

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:
duly seconded by Supervisor:
the following resolution is adopted:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE AMAH MUTSUN
TRIBAL BAND TO PRESERVE JURISTAC/SARGENT RANCH AS OPEN SPACE**

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band are the direct descendants of the aboriginal Tribal groups whose villages and territories fell under the sphere of influence of Missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz during the late 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band continues to work diligently to restore their indigenous practices, regain stewardship of their lands, and heal from historical trauma; and

WHEREAS, the Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape is a region extending from Santa Clara County to San Benito County and Santa Cruz County that covers the southern hills of the Santa Cruz Mountains above the Pajaro and San Benito Rivers and has been a spiritual ground where the Amah Mutsun people gather to heal as a community and to celebrate sacred ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape is the location of numerous ceremonial and sacred sites comprising a landscape of immense historical, cultural, and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band maintain that the proposed mining pits, overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources, landscape features, and the spiritual integrity of Juristac; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band has taken a unanimous stand in opposition to the Sargent Ranch Quarry Project and is seeking the support of surrounding communities in efforts to protect their sacred grounds; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2020, the City of Morgan Hill unanimously passed a resolution in support of preserving the entirety of Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape as open space; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan Hill, the City of Santa Cruz, the City of Sunnyvale, and the City of Gilroy have all passed resolutions opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry Project; and

WHEREAS, Sargent Ranch/Sargent Hills is an open space area of unique regional significance as recognized by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, and regional conservation organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Sargent Hills area, which forms the southern terminus of the Santa Cruz Mountains, is identified in regional habitat connectivity studies as a vital wildlife corridor linking the Santa Cruz Mountains, Gabilan Mountains, and Diablo Range; and

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the Board of Supervisors to ensure access to and enhance the experience in parks, open spaces, water areas, and outdoor activities and protect and restore natural resources, including water, air, forests, coastline, and agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, Article 12 of UNDRIP states, “Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites;” and

WHEREAS, UNDRIP establishes a standard of “free, prior, and informed consent” in regard to actions and policies that may affect the lands, territories, and resources of indigenous peoples [Article 19];

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby support the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve Jurastic/Sargent Ranch as open space in perpetuity and to regain access to their cultural and spiritual sites within the Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors urges the County of Santa Clara to deny approval of permits for the proposed Sargent Ranch Quarry Project and will mail physical copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Santa Clara County Planning and Development Department and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 15th day of November 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Manu Koenig
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Juliette Burke
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:

Jason Heath

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Jason M. Heath
Office of the County Counsel

