

We support designation of the

# Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary



Because the Native American maritime culture of the Chumash is unique

“Some archaeologists consider the people that lived on this section of the California coast to be among the most socially and politically complex hunter-gatherers in the world.”

- The Island Chumash: Behavioral Ecology of a Maritime Society, Douglas Kennett.

The membership of the yak tit'u tit'u yak tilhini—Northern Chumash Tribe is comprised of families whose ancestries date back to the region of San Luis Obispo County for well over 10,000 years. Many of us have an unbroken chain of residency in this region, and we honor and understand the importance of yat spasini (the ocean). As indigenous people, we are in favor of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation. We feel it adds protection and provides for the health of yat spasini that is home to a vast and not completely understood ecosystem. In addition, the well-being of yat spasini is irrevocably connected to the well-being of all people. We are asking for your help because yat spasini, the creatures that dwell there, and others that depend upon it are not able to defend themselves from challenging human practices. We respectfully ask all who are reading this article to express your support of the sanctuary.



au' au' (thank you),

- *Mona Olivas Tucker, Chair of the yak tit'u tit'u yak tilhini—Northern Chumash Tribe*

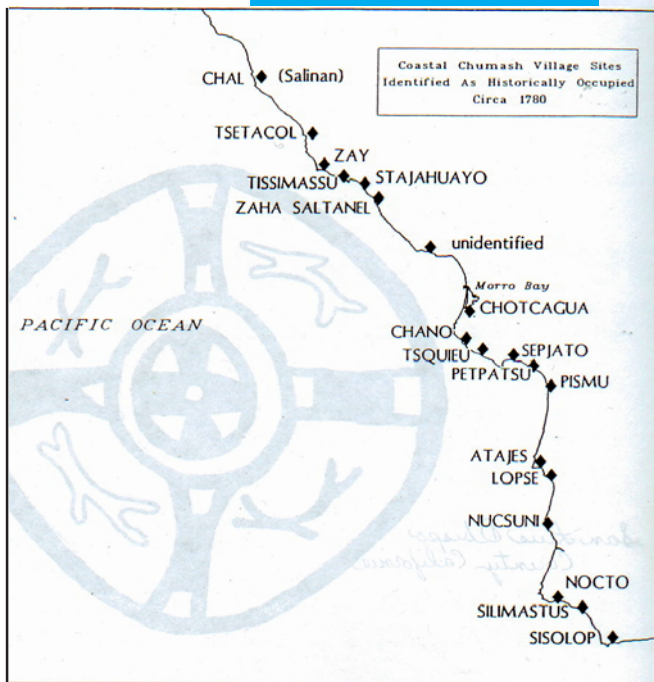


The ancestors of the indigenous people of this region—we are now known as Chumash—were so well-integrated into and adapted to their habitats that they were

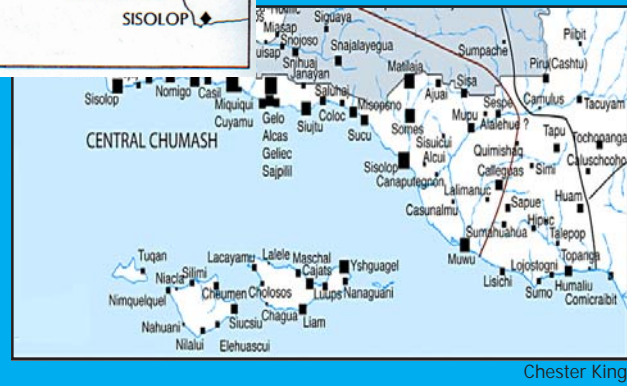
able to thrive here continuously and sustainably for more than thirteen thousand years before European contact. As with other coastal indigenous nations, Chumash people are restoring our heritage of intimacy with the sea for the dual purpose of protecting her and as a means of rediscovering our dignity and identity as a people sprung from this place.

Against overwhelming odds, what we are seeing is a cultural spirit so compelling that the tree once considered dead has sent up strong, resilient shoots and branches as we strengthen the knowledge of our heritage.

- *Roberta R. Cordero, Citizen of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation; co-founder Chumash Maritime Association.*



Richard Cordero



Chester King

“The data presented...indicate that nine marine localities, situated along the mainland coast from Santa Barbara westward to Tijuana, are possible sites of early offshore villages.... In terms of Channel mainland pre-history, implications of early offshore villages are significant. The dynamics of cultural change versus developing maritime activity in this region are poorly understood. Reconstructions based upon excavated terrestrial sites often have not taken sea level change into account... These data voids have influenced our understanding of past environmental conditions and the responses of people who once lived here.”

- Marine Archaeology Along the Southern California Coast, Dee Travis Hudson, 1976.

**Call the White House: 202-456-1111**

and simply say:

*I'd like the President to start the process for designating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California.*

The sooner you call, the better, but in any event call before January 20.

Call 202-456-1111 to leave a comment, or 202-456-1414 for the switchboard.

And go to:

[tinyurl.com/CHNMSPetition](http://tinyurl.com/CHNMSPetition)



yak tit'u tit'u yak tilhini



Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation



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