

## CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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MONIQUE MADRID, District Clerk  
TIMOTHY J. CARMEL, District Counsel

1316 Tamsen Street, Suite 201 • P.O. Box 65 • Cambria CA 93428  
Telephone (805) 927-6223 • Facsimile (805) 927-5584

June 11, 2020

To whom it may concern:

At its June 11, 2020 meeting, the Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) Board of Directors voted to respond to the call for comments regarding keeping the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination in the NOAA inventory.

We add our voices to the groundswell of broad support from the local community, elected officials, scientists, and indigenous leaders. The nomination continues to be relevant for cultural, historic, and ecological reasons, and in fact protection of this area is more urgent given the increasing impacts of climate changes, loss in biodiversity, and impacts to our communities and culture.

The CCSD is the local public agency providing services to Cambria, an unincorporated community of 6,000 residents and visitors from all over the world. The northern part of the area offshore Cambria is managed as part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would ensure the entire Cambria offshore area would be better able to address a host of issues faced by this stretch of coastal and marine waters, serving to celebrate Chumash culture, as well as stimulate stewardship, recreation and tourism in and adjacent to the proposed sanctuary waters.

The ocean is a major driver of the world's weather and climate. This is an opportunity for NOAA to enhance the sanctuary system with a Transition Zone that is experiencing climate change at a rate greater than that of the global oceans. This Zone constitutes a natural laboratory for forecasting weather and understanding climate change impacts to build resilience.

Additionally, the complex nature of the California Current at this confluence of major ocean currents and persistent upwelling systems creates remarkable biodiversity. This area is critically suited to enhance conservation and economic value by preserving the rich food web and diverse migrating wildlife. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination is still relevant, still critically important and has ignited support for sanctuaries on a national level. CCSD supports keeping the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination in the NOAA inventory.

Sincerely,  
DocuSigned by:

*Harry Farmer*

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Harry Farmer

Board President

Cambria Community Services District