

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

May 6, 2024

Re: Group Support for Joint Position of Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Morro Bay Offshore Wind Leaseholders on Proposed Designation of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA-NOS-2021-0080

Dear Administrator Spinrad,

On behalf of the 52 undersigned groups with ocean conservation, environmental justice, and clean energy interests, we endorse the joint position in support of a phased approach for the proposed designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (Nominating Entity of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary) and Equinor Wind US LLC, Golden State Wind LLC, and Invenergy California Offshore LLC (Leaseholders in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area) released on April 23, 2024.

We support the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) and Leaseholders joint request that:

NOAA ONMS adopt a phased approach to the Sanctuary designation, in conjunction with regulatory clarifications, to foster this compatibility with environmentally sound offshore wind development and operation. Upon initial designation, the northern boundary of the CHNMS would be located south of Diablo Canyon, but north of Port San Luis and Avila Beach. Following the initial designation, and at an appropriate time, we jointly support expansion of the full boundary of the CHNMS to connect to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We request that future expansion be reflected in the Sanctuary's Management Plan through inclusion of a Sanctuary Expansion Action Plan.

The scale and severity of the climate and biodiversity crises demand that US leaders simultaneously advance habitat conservation and responsible offshore wind development. Alongside the NCTC and the Leaseholders, we support the expeditious designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Thank you, and we look forward to celebrating the designation and implementation of the sanctuary soon.

Sincerely,

350 Bay Area Action	National Ocean Protection Coalition
Azul	National Parks Conservation Association
Brightline Defense Project	National Wildlife Federation
California Environmental Voters	Native Americans in Philanthropy
Californians for Western Wilderness	Natural Resources Defense Council
Citizens' Climate Lobby	Northern Chumash Bear Clan
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks	Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
Conservación ConCiencia	Ocean Conservancy
Creation Justice Ministries	Ocean Defense Initiative
EarthEcho International	Okhtapus
Endangered Species Coalition	Precovery Labs
Environment America	Resources Legacy Fund
Environment California Research and Policy Center	Sachamama
Environmental Defense Center	San Luis Obispo Chapter, Surfrider Foundation
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)	Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club (San Luis Obispo County)
Friends of the Earth U.S.	Seattle Aquarium
Friends of the Mariana Trench	Sierra Club
GreenLatinos	SLO Climate Coalition
Healthy Ocean Coalition	Surfrider Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation	Sustainable Ocean Alliance
Inland Ocean Coalition	The Ocean Project
League of Conservation Voters	The Wilderness Society
Marine Conservation Institute	Tuleyome
Maui Nui Makai Network	USC Schwarzenegger Institute
Mission Blue	World Ocean Council
Mystic Aquarium	
National Audubon Society	

Cc:

John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation
Brenda Mallory, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
Elizabeth Klein, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management