



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 1/27/2020

AGENDA OF: 2/11/2020

DEPARTMENT: City Council

SUBJECT: Protection of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's Sacred Land of Juristac
(CN)

RECOMMENDATION: Resolution recognizing and supporting the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in protecting their sacred lands of Juristac from the developments by public or private entities, and instruct the Mayor to send a letter to Santa Clara County.

BACKGROUND: The Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band of Ohlone/Costanoan (Amah Mutsun Tribal Band) Indians of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco Counties are among the surviving aboriginal Native American lineages of this region and have demonstrated their cultural heritage, Native American identity, and tribal continuity through maintaining a rich oral history.

In 2017, the City of Santa Cruz passed a resolution to recognize and support the Amah-Mutsun Ohlone Tribe in their stand to obtain Federal Tribal recognition. The City of Santa Cruz is also recognized as a partner of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Land Trust, which seeks to provide organizational and partnership support to the Tribal Council in their re-engagement of land conservation and stewardship within the traditional Tribal territory of the Amah Mutsun community.

Juristac is a territory that covers the southern hills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, above the Pajaro and San Benito Rivers. This territory has been a spiritual ground where the Amah Mutsun people gather to heal as a community and to celebrate sacred ceremonies. The developer, the Debt Acquisition Company of America (DACA), has introduced a proposal to develop on the sacred territories of the Amah Mutsun community. The proposed Sargent Quarry Project seeks to impact 320 acres of this land by developing a 14-acre processing plant, 200-foot open pit quarry site, a 1.6 mile long conveyor belt, and a 30 foot wide access road.

The Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band has expressed opposition to the creation of this quarry and the destruction of their tribal lands, and have asked local jurisdictions to join them in opposing development on their sacred lands. Recognizing the City of Santa Cruz's commitment to supporting the Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band, the undersigned Councilmembers have submitted a resolution in opposition of the development of the Sargent Quarry Project on the sacred Juristac lands of the Amal-Mutsun Tribal Band and instruct the Mayor to write a letter of opposition to the Santa Clara County Supervisors office.

DISCUSSION: It is evident that the Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band existed here before Spanish contact and has continued to exist through the Mission era, the Mexican era, and to the present American era. Therefore, we believe the City of Santa Cruz should recognize, acknowledge, commend, and fully support the Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band in their commitment opposing the Sargent Quarry Project on the sacred lands of Juristac.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

Submitted by:
Drew Glover
Councilmember

Submitted by:
Chris Krohn
Councilmember

Submitted by:
Justin Cummings
Mayor

ATTACHMENTS:
Resolution