



**Santa Clara County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

2901 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 110, San Jose, CA 95128
Volunteer: 408-455-9500 or volunteer@sccdp.org

REGISTER and VOTE BY MAIL

February 13, 2020

Dear Santa Clara County Supervisors:

The Santa Clara County Democratic Party stands with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and its supporters, including environmental and community organizations, elected officials, and other civic leaders, in urging you to protect and preserve Mutsun cultural heritage by rejecting the proposed Sargent Quarry Project. The land threatened by the quarry, known as Juristac in the Mutsun language, is of immense cultural, historical, environmental and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. Juristac is not an appropriate location for a sand and gravel mine under any circumstances.

We call on you to uphold the Indigenous Rights of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to maintain and protect their religious and cultural sites as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right of the Indigenous Peoples. Preserving Juristac is a necessary and significant step in addressing the historical and continuing dispossession and destruction of the Indigenous Peoples of Santa Clara County.

I enclose a Resolution adopted by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on this subject on July 11, 2019, and urge you to deny the Sargent Quarry Project if it comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill James
Chair, Santa Clara County Democratic Party
chair@sccdp.org
(408) 831-1336

Resolution to Protect Juristac

WHEREAS the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is composed of descendants of Indigenous peoples who inhabited their ancestral lands in the Greater Monterey Bay region for thousands of years and hundreds of generations before they were forcibly removed and taken to Missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz; who experienced three periods of colonization under Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. Californian rule, in which the colonizer attempted to dehumanize the Amah Mutsun and destroy their culture, spiritual beliefs, and environment, and in which the colonizer stole their land and waged genocide to the point that their population decreased by over 96%; and

WHEREAS the creation story of the Amah Mutsun tells them that it is their responsibility to take care of Mother Earth and all living things, and the surviving descendants of the Amah Mutsun are working to restore their indigenous knowledge and practices so they can honor their ancestors, fulfill their sacred obligation to Creator and heal from their historic trauma; and

WHEREAS the Sargent Ranch Management Company has applied to the County of Santa Clara (File #10747-15P), to obtain the permits necessary to commence operating a quarry that would destroy Juristac: the most sacred ceremonial site of the Amah Mutsun, the traditional home of their spiritual leader, and the location of known cultural resources, including burial grounds; and

WHEREAS the proposed quarry threatens to disrupt the natural ecosystem in an area that has remained relatively undeveloped for thousands of years, that is home to threatened and endangered species, that is an important wildlife corridor connecting the Santa Cruz, Gabilan, and Diablo Ranges, and that is situated within a sensitive watershed; while other areas of Juristac are already suffering environmental damage, including the use of injection technologies for oil extraction; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the efforts by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to protect their most sacred ceremonial site, Juristac, to restore their culture, and to recover from their historic trauma; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party urges the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commissioners, and other relevant government agencies to affirm the cultural, spiritual, and conservation values of Juristac by denying Sargent Ranch Management Company the permits necessary to operate its proposed quarry; and will make this known to the Supervisors and other relevant agencies by letter before the end of July 2019.

Adopted by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on July 11, 2019