



ETHNIC STUDIES, 0522

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September 13, 2017

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Board of Supervisors  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

We would like to add our concerns to those expressed by our colleagues from U.C. Santa Cruz and U.C. Los Angeles over the proposed development of the Sargent Quarry at Sargent Ranch/Juristac in their letters of May 24, and August 21, 2017.

Planners of land use and business development are used to weighing different proposals and the competing economic and social impacts that arrive with them. From the point of view of the Amah Mutsun, the impact of the Sargent Quarry proposal is not commensurate with any other development proposal at any other place or time. Destroying forever an important place that is both sacred and historically significant for the Amah Mutsun is not commensurate with the adverse effects that other entities may feel as a result of a development project.

Santa Clara County has publically acknowledged the historical actions that have led to their current landless and non-recognized circumstance of the original Indigenous peoples. As a result, the County has a responsibility to protect the documented sites of historical importance to the Amah Mutsun that evidence the crucial connection between members present and past and this land. Failure to do so has implications that no other demographic or interest groups will ever bear, since it will directly affect the ability of the Amah Mutsun to maintain cultural identity for present and future members and may, in and of itself, preclude future State or Federal recognition. The principled way forward is to conduct formal Tribal consultations with Amah Mutsun officials and work in partnership on the issues raised by the Sargent Quarry proposal.

If you have any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

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