



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a scholar of religion and expert in the field of religious studies, and section committee chair for the American Academy of Religion, in support of the Amah Mutsun and their religious rights as granted under the constitution of the United States of America. My specific concern pertains to the proposed Sargaent Quarry Project and the way that potentially infringes on the rights of the Amah Mutsun tribe, including most importantly their constitutional right to hold prayer and ceremony on their most sacred site.

The State of California has a long, painful, and difficult history of illegal infringement on the rights of native peoples. The erosion and destruction of sacred sites over the course of the last century or more has meant that few sites remain intact in California for the religious use of California tribes. The proposed project threatens to eliminate access for the Amah Mutsun whose ancestral, tribal territories encompass the geographic area in question.

Please note that requests for written historical documentation identifying the sacred nature and ritual use of the site may be inappropriate in this instance. Furthermore, please note that oral historical (non-textual) documentation should be sufficient, as per the guidelines of the American Historical Association (<https://www.historians.org>) that offers various procedures and parameters for the collection of oral historical evidence. Additionally, myself and other academic scholars, researchers, and experts are able to testify to the ongoing and uninterrupted ritual use of said sites.

I am recommending that Santa Clara County not approve or proceed with this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hughes".

Professor Jennifer Scheper Hughes, PhD.

Department of History

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