

STEVE LAVAGNINO
County Supervisor, Fifth District
steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org

CORY BANTILAN
Chief of Staff
cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org



SANDY AGALOS
Administrative Assistant
sandy.agalos@countyofsb.org

YVONNE BIELY
Administrative Assistant
yvonne.biely@countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

December 7, 2016

Mr. William Douros
West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Opposition to the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Proponents say their aim is "to achieve...vibrant marine ecosystems, and to protect the Chumash cultural heritage" and I would like to address those points.

First, it should be noted that while the proposed sanctuary includes the Chumash name, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians are the only federally recognized Chumash Band and they have not supported this proposal. As the foremost experts in identifying and preserving Chumash cultural sites, I would defer to them on such issues.

I truly believe that the government closest to the people is the most responsive and in tune with the needs of their local constituents, and the imposition of a federal sanctuary would be in stark contrast to that position. Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, along with their respective coastal incorporated cities, have been good stewards of the coastline and have a long history of working collaboratively with local citizens, commercial and recreational users, environmental groups and the California Coastal Commission to achieve a necessary balance that promotes both a thriving environment and a healthy local economy. We have even recently instituted a local incentive program to slow cargo ships transiting the Santa Barbara Channel, which helps lower emissions and reduce impacts to marine life.

Our local fisherman are the ultimate environmentalists – by definition, their livelihoods depend on maintaining a vibrant marine ecosystem and they help ensure that by interfacing constantly with state and local officials. The fact that local commercial fishing organizations are opposed to this speaks volumes to the impact it could have on our communities and harbors.

Thank for you the opportunity to comment and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Lavagnino".

Steve Lavagnino
Supervisor, 5th District County of Santa Barbara