



**From the Office of the Mayor**

Shelly Higginbotham

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October 1, 2015

Mr. John Armor, Acting Director  
NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program  
1305 East-West Highway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Armor,

I am writing to ask that you not approve the proposed "Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. At the very least, please slow down the process to approve. As an elected official in Pismo Beach, I would like the opportunity to have a presentation to our City Council to discuss the proposal. We need time to put the item on our agenda with a staff report.

I personally am opposed to the proposed designation of the "National Marine Sanctuary" in the waters off the coast of Pismo Beach. I am of the opinion that in the waters of California there are so many protections in place that this designation will have unintended consequences affecting commercial entities, public safety (i.e. rescue exercises in the water); and recreation opportunities. Additionally, we have plans to do major infrastructure improvements on our pier. This designation could potentially delay the much needed work which is critical. As a coastal city we have regulations in place vis-vis the California Coastal Commission and the Regional Water Quality Board to name two.

I join the large number of community leaders and stakeholders in stating my opposition to designating a proposed "National Marine Sanctuary" off our coast.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Higginbotham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly Higginbotham  
Mayor

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