



October 25, 2023

Paul Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for Designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA-NOS-2021-0080)

Dear Mr. Michel,

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB) has been following the proposed designation of the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary. We appreciate the open process NOAA has followed, ensuring inclusion of all stakeholders. The LWVSB shares the goals of many in the community to protect our important environmental and cultural resources. We support the proposed designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary by NOAA to protect the unique marine environment off the Central California Coast, and to honor the cultural heritage of the Chumash people. We urge NOAA to manage the Sanctuary collaboratively with Indigenous nations.

The LWVSB also supports the pursuit of alternative forms of energy to address the ongoing climate crisis. We urge that the regulations for the newly designated Sanctuary provide for appropriate future offshore wind energy development and prohibit additional oil and gas development.

Finally, the LWVSB requests that NOAA impose regulations to control harmful discharges from cruise ships, ensure vessel speed reductions, and require the use of cleaner burning fuels and clean water release. These measures will go a long way to permanently preserving and protecting the marine resources in this important part of our California coast.

Sincerely,

Vicki Allen, VP, Communications
Leadership Team
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Sandra Grasso-Boyd, Chair
Environmental Action Committee
LWVB