

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Parks and Recreation	(2) MEETING DATE 4/5/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nick Franco / 805-781-5204	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution of support for the designation of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area as a unit of the California Coastal National Monument. District 2.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board adopt a resolution of support for the designation of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area as a unit of the California Coastal National Monument.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) n/a	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? n/a
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW David E. Grim			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 2			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Parks and Recreation / Nick Franco / 805-781-5204

DATE: 4/5/2016

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution of support for the designation of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area as a unit of the California Coastal National Monument. District 2.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board adopt a resolution of support for the designation of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area as a unit of the California Coastal National Monument.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Piedras Blancas California Coastal National Monument Initiative is a joint campaign by two 501(c)(3) organizations within San Luis Obispo County: the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association (PBLSA) and the Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns and manages the 20 acre historic Piedras Blancas Light Station. California State Parks (CSP) owns and manages the surrounding 424 acres within Hearst San Simeon State Park. The total 444 acres of land are co-managed by both agencies under a Cooperative Agreement signed in 2011 and amended in 2013. Under a provision of the 2008 Consolidated Natural Resources Act, the entire 440 acres is designated as the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area.

Additionally, BLM also manages the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM). The CCNM was designated in 2000 and expanded in 2014 to include more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the 1,100 mile California coastline and 1,665 acres of public land onshore in the Point Arena area.

The County Parks and Recreation Element (PRE) identifies the provision of tours, elephant seal viewing, beach access, nature appreciation, and parking as existing park and recreation resources in this area. The PRE further supports the implementation of Joint Use Agreements and identifies the need for completion of the California Coastal Trail, the preservation of sensitive habitats, and the provision of passive recreation in the Piedras Blancas area.

U. S. Senate Bill 1971, the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act, has been introduced into Congress for consideration. The bill includes a provision to elevate the status of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area to be included as part of the onshore land included in the California Coastal National Monument. Only land that is currently part of BLM or California State Parks is being considered for inclusion. No private property is proposed for inclusion with the exception of a small strip of land to be transferred to California State Parks once the Piedras Blancas Highway Realignment project is complete.

The location provides a dramatic and important shoreline connection to the ocean and provides a significant opportunity to contrast the way land and sea connections are important to two mammals: humans and elephant seals. The human land and sea connection in the area includes the recreational uses of both the beach (walking, picnic, beachcombing) and the sea (kayaking, surfing, fishing, swimming). The elephant seal use of the land and sea connection includes the use of the beach for birthing, nursing, breeding, molting and resting and using the sea for eating and living.

The intent of the initiative is to enhance funding opportunities to manage the area, promote the development of the California Coastal Trail in the area, encourage further preservation and restoration of the light station, and support the tourism base in the North Coast area.

Support of Senate Bill 1971, the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act, will further these goals, is consistent with the Parks and Recreation Element, and is supported by many local organizations. No local opposition is apparent.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The County Parks and Recreation Commission heard this item at their October 22, 2015 meeting and provided a letter of support for the initiative and recommend that the Board of Supervisors support the initiative. Support for the initiative from other agencies includes:

- Cambria Community Services District
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- San Simeon Community Services District
- US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein
- US Representatives Lois Capps, Anna Eshoo, and Jared Huffman

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

All Chambers of Commerce within San Luis Obispo County support the initiative.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

No direct financial impact to the County General Fund.

**RESULTS**

Establishment of the area as part of the California Coastal National Monument will support the Parks and Recreation Element policies and support the core County goals of creating a healthy, livable, and prosperous community.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Senate Bill 1971
2. Parks and Recreation Commission Letter of Support
3. List of Supporters
4. Resolution
5. Location Map