



# Chalon Indian Nation

## Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield

P.O. Box 902 Bakersfield, CA 93302

(661) 834-2056

[www.chalonnation.org](http://www.chalonnation.org)

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February 11, 2018

Dear County of Santa Clara Officials:

We are the Tribal Council of the Chalon Indian Nation, a neighboring tribe and allied with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Santa Clara County, with whom we share a common goal of eventual federal recognition for both of our tribes. Our traditional homelands and sacred sites are located to the south of the Mutsun Tribe's traditional territory, in San Benito County, in the areas along the San Benito River, the Gabilan Mountains, and the Pinnacles National Park region. Many of our ancestors were incarcerated and died at Mission Soledad. Some of the survivors relocated to Bakersfield and Kern County, which is where many of us still reside. Under the guidance of our elders, we travel twice annually to our sacred sites, which are protected by the National Park Service (NPS). The Amah Mutsun do not have the luxury of federal protection of their traditional places of worship.

We are writing to you in support of the Amah Mutsun people and the preservation of their sacred site at Juristac. We respectfully urge you to protect and preserve Mutsun cultural heritage by rejecting the proposed Sargent Quarry Project. The land threatened by the quarry is of immense cultural, historical, environmental and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and, in many indigenous ways, to us as well. Juristac is not an appropriate location for a sand and gravel quarry under any circumstances.

We call on you to uphold the indigenous rights of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to maintain and protect their religious and cultural sites as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right of the Indigenous Peoples. Preserving Juristac is a necessary and significant step in addressing the historical and continuing dispossession and destruction of the indigenous peoples of Santa Clara County. Rejecting the proposed quarry project would send a positive message to other neighboring communities that you support the self-determination of the original inhabitants of California, and that the preservation of traditional, sacred sites matters to all.

We hope that you will do the right thing and preserve Juristac for future generations. Thank you for your consideration of our point of view.

Sincerely,

The Chalon Tribal Council:

Julian Behill, Chair

Margaret Alvarez, Treasurer

Louise Appodaca, Elders Rep.

Vicki Castaneda, Secretary

Richard Valdovinos, Sargent-At-Arms

Janine Dorado, Member-at-Large