September 13, 2017

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

We would like to add our concerns to those expressed by our colleagues from U.C. Santa Cruz and U.C. Los Angeles over the proposed development of the Sargent Quarry at Sargent Ranch/Juristac in their letters of May 24, and August 21, 2017.

Planners of land use and business development are used to weighing different proposals and the competing economic and social impacts that arrive with them. From the point of view of the Amah Mutsun, the impact of the Sargent Quarry proposal is not commensurate with any other development proposal at any other place or time. Destroying forever an important place that is both sacred and historically significant for the Amah Mutsun is not commensurate with the adverse effects that other entities may feel as a result of a development project.

Santa Clara County has publically acknowledged the historical actions that have led to their current landless and non-recognized circumstance of the original Indigenous peoples. As a result, the County has a responsibility to protect the documented sites of historical importance to the Amah Mutsun that evidence the crucial connection between members present and past and this land. Failure to do so has implications that no other demographic or interest groups will ever bear, since it will directly affect the ability of the Amah Mutsun to maintain cultural identity for present and future members and may, in and of itself, preclude future State or Federal recognition. The principled way forward is to conduct formal Tribal consultations with Amah Mutsun officials and work in partnership on the issues raised by the Sargent Quarry proposal.

If you have any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
Ross Frank  
Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies  
University of California, San Diego  
rfrank@ucsd.edu

K. Wayne Yang  
Muir College Acting Provost  
Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies  
University of California, San Diego  
kwayne@ucsd.edu

Gabriela Caballero  
Associate Professor, Linguistics  
University of California, San Diego  
gcaballero@ucsd.edu

Daphne V. Taylor-García  
Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies  
University of California, San Diego  
dtg@ucsd.edu

Thomas J. Csordas  
Distinguished Professor of Anthropology  
Dr. James Y. Chan Presidential Chair in Global Health  
Director, Global Health Program  
Co-Director, UCSD Global Health Institute  
University of California San Diego  
tcsordas@ucsd.edu

Julie S. Burelle  
Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance  
University of California, San Diego  
jburelle@ucsd.edu

Kathryn Walkiewicz  
Assistant Professor, Literature  
University of California, San Diego  
kwalkiewicz@ucsd.edu

Gloría Chacón  
Assistant Professor, Literature  
University of California, San Diego  
gchacon@ucsd.edu