



**Written Public Comments Submitted For:
Harbor Commission Meeting Of September 16, 2021**



Dear Harbor Commissioners,

We have sent you our request for a fee waiver to place our traditional Tomol at the west beach area. The Captains of the Tomol are requesting the fee waiver not just out of necessity, but because of the ceremonial significance of our vessel at that particular beach. We ask that you recognize the historical trauma that Chumash and all indigenous peoples suffer from colonial laws and policies that have historically minimized and marginalized our cultural and religious rights.

As we have stated before, this is not about the fee alone. This is also about what the Governor of California initiated when stating that there was a need for the truth to be told regarding the true history between indigenous peoples and those who came here from other lands. The governor also stated that the City of Santa Barbara needs to fully be accountable and be part of the healing process in the Government of Santa Barbara and its citizens.

We (the Chumash) are not like any other local nonprofit organization or business . This has been our ancestral homeland for a millennium and are still here despite many hardships. We Chumash have always quietly overlapped and coexisted in tension with the local settler colonial state as it is represented in Santa Barbara. This is reflected in the quality of our lives as Chumash. Our relationship with the land and waters is vital to our being.

We recognize the Harbor Commission, and ask that you reciprocate by recognizing that Chumash people as the first people of Santa Barbara. Now is the time to make a step in the right direction. Waive the fees and make a positive step in Santa Barbara history and the relationship with this land's original caretakers, the Chumash people. Our spirits are manifested in the land, in our relations with the earth, rock, water, air, clouds, smoke, wind, weather, and all life forms that are part of the

natural world. We honor these relatives every time our Tomol leaves the shore.

Once again, we make this small request as part of the healing we all so desperately need.

Thank you,

Marcus Lopez (Sr.)

Steve Villa

Marcus V.O. Lopez.