



# Northern Chumash Tribal Council

[northernchumash.org](http://northernchumash.org) [chumashsanctuary.org](http://chumashsanctuary.org)



May 31, 2023

## Supplemental Materials

### BIOGRAPHIES

Violet Sage Walker, Chairwoman of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Nominator of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

*Chairwoman Violet Sage Walker of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is the Nominator of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. With 35 years of experience in cultural resource management and over a decade working on the marine sanctuary campaign, her expertise guides NCTC's multifaceted work in California and beyond. She has traveled the world sharing her knowledge on collaborative management, social justice and equity. Her leadership is backed by an understanding of what it means to take care of our place, be good stewards, and foster community. Chair Walker's connection to the ocean remains at the heart of all she does – her compass is set to the sea.*

P.J. Webb, Tribal Advisor, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

*P.J. Webb is a public interest attorney, focusing on marine conservation, wildlife advocacy, and environmental justice. Recognized by the national marine sanctuaries, Webb has worked to protect coastal waters on the Pacific Coast of California along with national organizations and community organizations such as the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Santa Lucia Sierra Club and Surfrider. Together we are working towards the ultimate designation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in central California and ocean protection efforts all around the globe.*

Gianna Patchen, Campaign Manager, Northern Chumash Tribal Council & Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

*Gianna Patchen is the campaign manager for the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) and their proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) campaign. She joined the Chumash Sanctuary campaign team working on community and business outreach before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiated the Chumash Sanctuary's public scoping period for the designation process in November 2021. With a background in ecology and environmental communications, she supports the NCTC team throughout their intersectional work. She has helped re-establish their CHNMS outreach program both virtually and in person. She is now working closely with local to global partners to help guide the sanctuary campaign in its final and defining year.*

## CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

### Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council is headed towards the final comment period for the **proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary** off the Central Coast of California.

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On May 9, 2023, Congressman Salud Carbajal (CA-24), U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and a group of twelve other Members of Congress from California urged the U.S. Department of Commerce to **prioritize completing the designation process** for the proposed sanctuary.

## Background

In 2015, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council submitted to NOAA a nomination for the creation of a sanctuary. Rep. Salud Carbajal, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and thousands of citizens urged NOAA to commence the designation process for the sanctuary. NOAA deemed the nomination complete and qualified for designation. NOAA opened the scoping process for the proposed nomination. NOAA collected input from all stakeholders to inform its preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Draft Management Plan.

California Central Coast waters have a transition zone between cold northern waters and warm southern waters which serves as a crucial feeding ground for migratory and resident species. Increasingly, these waters are experiencing the adverse consequences of a changing climate. The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will protect 7,000 square miles of this vulnerable, ecologically significant area.

This is the first National Marine Sanctuary nominated by a Native American Tribe. There is tremendous potential for good here. The sanctuary will preserve and recognize the importance of tribal history, safeguard shared coastal resources, and open new doors for research and economic growth, while prioritizing Indigenous collaborative management.

Website: [Chumashsanctuary.org](http://Chumashsanctuary.org)