

RESOLUTION 20-11.25

Protecting the Amah Mutsun Sacred Site of Juristac

WHEREAS, the area in Central California known as Juristac to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is the location of numerous ceremonial and sacred sites, comprising a landscape of great historical, cultural and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun, who are working diligently to restore their indigenous practices, regain stewardship of their lands, heal from historical trauma, and fulfill their obligation to Creator; and Juristac is home to threatened and endangered species and is identified in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and other regional landscape linkage studies as a vital wildlife corridor linking the Santa Cruz, Gabilan, and Diablo Ranges; and

WHEREAS, the Sargent Ranch Management Company has applied to the County of Santa Clara for a conditional use permit for a proposed open-pit sand and gravel mining operation (the Sargent Quarry Project) with aggregate processing facilities on approximately 320 acres of Sargent Ranch, located within the area known as Juristac to the Amah Mutsun; potentially removing 40 million tons of sand and gravel aggregate, plus millions of tons of overburden (layers of soil, clay, etc.), from four massive pits, up to 550 feet deep, dug into hills considered sacred to the Amah Mutsun; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun maintain that the proposed mining pits, overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources, including wildlife, landscape features, and the spiritual integrity of Juristac, threaten the sensitive ecology of this unique habitat and impact adjacent ecological areas, whose threatened populations make use of this critical wildlife corridor; and the Tribal Council of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band has taken a unanimous stance in opposition to the Sargent Quarry Project and is seeking the support of surrounding communities in efforts to protect their sacred grounds; numerous individuals, groups, environmental organizations, the cities of Santa Cruz and Morgan Hill, the Democratic Parties of Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County, and Region 7 of the California Democratic Party have adopted resolutions opposing the proposed Sargent Quarry Project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as open space and to regain access to their cultural and spiritual sites at Juristac; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party opposes any projects that would compromise any cultural and sacred sites.

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