

Statement of Opposition to Sargent Ranch Quarry

Date: October 2021

From: [Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\) at Sacred Heart](#)

To: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors & Planning Commissioners

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) at Sacred Heart is the San Jose chapter of a national network of over 150 chapters that organizes white people and people with racial privilege for racial justice. We write to you on behalf of our 100+ members, the overwhelming majority of whom live within Santa Clara County.

SURJ at Sacred Heart believes that it is white people's responsibility to educate ourselves about systemic, institutional, and interpersonal racism and to organize other white people to dismantle white supremacy because it is white people who historically and currently benefit from white supremacy. Colonialism and the dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands are a core and devastating foundation of white supremacy. Restoring land sovereignty and stewardship to all local Indigenous people is only one step in the fight for racial justice and for a better future for the earth and generations to come.

It is out of this commitment to racial justice, and out of deep respect for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's past and present stewardship of their sacred ancestral lands along with their commitment to cultural revitalization, that we urge you to protect and preserve Amah Mutsun cultural heritage by rejecting the proposed Sargent Quarry Project. The land threatened by the quarry, known as Juristac in the Mutsun language, is of immense cultural, historical, environmental, and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. Juristac is not an appropriate location for a sand and gravel mine under any circumstances. This project not only has a devastating and irreversible impact on the land and waterways, it also continues to commit harm to the sovereignty and cultural practices of the Amah Mutsun.

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. Furthermore, we support the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve Juristac, including Sargent Ranch, as open space and to regain access to their cultural and spiritual sites at Juristac. We oppose any projects that would compromise any of the Tribal Band's cultural and sacred sites.

On behalf of the members of SURJ at Sacred Heart,

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