

October 18, 2017

David Rader
Santa Clara County Planning Department
70 West Hedding St.
San Jose, Ca 95110

Re: Sargent Quarry Project, File # q0747-15P

Dear Mr. Rader,

We are speaking up on behalf of the Amah Mutsun tribe of native peoples. They lived in at least four small villages near Gilroy and their heritage is very much tied to the land. Specifically, the Sargent Ranch is a sacred site, their ancestral home, on which they should be able to practice their religious rights. The proposed sand and gravel-mining project will disrespect and infringe on these rights.

The Amah Mutsun Tribe is trying very hard to preserve their identity and cultural practices that are intrinsically tied to the land. Their history and culture is based on caring for the land, Mother Earth, which nurtures their people. They have been partnering with publicly owned land such as Pinnacles National Park and the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District to grow many of the native plants used by their ancestors for medicinal, religious and useful purposes.

We ask that Santa Clara County respect the sovereignty of the Amah Mutsun people and their interests as you consider the sand mine application.

Sincerely,

Connie Rogers

President, Gilroy Historical Society
On behalf of the Society Board Members