



Buena Vista Audubon Society
PO Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

July 15, 2017

To U. S. Commerce Department:

On behalf of the Buena Vista chapter of the Audubon Society and its 2,200 member households, I am writing in support of all four of the California coast's magnificent National Marine Sanctuaries – including the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, and Greater Farallones Sanctuary sites. These natural treasures stand as testimony to decades of bipartisan support expressed by our federal, state, and local elected officials based upon participation by the millions of citizens who consistently called for their designation. They should be retained at their current size and level of protection.

As an organization that prizes birds and nature, we are greatly pleased that these sanctuaries not only protect breeding sites for a broad spectrum of marine birds, but they also protect vital food resources for these species, as well. Protecting these sites from overfishing has kept these forage stocks sustainable and helped support birds, larger fish, and marine mammals alike.

We also recognize that California's clean coastlines are a major drive to our state economy, and that this is largely a result of the protections afforded by the marine sanctuaries. The inclusion of key ecosystem features within our Marine Sanctuaries was carried out using peer-reviewed science supported by public input through open citizen review and public hearings, and these processes were duly undertaken in compliance with all relevant federal and state laws and regulatory frameworks.

We urge that all reviewing agencies carefully consider the important economic benefits these sites provide and the broad public support that led to their designation in reaching the ultimate conclusion that no erosion of any of these permanently protected sites is indicated at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joan Herskowitz
Conservation Committee
Buena Vista Audubon