

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY

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**NE-0001-22 (USACE)**

**May 12, 2022**

**CORRESPONDENCE**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**  
**915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 1109**  
**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3409**

**CESPL-PD**

**9 May 2022**

MEMORANDUM FOR California Coastal Commission, 455 Market Street Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Mr. Cassidy Teufel & Ms. Alexis Barrera

**SUBJECT: Modification to Coastal Consistency Determination for the Port San Luis Breakwater Repair (CD-0002-21) Tribal Letters of Support**

The attached documents are letters of support for relocating and reuniting displaced stone from the Port San Luis Breakwater to the nearshore waters west of Morro Rock. To date the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District has received letters of support from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Northern Chumash Bear Clan.

**Attachment:**

- 1. Northern Chumash Tribal Council Letter of Support**
- 2. Northern Chumash Bear Clan Letter of Support**



# Northern Chumash Tribal Council

A Native American Corporation  
PO Box 6533, CA 93412 (805) 356-6149



4/25/2022

Colonel Julie A. Batten  
Commander and District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Morro Bay Lisamu' Rock Reunification Project:ie Port San Luis (PSL) Breakwater in San Luis Obispo Bay near the City of Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo County,

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council supports the reunification of stone that was used to make the Port San Luis Obispo breakwater finally being returned near to its place of origin and people in the sacred place of Morro Bay and would like to be considered a partner with this project. Through early consultation on this project, we were happy to extend our knowledge expertise, and stories of the significance of Morro Rock (Lisamu') and relieved to have the sacred rock that was once mistreated-reunited. Our early input on the planning was crucial to getting to where we are at today. This is a seized opportunity, to treat the rock quarried from Lisamu' with the dignity it deserves, and it should be brought back to Morro Bay. It is showing the greatest respect for our cultural and spiritual significance to heal place we have been worshipping at since time immemorial.

It is with great joy that we give your our support and the approval of 3 generations of Chumash people who have been working to see healing done for Lisamu. We ask you and any of the staff who helped facilitate this to join us and participate in a ceremony blessing this occasion as partners. We would like to express the excitement in the Chumash community as well to see the project happen. We realize there were many moving parts and hurdles to overcome to create this opportunity. Specifically, we appreciate the ability to make right and whole our community which also has been chipped away at and spread apart like Lisamu'.

Please let us know if there are other ways we can support you regarding the projected reunification of Morro Rock. The reunification project is a dream my father had before he passed it is important to me and other members of my tribe. The community looks forward to planning a celebration of the reunification project to represent the good work the Army Corps and other agencies have done facilitating this massive request on behalf of tribal people to make a wound in our community whole again.

This is a project with many different organizations working together to heal the past and create a restorative future for the tribes. This is something to be proud of and an example of the good work that can be done by early consultation with tribes. Reunification is so critically important symbol of the culture and sacred sites that have been lost by the Chumash. This is a Spiritually sensitive location that has immeasurable value to the Chumash.

Regards,

Violet Sage Walker, Chairwoman of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Violet Sage Walker".

**ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND-USE CONSULTING**  
**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TEACHING NATURE, NATIVE CULTURES & FARMING**  
NorthernChumash.org

## Northern Chumash Bear Clan



Michael A. Khus-zarate  
Clan Elder

25 April, 2022

Colonel Julie A. Balten, Commander and District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 9001730

Dear Colonel,

We wish to make it known that we support the reunification of Morro Rock, or Lisamu' a sacred Chumash site and we encourage the California Coastal Commission to expedite their review of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) modified plan to repair the Port San Luis (PSL) Breakwater.

The stone material used to construct the PSL breakwater was ripped away from Lisamu' between 1889 and 1913. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council has requested that, to the degree possible that the stone material be returned to Lisamu. We have endorsed that request.

The USACE has proposed transporting the stone material by barge and respectfully depositing the rock material about 1500 west of Lisamu, offshore on the sandy bottom. While we anticipate the deposited rock material will have some environmental benefits, we are most interested in the cultural or spiritual significance of this reunification of Lisamu.

Returning rock material taken from Morro Rock would be a meaningful step in healing the desecration of Lisamu' and address the spiritual hardship that our Elders endured.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the review of USACE plans for this project be approved so that our Chumash community may celebrate and give thanks for our beloved Lisamu.

Thank you,

Michael Khus-Zarate, Clan Elder

John Khus, Ksen/Speaker