

Democratic Club of North Santa Cruz County

Advancing the goals and ideals of the Democratic Party

Ben Lomond Boulder Creek Brookdale Felton Scotts Valley

The Democratic Club of North Santa Cruz County passes this resolution in support of the efforts being led by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to protect its most sacred ceremonial site, Juristac. The site of Juristac is located in portions of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. The land of Juristac was never formally ceded by the Tribe. The land was forcefully appropriated by non-Indigenous authorities.

Current owners of the portion of Juristac in Santa Clara County known as Sargent Ranch are currently filing for a conditional use permit to construct the Sargent Quarry Project. The Sargent Quarry Project would consist of an open-pit mine that would impact at least 402 acres of Juristac, decimate four sacred hills, and remove an estimated 40 million tons of sand and gravel from the site.

Beyond the sacred significance of Juristac, and the cultural resources that may exist there, the land is also ecologically critical. It is home to species listed as threatened, it sits adjacent to the Pajaro River, and it is part of the only wildlife corridor to connect otherwise genetically-isolated populations of threatened species residing in the Santa Cruz, Diablo, and Gabilan Mountain Ranges. Operations of the proposed Sargent Quarry Project would impact this critical ecology. In addition, the Sargent Quarry Project would also draw water from a sensitive aquifer. Local media have referred to Juristac as 'Silicon Valley's Version of Standing Rock.'

The Democratic Club of North Santa Cruz County joins The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, Region 7 of the California Democratic Party, and the California Democratic Party in opposing the development of the Sargent Quarry Project.

Laura Gonzalez, President

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