



Temple Beth El

Jewish Community Center

April 5, 2021

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Clara County Planning Commission

Supervisor Mike Wasserman,
Supervisor Cindy Chavez
Supervisor Otto Lee
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg
Supervisor Joe Simitian

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Santa Clara County Planning Commission

Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center is writing to express our opposition to the proposal to build a sand and gravel mining operation at the Sargent Ranch located on lands sacred to the Amah Mutsun.

Juristac, the name given to these lands by the Indigenous people, represents a place of healing, ceremony and ancestral memory for a people who have suffered genocide and forced cultural assimilation. Desecration of these lands for a mining operation would perpetuate the historical injustices experienced by these people. In addition, the proposed mining operation threatens to disrupt an important wildlife migration route as well as disturb critical environmental habitats including the Pajaro River which flows through our community.

Progressive Judaism promotes Tikkun Olam, Hebrew for “world repair”. This concept connotes social action in the pursuit of social justice and pertains to efforts to right historical wrongs. In addition, it speaks to the imperative of protecting Mother Earth. For these reasons, we support the efforts of the Amah Mutsun to protect and preserve this sacred land. As Jews we also understand how sacred sites help to define and sustain a people—their connection to their history, their cultural heritage and to one another.

We ask that you work collaboratively with the Amah Mutsun, as well as other governmental and non-profit organizations, to preserve the Juristac sacred site.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Paula Marcus
Senior Rabbi

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