

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
**DRAFT Santa Cruz Island DRAFT**  
**THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NOMINATION CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Archaeological and traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

This amendment to the existing Santa Cruz Island Archaeological District encompasses the aboriginal archaeological resources on Santa Cruz Island, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California. Since its original 1979 listing, the number of formally recorded sites was increased from 450 to 1038, spanning a period from approximately 10,000 years ago to 1822, when the last of the aboriginal inhabitants came to the mainland. Occupants at the beginning of Spanish colonization were the Island Chumash, hunter-gatherer-fishers with unusually complex sociopolitical and economic systems. The district includes both federal and private land, and the amendment expands the boundary to include a portion of federal land excluded from the original district. The nomination is limited to archaeological resources.

The property is nominated under Criteria A and D at the national level of significance in the areas of Archaeology, both precontact and historic aboriginal, and Ethnic Heritage: Native American, with a period of significance of 8000 BC to 1822. The archaeological sites have an unusually high degree of stratigraphic integrity when compared to mainland sites. Because of the potential of these sites to contribute to the understanding of hunting-gathering societies throughout North America, particularly those that utilized marine resources or had complex forms of social organization, and the long-term habitation of the site, providing the opportunity to gain new insights into the nature of the initial expansion of populations along the Pacific Coast of North America, the property is nominated at the national level of significance.