

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Mike Wasserman, District 1
Supervisor Cindy Chavez, District 2
Supervisor Dave Cortese, District 3
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, District 4
Supervisor Joe Simitian, District 5
Santa Clara County Planning Commission
planning.commission@pln.sccgov.org

Cc: info@protectjuristac.org

Re: Petition to deny mining permit for the Juristac Land/Sargent Ranch parcel

June 9, 2020

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

We are writing to express serious concerns about the Sargent Quarry Project in southern Santa Clara County, which is proposed for land that is known as Juristac and sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. For the reasons outlined below, we respectfully request that you reject this proposal.

The undersigned are faculty and affiliates from a range of colleges and universities, many of whom are members of the cross-institutional Northern California Environmental Justice Network of Community-Academic Partnerships. Our network includes members from three institutions in Santa Clara County, namely Stanford University, San Jose State University, and Santa Clara University, as well as institutions from outside Santa Clara County, including UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, University of San Francisco.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that "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." Juristac is the ancestral and spiritual home of the Mutsun, who have suffered repeatedly through near decimation of their population, cultural persecution, and expulsion from their lands at the hands of European settlers. Mutsun ancestors were forcibly relocated from their homelands to the surrounding missions at San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz. After the closure of these missions, some of the Mutsun attempted to resettle within their homelands, but were forced to leave a second time to surrounding towns by European settlers. Today, the Mutsun do not own any land at the Juristac site, or any land within

their traditional tribal territory, as a direct result of past violations and grave injustices that Native people have suffered. Notwithstanding, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band has the right to decision making control over their spiritually sacred territories in accordance with the UN Declaration.

We also concur with the assessment by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band that the proposed mining pits, overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources and the spiritual integrity of Juristac. The Sargent Hills area has been identified in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and other regional habitat studies as a vital wildlife corridor linking the Santa Cruz Mountains, Gabilan Mountains, and the Diablo Range. The proposed project is a 320-acre open pit sand and gravel mine, or an area of about 300 football fields. Open pit extraction means that the flora and fauna of the area will be displaced and destroyed, and that the flow of groundwater, and air quality will likely be significantly impacted. Amah Mutsun representatives have articulated how this impact on non-human life is an issue beyond ecological protection; it is an issue of respecting the interdependence and spiritual connectedness of humans and the land.

On January 15, 2020, the city of Morgan Hill unanimously passed a resolution in support of preserving the entirety of the Juristac land as open space, which represents a tremendous opportunity for rethinking the future of Sargent Ranch/Juristac lands in a way that may provide benefit for all people in Santa Clara County. We share the serious concerns of the Amah Mutsun about the proposed permit, and several of our collaborators are working with the Amah Mutsun on protecting Juristac from destruction by mining as a key environmental justice issue. In this context, **we urge the County of Santa Clara to deny approval of permits for the proposed sites, and to support the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve the Juristac/Sargent Ranch lands in perpetuity as a site of significant cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance.**

With best regards,

Name & Contact	Title	Institutional/Departmental Affiliations*
Iris Stewart-Frey IStewartFrey@scu.edu	Associate Professor	Santa Clara University, Dept. of Environmental Studies and Sciences, and the Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative
Ed Maurer, emaurer@scu.edu	Professor	Santa Clara University, Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering
Ellen Metzger ellen.metzger@sjsu.edu	Professor	San Jose State University, Geology and Science Education
Sibyl Diver,	Researcher	Stanford University, Dept. of Earth System

sdiver@stanford.edu		Science/Woods Institute for the Environment
Zsea Bowmani, zbowmani@scu.edu	Fellow	Santa Clara University School of Law, Center for Global Law & Policy
Maria Eugenia Flores Gomez, mefgomez@scu.edu	Staff	Santa Clara University, Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative
Christopher M. Bacon	Associate Professor	Santa Clara University, Dpt. of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative
Chad Raphael craphael@scu.edu	Professor	Santa Clara University, Department of Communication, and Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative
Joanne Tien joannetien@stanford.edu	Senior Program Director	Stanford University, Haas Center for Public Service
Kimberly Dill kdill@scu.edu	Assistant Professor	Santa Clara University, Department of Philosophy (Environmental Ethics); Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative
Lee Panich lpanich@scu.edu	Associate Professor	Santa Clara University, Department of Anthropology
Flora Lu floralu@ucsc.edu	Professor	UC Santa Cruz, Department of Environmental Studies
Rachel Morello-Frosch rmf@berkeley.edu	Professor	University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management
C.J. Gabbe cgabbe@scu.edu	Assistant Professor	Santa Clara University, Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Clare Cannon cebcannon@ucdavis.edu	Assistant Professor	University of California, Davis, Department of Human Ecology
Peggy Cabrera peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu	Associate Librarian	SJSU, Library Liaison to the Environmental Studies and Urban Planning departments
Jonathan London jklondon@ucdavis.edu	Associate Professor	University of California, Davis, Department of Human Ecology

