



A California Joint Powers Agency

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Gregg Hart, Chair
Das Williams
County of Santa Barbara

Carmen Ramirez, Vice Chair
Matt LaVere
County of Ventura

Executive Director
Marc Beyeler

Santa Barbara Address:
105 East Anapamu, Suite 201
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Ventura Address:
501 Poli St.
P.O. Box 99
Ventura, CA 93001

Email:
Office@Beacon.ca.gov

Website:
<http://www.beacon.ca.gov>

January 24, 2022

Paul E. Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator
NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

Docket No. NOAA-NOS-2021-0080
Submitted Electronically

Subject: Proposed Designation of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Michel:

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) is submitting this letter in support of the Proposed Designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). At its Board Meeting on January 21, 2022, the Board unanimously approved sending this letter in support of the proposed designation. The CHNMS would provide enhanced opportunities for marine resource conservation, research, education, cultural and historic restoration, and climate and sea level rise adaptation.

BEACON is a regional Joint Powers Authority of the two coastal counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura and the six coastal cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, Port Hueneme, and Oxnard, responsible for beach erosion prevention and coastal restoration within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell (SBLC) from the Santa Maria River in the north to Point Mugu in the south (Exhibit 1). BEACON would share a large coastal and ocean landscape region with the proposed Chumash Heritage NMS.

At the recent January 2022 BEACON Board meeting, several board members supported suggestions that NOAA consider evaluating the eastern (southern) end of the proposed NMS boundary to include the coast and ocean area extending to Point Mugu in Ventura County. The BEACON Board supported this suggested consideration be included in this letter of support. This potential change would include an even larger area of Chumash historical habitation and important cultural centers of life and include the missing section of the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell within the



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NMS boundaries, better linking the governance boundaries (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary) with the important coastal and ocean ecological boundaries (Santa Barbara Littoral Cell and Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands).

BEACON is responsible for developing regional sediment management projects to preserve and enhance regional shoreline resources, including importantly the region's beaches. BEACON is tasked with many responsibilities for project and program development essential to sustainable and resilient regional sediment management, coastal protection and enhancement, and regional climate and sea-level adaptation planning and implementation.

BEACON's regional sediment management and climate adaptation efforts are essential to successfully address the regional impacts of climate changes and sea-level rise in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties through developing innovative natural infrastructure and resources conservation, enhancement, and restoration projects consistent with state priorities for coastal climate adaptation.

BEACON's work would be supported with the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. With a focus on resource protection the proposed CHNMS will complement BEACON's regional efforts to preserve and enhance our regional coastal resources, important cultural resources, coastal working landscapes, and the region's biodiversity.

Respectfully,

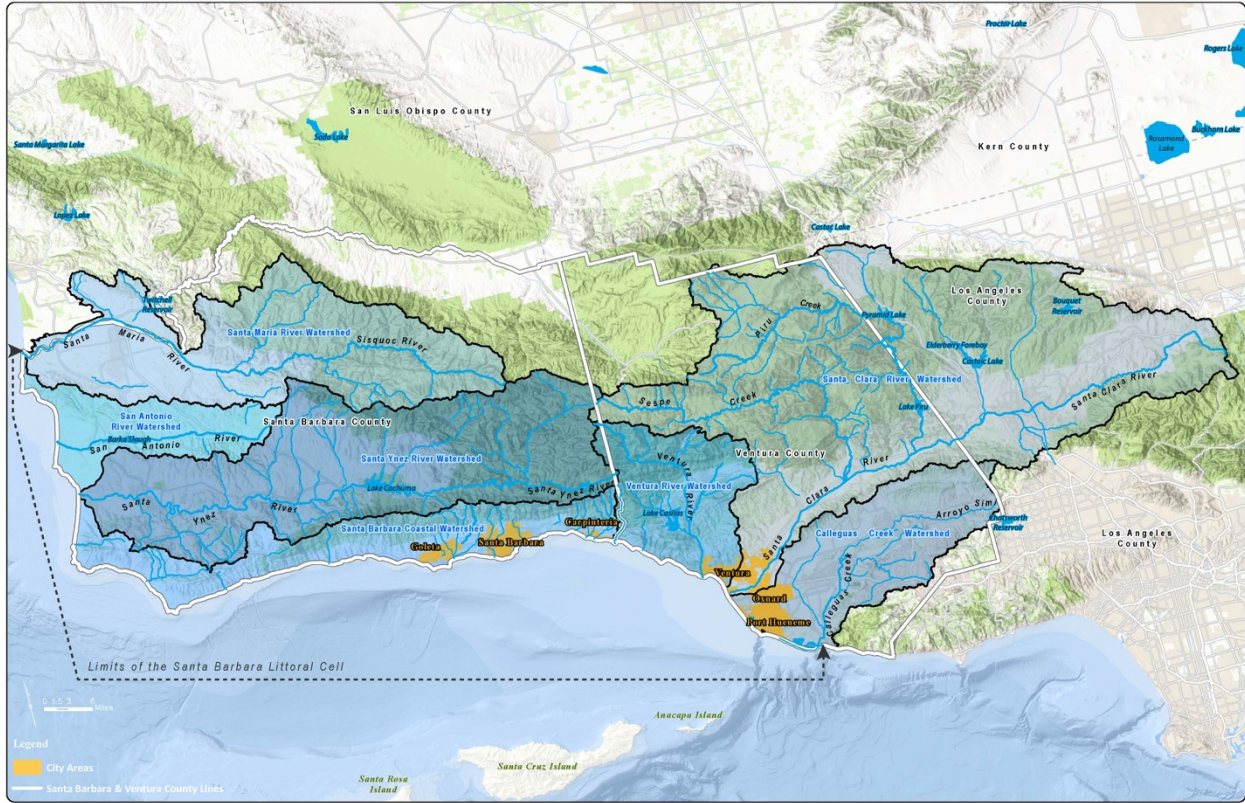
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gregg Hart'.

Gregg Hart, Chair
BEACON Board of Directors

Exhibit 1. The BEACON Coast (attached)

Exhibit 2. Potential Sanctuary Boundary Expansion (attached)

Exhibit 1. The BEACON Coast





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Exhibit 2. Diagonally Marked Area- Potential Boundary Expansion-CHNMS

