

Foothill College Classified Senate

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FOOTHILL CLASSIFIED SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND AND THE PROTECTION OF JURISTAC

WHEREAS, Foothill College sits on the traditional and unceded land of the Muwekma Ohlone People, the original caretakers and stewards of this land, and that every member of the Foothill community has and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land since the institution's founding in 1957; and

WHEREAS, this land was and continues to be of great importance to the Ohlone people; and

WHEREAS, Foothill College is within the limits of Santa Clara County land, which is jurisdictionally governed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, today representing descendants of the Mutsun people and whose ancestors are collectively referred to by many as "Ohlone," is working diligently to restore their indigenous practices, heal from historical trauma, and regain stewardship of their ancestral lands, including land that lies within so-called unincorporated Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the Debt Acquisition Company of America, doing business as Sargent Ranch Management Company, has applied to the County of Santa Clara for a conditional use permit for a proposed sand and gravel mining operation with aggregate processing facilities on approximately 320 acres of Sargent Ranch, an area known as Juristac to the Amah Mutsun; and

WHEREAS, Juristac is the location of numerous ceremonial and sacred sites, comprising a landscape of immense historical, cultural, environmental, and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; and

WHEREAS, Juristac is governed jurisdictionally by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun maintain that the proposed mining pits, overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources, landscape features, and the spiritual integrity of Juristac; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band has taken a unanimous stand in opposition to the Sargent Quarry Project and is seeking the support of surrounding communities in efforts to protect their sacred grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Stanford University Undergraduate Senate, University of San Francisco faculty, California Indian Environmental Alliance, Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield, and many other

California and international organizations and individuals, have made statements of support for the Amah Mutsun, the preservation of Juristac as open space in perpetuity, and the denial of the permits for the proposed Sargent Quarry Project; and

WHEREAS, the student *Open Letter to Foothill College Governance* states that "Foothill College must also use its platform as an institution of higher education to openly advocate for Native and Indigenous rights as well as build community relationships with local Native nations to engage in the healing process as a perpetrator of colonialism"; and

WHEREAS, the *Foothill Classified Senate Resolution in Response to the Open Letter to Foothill College Governance* was passed on 12/4/2020, stating that "Foothill Classified Senate agrees with the twelve demands in the Student Letter" and commits to ongoing collaboration with Foothill's students to remain informed about their experiences and demands";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Classified Senate supports the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as open space in perpetuity and to regain access to their cultural and spiritual sites at Juristac;

RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Classified Senate urge the County of Santa Clara to deny the permits and proposal for the Sargent Quarry Project; and

RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Classified Senate send this resolution to Project Juristac.

