



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Grifman,

I recently received your letter dated August 4, 2021 on behalf of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council expressing support for NOAA to begin a designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) as nominated.

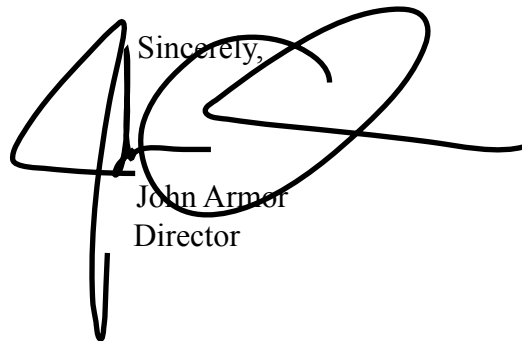
I value the importance of community-based discussions about the merits of designating a new national marine sanctuary. I appreciate you and your council members taking the time to learn about the nomination, creating the space to have meaningful discussions, and considering and sharing with me all of the viewpoints expressed. NOAA is fortunate to be able to hear from your advisory council on this important matter, especially considering the council's experience in this region.

When there is more information to share on plans for designating new national marine sanctuaries, I'll be sure to reach out to you and all advisory councils.

Thank you and all CINMS advisory council members again for the time and thoughtful consideration put into your letter, and the additional input. We are always stronger and wiser for having the engagement of its local advisory councils.

Thank you for the advice!

Sincerely,



John Armer
Director

