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**AMAH MUTSUN TRIBE JOINED BY 100+ SANTA CLARA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN FIRM OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED MINE ON
SACRED, ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL LAND**

*Statement of Opposition published by Tribe is signed by elected officials across
region, religious and civil liberties groups, along with dozens of environmental
organizations, ahead of September 26 public comment deadline*

GILROY, Calif. – September 20, 2022 – The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Green Foothills have released a [Statement of Opposition](#) to the proposed gravel mine on the sacred land known as Juristac (also called Sargent Ranch) that is home to critical environmental habitat and resources.

The Statement is signed by a broad coalition of more than 100 elected officials, political, environmental, faith and youth organizations from across the region. Notable signatories include: (Complete list [here](#))

- State Senator **Dave Cortese** (district 15, which includes Juristac)
- State Assemblymembers **Ash Kalra, Marc Berman, Alex Lee, Mark Stone**
- Current and former **City Councilmembers** from Gilroy, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San José, Santa Clara, Saratoga and Sunnyvale
- San José **Mayor Sam Liccardo** and Mayors and Vice-Mayors of Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, Palo Alto, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale
- ACLU Foundation of Northern California, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club Loma Prieta and Ventana Chapters, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
- Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), SOMOS Mayfair, La Raza Roundtable
- Stanford Undergraduate Senate, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Silicon Valley Young Democrats
- First Unitarian Church of San José, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Santa Clara, Jewish Voice for Peace Santa Cruz

“From the response we’ve seen, it is very clear to us that the will of the public and our political leadership is to protect these sacred and environmentally critical lands for the long-term benefit of the residents of our region,” said **Valentin Lopez**, chair of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. “We are grateful for these many voices and invite others to join us to make sure the County hears our call this month.”

“Our historic Sargent Ranch is a critical wildlife migration corridor and natural land that should be protected as open space for our community and greater environment,” said State **Senator Dave Cortese**, whose district 15 includes Juristac.

“The ACLU of Northern California is proud to stand with the Amah Mutsun and groups of all religious, political and environmental backgrounds as we ask the city and developers to respect our wish not to have any development on land the tribe holds sacred,” said **Theodora Simon**, Indigenous justice advocate, ACLU of Northern California.

In addition to the Statement of Opposition, several local City Councils have formally adopted resolutions opposing the proposed mine: Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sunnyvale. Dozens of tribal governments, labor organizations, academics and faith communities from across the region have submitted letters of support to the County calling for protecting Juristac and denying permits to the proposed mine. See a collection of those letters [here](#).

How members of the public can participate:

Members of the public are invited to submit comments to Santa Clara County before **September 26, 2022**. For more information on how to send comments and access the draft Environmental Impact Report, visit: <http://www.protectjuristac.org/deir/>.

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About the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band: The [Amah Mutsun Tribal Band](#) is comprised of descendants of the Indigenous peoples taken to the missions at San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz during the Spanish colonization of California’s Central Coast. The traditional territory of the Amah Mutsun encompasses all or portions of the modern counties of San Benito, Santa Clara, Monterey and Santa Cruz. Today’s tribe represents the surviving descendant families of 20 distinct historic tribal groups and currently has an enrolled membership of nearly 600 people.

About Green Foothills: The mission of [Green Foothills](#) is to protect open space, farmland, and natural resources in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. The organization envisions a resilient region where wildlife thrives, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.

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Media Visual Resources

Folder of press courtesy photos: <https://protectjuristac.org/pressfolder>

Folder of press courtesy video and b-roll: <https://protectjuristac.org/pressvideo>

Campaign to Protect Juristac website: <https://protectjuristac.org>

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