



SUNNYVALE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 17, 2022

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Clara County Planning Commission
70 West Hedding Street
East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

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

At its meeting on February 15, the Session of the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church voted to express its opposition to the Sargent Quarry Project, which is proposed for land—known as Juristac—sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. For the reasons outlined below, we respectfully request that you deny the requested permits for this project.

The approximately 320-acre, open-pit sand and gravel project is proposed for land that is not only sacred to the Amah Mutsun but also of critical importance to both the migration pattern of unique animal life and to our sparse California water supply. The proposed project would be a desecration of this site, both spiritually and ecologically.

The proposed project threatens the cultural and spiritual integrity of this unique sacred site. Spiritual ceremonies and dances have been conducted in this area for millennia, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band hold this site sacred for cultural and spiritual expression.

As a faith family, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church stands in solidarity with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's efforts to preserve the affected area as open space in perpetuity and to regain access to the Amah Mutsun cultural and spiritual sites there. As Presbyterians and people of faith, we understand that we are all stewards of Creation, responsible for the care of the land and preservation of sacred places.

The Amah Mutsun have a long and successful history of caring for the land, with ecological sustenance as a priority. Their land management methods protected and preserved critical ecological habitat for thousands of years. The proposed gravel mine would disrupt wildlife migration and the Juristac ecosystem, causing a multitude of negative impacts.

As people of faith, we stand with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in its effort to preserve this sacred site, which is integral to sustaining the sacred cultural heritage of the Amah Mutsun. We believe that Amah Mutsun spirituality is worthy of the same sacred respect provided to other religious and spiritual spaces in our county. Accordingly, we ask that you deny the permits for the proposed Sargent Quarry Project.

Sincerely,


Judith Pogue
Clerk of Session

cc: Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
PO Box 5272
Galt, CA. 95632

Rooted in Christ, Reaching out in Love