



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6356; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0040613; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has completed an inventory of human remains and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Luke Swetland, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, email lswetland@sbnature2.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of information available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The human remains include a cranium and mandible. They were removed from an unprovenienced prehistoric cemetery on one of the Channel Islands, Santa Barbara County, CA, in the 1930s and subsequently donated or sold to the USC Dental School.

The head of the USC Dental School later gave them to Dr. J.D. Lowry, a family friend of John Nusser. Dr. Lowry gave Mr. Nusser the cranium and mandible sometime around 1995, when Mr. Nusser was in medical school. Mr. Nusser donated them to the Museum in 2001.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The human remains include an acromion process of a right scapula. The human remains were anonymously mailed to the Museum in an envelope with a postmark of April 17, 2010, sent from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Inside the envelope was a handwritten note that read, "This bone fragment along with some beads (that are lost) (??? white) were taken from the Channel Islands Hillside more than 30 years ago by a relative. I would like to return them to where they belong. I am sure they are Chumash origin. Thank you." No other information was provided.

Cultural affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of two individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the human remains in this notice and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California and the Tejon Indian Tribe.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

AUTHORITY: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: July 9, 2025

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

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