

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear County of Santa Clara Officials,

We the undersigned respectfully urge you to reject the proposed Sargent Quarry Project. The land threatened by the quarry, known as Juristac in the Mutsun language, is of immense cultural, historical, and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.

As employees and students at Gavilan College who live and work in close proximity to Juristac, we find this particular project to be of great concern. Our college campus—like much of present-day Santa Clara County—exists within the traditional territory of the Indigenous peoples commonly referred to by descendants and scholars as the Ohlone. The Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band constitutes one of several contemporary Ohlone groups working to re-establish their federally recognized status and revitalize their cultural practices and traditional languages. As contemporary occupants of Ohlone territory, we are committed to fostering civic engagement and equity. Thus, we support the preservation of sites—such as Juristac—that are deemed indispensable by the historically marginalized members of the greater Bay Area.

The mine also poses concerns for environmental sustainability. The area is home to several special status animals whose habitats may be impacted by the construction of the mine. Additionally, the soil erosion from the quarry development has the potential to degrade the region's water quality as surface runoff carries sediment into natural creek and river beds, canals, and adjacent wetlands. Furthermore, access to the proposed mine will require the regular use of Old Monterey Road and Highway 101. This is likely to foment more traffic congestion for an already over encumbered stretch of highway that residents from all over Santa Clara County and San Benito County rely on for their daily commute.

Safeguarding this site from the proposed sand and gravel mine will protect local wildlife and water quality and avoid the unnecessary intensification of highway traffic thereby supporting the region's overall environmental sustainability. Moreover, 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.

Thank you for your consideration,

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