

Chumash Village

Project Description

Chumash Village is a world-class Sustainability Demonstration Project perched atop the ocean bluffs above Malibu, California. This is a supremely majestic location, with sweeping views of Catalina and the Channel Islands. Below is prime public beach access, while the north and east are bounded by state forest. This is a very special setting with a very special destiny.

Southern California *needs* a Sustainability Demonstration Site, a place where people can come and learn and witness all the various sustainable systems – energy, ecology, economy, social and cultural – integrated and working together. In that sense, Chumash Village will be a *model* village: a precedent-setting glimpse of the future. Yet a sustainable future must be founded upon the bedrock of life-affirming values from the past. For that reason, Chumash Village will honor the indigenous heritage of this location by drawing inspiration from the first people: the local Chumash tribes. In fact, the plan is to work with the Chumash to legally convert the property into sovereign territory. We believe that genuine sustainability can be implemented most easily under this type of arrangement.

Income generation, the economic base of the village, will come from a “Native Eco-Education Resort Spa.” This will be an education and healing center founded upon the principle that sustainable culture begins with sustainable human beings. Various alternative and integrative healing modalities will be employed within a context of close interactive contact with Nature. As an extension of the village, the resort spa will be staffed by villagers. Guests will have the option of maintaining privacy or sharing in the cultural life of the village. The lifestyle of the villagers – growing their own food and medicine, practicing yoga and meditation, celebrating life through music, theatre, and art – will be the most fundamental lesson for the guests. A complete class schedule facilitated by world-renowned educators will follow.

Chumash Village will become the preferred destination for the cultural elite of the Los Angeles basin, people who have become aware that something needs to change but who have not yet seen or experienced the comprehensive workable solution. Chumash Village *is* that solution, at the scale of community: a glimpse into an enjoyable, life-affirming, sane and sustainable future.

Report Prepared for Humanity First Worldwide by Village Design Institute – August 2009