

Item 21-1477: Conditional Use Permit for Sand and Gravel Quarry at Sargent Ranch

1 message

Iris Stewart-Frey <istewartfrey@scu.edu>
To: <publiccomment@santaclara.gov>
Date: Mar 19, 2021 at 22:37

My name is Iris Stewart-Frey, I am a Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences at Santa Clara University and a co-coordinator of the Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative at Santa Clara University.

I am also the author of the resolution to support the Amah Mutsun in their efforts to protect their tribal homelands from gravel and pit mining that was signed by close to 300 faculty and staff at Santa Clara University and 90 students in June of 2020.

Juristac is the ancestral and spiritual home of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, who have suffered repeatedly through near decimation of their population, cultural persecution, and expulsion from their lands at the hands of European settlers. We concur with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band that the proposed mining operations would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources and the spiritual integrity of Juristac.

In the Jesuit tradition of Santa Clara University, we are called to protect the environment as God's Creation, including its biodiversity and water resources, from irreparable harm. The proposed mining operation, planned as a 320-acre open pit sand and gravel mine, with overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities, represents such irreparable harm. Santa Clara County has a long and successful tradition of protecting open space for the benefit of all people. Part of what makes Santa Clara County such an attractive place for people from all cultures are its open spaces that provide recreational opportunities, but also protect precious and unique species and much-needed ground and surface water. Shorter-term economic gain will in no way compensate for losses of these natural resources. As you are likely well aware, going forward, local ground and surface water resources will become ever more important under mandates for sustainable planning, projected population increases, and expected climate warming.

We call on the city of Santa Clara to join the city of Morgan Hill in support of preserving the entirety of the Juristac land as open space. This act would represent a tremendous opportunity for rethinking the future of Sargent Ranch/Juristac lands in a way that may provide benefit for all people in Santa Clara County. Thank you for taking my comment.

Iris T. Stewart-Frey
Professor | Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Santa Clara University

Students can book a meeting with me [here](#).

Faculty Profile

Collaborations: [Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative](#)

[NorCal Network for Community-Academic Partnerships for EJ Teaching and Research](#)

Research: [CC Impacts Central America](#) | [Water Equity](#) | [Env Justice](#) | [Food & Water Security](#) | [Urban Stream Temperatures](#)

Contact: 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA, 95053 | 408.551.7186 | istewartfrey@scu.edu