



Santa Barbara Landing

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August 7, 2023
Harry Eckman
CEO / World Cetacean Alliance
Unit D, 132-134 Albion Street, Southwick,
Brighton, BN42 4DP, UK.

REF: In Support of the Designation of the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Eckman,

It is my pleasure to support the designation of the Santa Barbara Channel as a Whale Heritage Area. Based in Santa Barbara, California, my organization is Santa Barbara Landing. We are home to the famous M/V Condor Express, along with sportfishing vessels and ocean expeditions vessels. We are the gateway to the Santa Barbara Channel, providing ocean access to over 100,000 people annually, which includes our over 200,000 visitors to our facility annually. Santa Barbara Landing recognizes its responsibility as gatekeeper to the world-renowned northern Channel Islands, SBL pledges to maintain sustainable practices among our fleet, prioritizing conservation of our oceans and land. We have repowered three of our five vessels to EPA tier 3 marine engines. We were the first sportfishing boats and landing on the west coast to implement fishing line recycling receptacles. Our boats are stocked with almost entirely recyclable products. We partner with California Department of fish and wildlife, NOAA National Marine Fisheries, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Channel Islands Marine Mammal Institute, and many others to support scientific research, education, and outreach.

A World Cetacean Area distinguishes locations around the world that are sustainable travel destinations where whales and dolphins (cetaceans) are embraced in the local culture, economics, politics, and social fabric of the community. These are areas where people and cetaceans coexist respectfully. Santa Barbara is the embodiment of this sentiment.

Whales and dolphins are sentient, charismatic emblems of our oceans. They are important environmental engineers, enhancing the productivity of the ocean through their feeding and migration. They have the power to inspire millions of people to care about the ocean. The Santa Barbara Channel is the perfect location to receive global recognition as a Whale Heritage Area. The Santa Barbara Channel (SBC) is one of the more biologically productive ecosystems found on Earth, supporting a high diversity of marine species including whales and dolphins. Of the 90 or so different species of whales and dolphins found around the world, 27 different species have been documented in our local waters.

By increasing public awareness of the pressing challenges facing the health of whale populations I hope the designation of the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area will enhance our connection to and relationship with these captivating animals and their ocean home.

Thank you,

Jaime Diamond
CEO / General Manager
Santa Barbara Landing