

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF

HARBOR MASTERS AND PORT CAPTAINS

INCORPORATED

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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY OF BRISBANE
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CITY OF EUREKA
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VESSEL ASSIST BAY & DELTA

March 14, 2016

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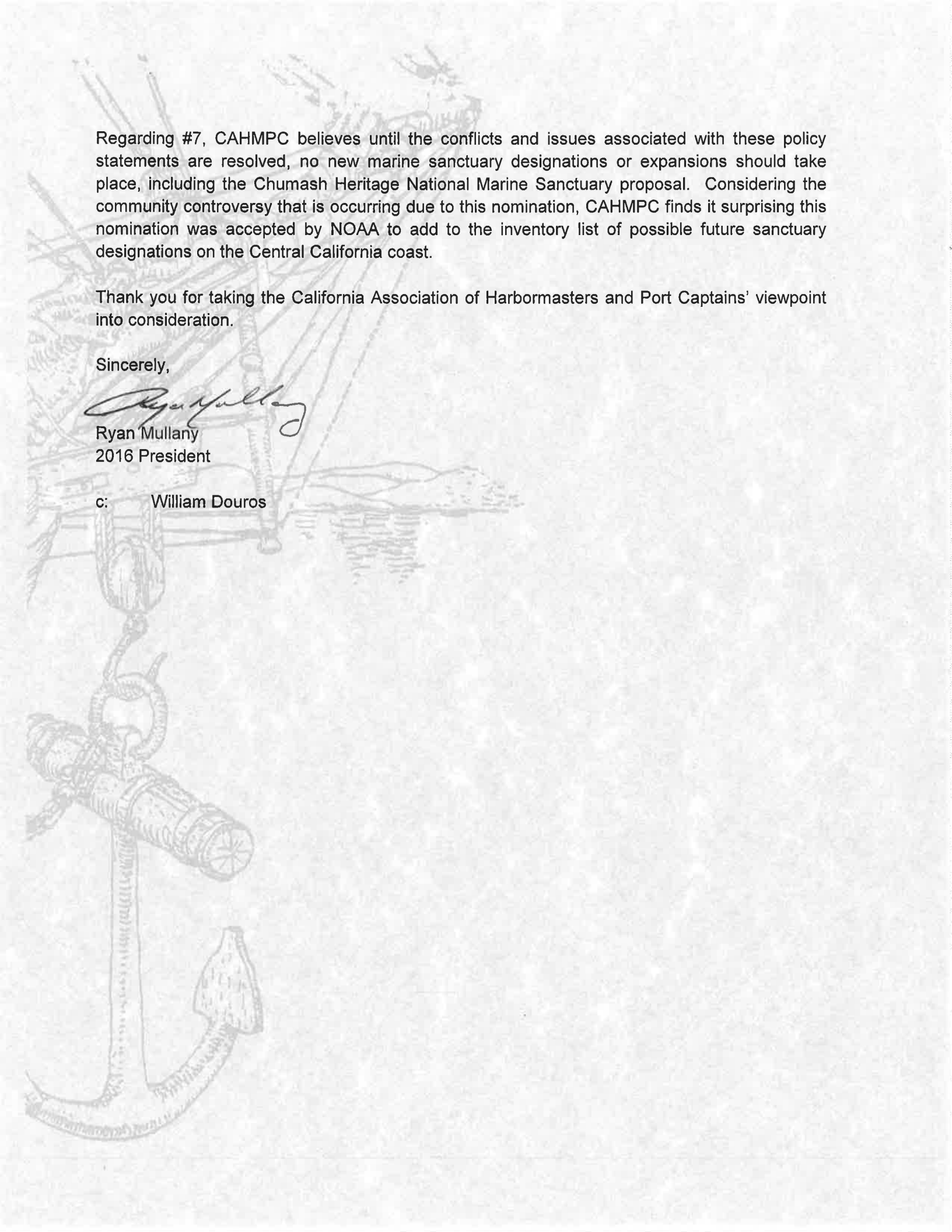
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On behalf of the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, Inc. (CAHMPC), a 68 year-old professional organization of harbors, ports, marinas, and related businesses across the State, including many members with important commercial and recreational fishing elements, I would like to bring to your attention our Association has the following legislative policy on National Marine Sanctuaries. This policy is the result of many years of interactions with the National Marine Sanctuary Program:

1. CAHMPC supports the preservation of the Nation's oceans through Congressionally-established Marine Sanctuaries.
2. Sanctuary status should not reduce the ability to transport dredged material to designated disposition sites. Sanctuaries should not add additional requirements or obstacles to the existing rigorous State and Federal regulatory review process for dredged material disposition.
3. Sanctuary status should not restrict vessel traffic nor require alterations to shipping lanes that are not supported by that industry.
4. Sanctuaries should not be involved in the regulation of fisheries, either directly or indirectly, or through reserves or no-take zones, on behalf of the Sanctuary Program. This should be left to existing regulatory authorities.
5. Sanctuaries should not restrict the ability of Ports and Harbors to perform general maintenance, or construct improvements required for operations. To that end, we recommend boundary buffer zones around Ports and Harbors.
6. Sanctuary Advisory Councils should be strengthened to create a well-represented local voice in partnership with Sanctuaries and their managers in decision-making for issues that affect local interests. The Program needs to be accountable to the communities that it neighbors.
7. CAHMPC recommends suspending the expansion of existing Sanctuaries or designating new Sanctuaries until the problems identified above are resolved.

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Regarding #7, CAHMPC believes until the conflicts and issues associated with these policy statements are resolved, no new marine sanctuary designations or expansions should take place, including the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal. Considering the community controversy that is occurring due to this nomination, CAHMPC finds it surprising this nomination was accepted by NOAA to add to the inventory list of possible future sanctuary designations on the Central California coast.

Thank you for taking the California Association of Harbormasters and Port Captains' viewpoint into consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mullany
2016 President

c: William Douros