



Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Costanoan/Ohlone Indians  
*Historically known as "San Juan Bautista Band and San Juan Band" Indians of California*  
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## Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Opposes Sargent Ranch Quarry Project near Gilroy, California

*Proposed Mining Threaten Ancestral Tribal Lands, Environment and Cultural Resources*

**For Immediate Release**  
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"There can be no doubt that the proposed Project's mining will irreparably harm the environmental, religious, cultural, spiritual and traditional integrity of *Juristac*, or what is now called Sargent Ranch, for the Amah Mutsun," stated Tribal Chairman Valentin Lopez.

The Sargent Quarry Project, if approved, would allow extractive sand and gravel mining for at least thirty years on nearly 320 acres of ancestral Tribal land near Gilroy, California.

The Amah Mutsun Tribe is comprised of the descendants of those who survived Missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz. The Tribe is not federally recognized, but is recognized as a California Native American Tribe by the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission. The Amah Mutsun have formally requested Tribal consultation with the County of Santa Clara's Planning Department.

"The Tribe's ancient, historical and cultural ties to these lands heighten the County's responsibility to consult with the Tribe under California law," Chairman Lopez stated.

To the Amah Mutsun, *Juristac* is as holy as Jerusalem, the Middle East town that is held sacred by the Jews, Christians, and Muslims. "There can be no doubt that the proposed mining project would be the equivalent to tearing down Jerusalem to make way for a sand and gravel mining pit," said Lopez.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to acknowledge the difficult truth regarding the history of California Indians, including how our lands were stolen from us and our traditional ways of life were destroyed,"

"There can be no justification for the methods, often entrenched in the law, that were employed to conquer, enslave, dominate, and destroy our indigenous peoples, cultures and lands. It is time we fully acknowledge this difficult history and work together to protect the environment and its resources for generations to come," Chairman Lopez continued.

Protecting and caring for these resources are central to the Amah Mutsun cultural identity. We respectfully ask the citizens of Santa Clara County to help us provide protection, restoration, and stewardship to these lands so they can sustain all peoples until the last sunrise," the Chairman stated.

In 2012, the Tribe founded the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, a California non-profit corporation dedicated to restoring long-term relationships with plants, animals and waters through traditional uses and spiritual rituals on the Mutsun cultural landscape.

"We have no doubt that in spite of our difficult history, our mandate from Creator to protect and steward Mother Earth must be honored," stated Chairman Lopez. "Now is the time to steward - not mine - these lands."

For more information about how to support the Amah Mutsun Tribe in opposing this Project, contact Tribal Chairman Valentin Lopez. For more information about the Amah Mutsun Land Trust and indigenous land stewardship, visit their Land Trust's website at: <http://amahmutsun.org/land-trust>.