biodiversity and safeguard the local communities and economies that depend on a healthy ocean ecosystem.

Protection of natural resources cannot be done in a society that does not also value and actively support environmental justice. We thank the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (Council) for their leadership and guidance in this nomination process and support the comments they have submitted. We stand with the Council in support of protecting this place for Chumash Peoples and all others who wish to visit the proposed CHNMS to appreciate the majesty of this region. We also commend the State of California in its effort to increase collaboration with Native American tribes. Further, we applaud California's efforts to enhance public access for all people in the state, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Vijaya Jammalamadaka, President **LWVSB**
Lisa Thornhill, President, **LWVSMV**