Leslie Gray	Professor	Environmental Studies and Sciences, Santa Clara University
Gabrielle Hecht	Professor	Stanford University - @ Dept. of History, Dept. of Anthropology, & Center for International Security and Cooperation
Adrienne Johnson	Assistant Professor	University of San Francisco, Environmental Studies Program
Louise Fortmann	Professor Emerita	Dept of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
Carolina Prado	Assistant Professor	San José State University, Dept. of Environmental Studies
Rachel O'Malley	Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator	San José State University, Department of Environmental Studies
Katherine Wolf	Doctoral Student	University of California at Berkeley, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
Katherine Cushing	Professor	San José State University, Dept. of Environmental Studies
Kristin Kusanovich	Senior Lecturer	Santa Clara University, tUrn Climate Crisis Awareness & Action
Jennifer Merritt	Director, CBL	SCU, Ignatian Center
	Advanced Lecturer	Stanford University, Program in Writing and Rhetoric
Sybil Cramer	Founding Chair and Parent Liaison	Los Altos High School PTSA Sustainability Committee; Parent Liaison LAHS Green Team student club
Christopher LeBoa	Master's Student	Stanford University
Lupe Franco	Master's Student	San José State University, Department of Environmental Studies
Stephanie Siehr	Professor	University of San Francisco, Environmental and Energy Programs
Clare Pace	postdoctoral	University of California at Berkeley, Department of

	researcher	Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
Esther Conrad	Director of Community Engaged Learning	Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford University
Manisha Anantharama ma20@stmarys-ca.edu	Assistant Professor	Saint Mary's College of California
Lucy Andrews	Graduate Student Worker	University of California Berkeley - Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
Beth Rose Middleton	Prof. & Chair	Dept. of Native American Studies, University of California, Davis
Spencer Robinson	Undergrad.	Stanford Dept. of Biology
Michelle Glowa	Assistant Professor	California Institute of Integral Studies, Department of Anthropology and Social Change
Judith Scott	Professor	Education Department, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Gabrielle Farrer	Undergrad.	Santa Clara Dept. of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Alycia Ellington	Master's Student	San José State University, Department of Environmental Studies
Alexis Roman	Undergrad.	Legal Studies Dept, and Education Dept., University of California, Santa Cruz
Laurie Palmer	Professor	Art Department, University of California, Santa Cruz
Michael Mascarenhas	Associate Professor	Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management. University of California, Berkeley
Aria Carlston	Undergrad.	Santa Clara Dept. of Communication, Dept. of Psychology, Dept. of International Studies
Rosalie Dillon	Undergrad.	Santa Clara Dept. of Communication, Dept. of Psychology, Dept. of Spanish Studies
Remyah Nguyen	Undergrad.	UC Santa Cruz Dept. Of Education, Dept. Of Psychology,

Ann Drevno	Sustainability Director	Saint Mary's College of California
Charisma Acey	Assistant Professor	University of California Berkeley, Dept of City and Regional Planning
Kiernan Waldron	Undergrad.	Santa Clara Dept. of Economics, Dept. of Political Science
Martabel Wasserman Martabel@stanford.edu	PhD Student	Stanford University, Dept of Art and Art History
Alicia Rusoja	Assistant Professor	Saint Mary's College of California
Alyssa Serrano	Undergrad	University of California, Santa Cruz
Tiffany Zachmeier	Undergrad	University of California, Santa Cruz
T. J. Demos	Professor	University of California, Santa Cruz Director, Center for Creative Ecologies
Catherine J.K. Sandoval	Associate Professor	Santa Clara University School of Law
Jenny Rempel	PhD Student	University of California, Berkeley, Energy and Resources Group
Daniel Mendoza	Undergrad	Santa Clara University Dept. of Electrical Engineering
Costanza Rampini	Assistant Professor	San José State University, Environmental Studies Department
Will Russell	Professor	San José State University, Environmental Studies Department
Chris Benner	Professor and Institute Director	UC Santa Cruz, Environmental Studies and Sociology Departments, & Institute for Social Transformation
Mackenzie Fidelak	Undergrad	Stanford University Dept. of Psychology
Cynthia Kaufman	Professor.	De Anza College director of VIDA
Nicholas Barron nicholas.barron@wv m.edu	Associate Faculty	Mission College, Anthropology Gavilan College, Anthropology

Dustin Mulvaney	Professor	Environmental Studies, San Jose State University
Brian Dowd-Uribe	Associate Professor	International Studies, University of San Francisco
Quỳnh N. Phạm	Assistant Professor	University of San Francisco, International Studies
Targol Mesbah	Assistant Professor	California Institute of Integral Studies, Department of Anthropology and Social Change
Lucia Cantero	Assistant Professor	International Studies, University of San Francisco
Maira Hayat	Postdoctoral fellow	Stanford University
Rachel Brahinsky	Associate Professor	University of San Francisco, Politics
Diana Negrín	Adjunct Professor	University of San Francisco University of California, Berkeley
Donald Moore	Professor Emeritus	Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

*Affiliations are listed for identification purposes and do not imply organizational endorsement.