

From: [Leslie Zeiger](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Hicks, Alison](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Ramos, Emily Ann](#)
Subject: Yes to your resolution in support of protecting Juristac and opposing Sargent Quarry
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:27:50 AM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

I am writing in full support of the resolution on tomorrow's agenda that supports protecting Juristac and opposes the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Thank you for putting this resolution on the agenda and I hope you'll each vote in favor of it. You'll be doing the right thing for the environment and the indigenous people of that land.

Thank you,
Leslie Zeiger



From: [Scott Stanford](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Protect Juristac from excavation
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:01:14 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

I am writing to ask that you approve the resolution supporting protection of Juristac and opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains, threatening local biodiversity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Scott Stanford


From: [Alice Kaufman](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Ramos, Emily Ann](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 4.2: "Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space," 04/25/2023 Agenda
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:41:53 PM
Attachments: [GreenFoothills_JuristacResolution_4.24.23.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Green Foothills submits the attached letter with regard to the Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space (item 4.2 on the April 25 agenda).

We strongly urge the Council to approve the Resolution to support the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in the protection of their sacred landscape, and to protect the critical wildlife linkage and habitat at Juristac.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



Alice Kaufman (She/Her)

Policy and Advocacy Director

Green Foothills | (650) 968-7243 x313 | mobile [REDACTED] | greenfoothills.org

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April 24, 2023

Mountain View City Council

Via email: city.council@mountainview.gov

Re: Agenda Item 4.2: "Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space," 04/25/2023 Agenda

Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Green Foothills¹ submits this letter with regard to the Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space. Together with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band² and our many partners in the Protect Juristac campaign, we ask you to approve this resolution.

Similar resolutions have already been approved by the City Councils of [Gilroy](#), [Morgan Hill](#), [Santa Clara](#), [Santa Cruz](#), and [Sunnyvale](#), and by the [County of Santa Cruz](#). In addition, over 100 current and former elected officials, community leaders, and nonprofit organizations have signed on to the [Statement of Opposition to Sargent Ranch Quarry](#). We respectfully request that the City Council take action to pass this resolution to support the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in the protection of their sacred landscape, and to protect the critical wildlife linkage and habitat at Juristac.

Background on Juristac

Juristac lies at the heart of the ancestral lands of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. The portion of Juristac known today as "Sargent Ranch" encompasses 6500 acres located at the very southern border of Santa Clara County, southwest of Gilroy (see image below). For thousands of years, the Amah Mutsun people held sacred ceremonies at this location -- the home of a powerful spiritual being known as Kuksui. Juristac translates to "Place of the Big Head," and the Big Head dances associated with Kuksui and other healing and renewal ceremonies took place here over the centuries. Juristac was a gathering place for many tribes in the area, and its spiritual and cultural significance is unique in our region. (For more details on the history and the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac, please visit [ProtectJuristac.org](#).)

¹ Green Foothills is a nonprofit organization that has been working since 1962 to protect the open space, farmland and natural resources of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education and grassroots action. We envision a resilient region where wildlife thrive, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.

² The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is comprised of the descendants of the Indigenous peoples forcefully taken to missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz.



In addition, Juristac is a critical wildlife corridor that links the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Gabilan Range to the south and the Diablo Range to the east. This area has been identified as an important migration route in all habitat connectivity assessments for the region since the year 2000.³ The Santa

³ See, e.g., Penrod K, Hunter R, Merrifield M (2001) **Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape**. South Coast Wildlands Project, Los Angeles; Spencer, W.D., Beier, P., Penrod, K., Parisi, M., Pettler, A., Winters, K., Stritholt, J., Paulman, C. and Rustigian-Romsos, H., 2010, **California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A strategy for conserving a connected California**, report prepared for California Department of Transportation and California Department of Fish and Game; Bay Area Open Space Council 2011, **The Conservation Lands Network: San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Project Report**, Berkeley, CA; Penrod, K., Garding, P.E., Paulman, C., Beier, P., Weiss, S., Schaefer, N., Branciforte, R. and Gaffney, K., 2013, **Critical Linkages: Bay Area & Beyond**, produced by Science & Collaboration for Connected Wildlands,

Clara Valley Habitat Agency recognizes several landscape linkages running through the Sargent Ranch property (linkages 12, 18, 19 and 20 on [this map](#)). The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority considers the “Sargent Hills” area to be one of its top 10 conservation focus areas (number 8 on [this map](#)).

The Threat: an Open-Pit Sand and Gravel Mine

The current owner of the property, the San Diego-based Debt Acquisition Company of America, has submitted an application to the County of Santa Clara for a sand and gravel open-pit mining operation on 400 acres of pristine hillside grassland at Juristac. According to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), the Sargent Ranch Quarry would operate for 30 years, would dig 3 pits hundreds of feet deep, and would pump about 86,000 gallons of groundwater per day for quarry operations. The quarry would permanently alter the Juristac landscape, turning hillsides into deep pits and scarring the landscape with truck haul roads, conveyor belts, and a 14-acre processing plant. Further information about the quarry proposal can be found in the DEIR, linked in the Council agenda.

The Sargent Ranch Mine Would Destroy the Indigenous Landscape of Juristac

As part of the DEIR process, the County commissioned an ethnographic study of the Sargent Ranch project area. That study documented known historic resources, including human burials dating from thousands of years ago, and determined that there is a high likelihood of currently-unknown buried prehistoric cultural sites very near to the processing plant and other active areas of the quarry. In addition, the DEIR identified the entire Juristac landscape, including the entire quarry area, as a cultural resource to be protected. The DEIR found that construction and operation of the Sargent Ranch Quarry project would result in “**permanent and irreversible alterations to the physical landscape** of the JTCL [Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape]. These alterations would significantly diminish the emotional and spiritual associations held by the Tribe to this cultural landscape through the **destruction of the sacred and spiritual qualities** that qualify the JTCL as a TCR [Tribal Cultural Resource].” DEIR at 3.5-42 (attached to agenda). There is no way to mitigate these permanent and irreversible impacts to the Juristac landscape as a whole, as well as to known cultural, historic and paleontological sites.

The Sargent Ranch Mine Would Destroy the Wildlife Corridor and Watershed of Juristac

The ecological impact of the proposed Sargent Ranch sand and gravel mine on Juristac would be severe for species such as mountain lions, which depend on the ability to migrate through this site for healthy population dynamics. Heavy industry such as mining causes disruption to animal movement due not only to the disturbed footprint of the project but also due to the daily noise and heavy vehicle activity,

Fair Oaks, CA [www.scwildlands.org], in collaboration with the Bay Area Open Space Council’s Conservation Lands Network [www.BayAreaLands.org].



which can drive away sensitive wildlife species and prevent them from utilizing their usual migration routes. In this case, the proposed footprint of the mining operation lies directly across the main migration route for animals out of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Highway 101 is a significant barrier for wildlife movement, and there are only a few undercrossings beneath the highway where animals can travel. The DEIR found that the quarry would have a significant and unavoidable impact on wildlife movement.

The Sargent Ranch Quarry could also severely impact the local watershed. According to the DEIR, the quarry pits would excavate the hillsides on both sides of Sargent Creek. This creek is a tributary to the Pajaro River, which is already heavily impacted from runoff and illegal dumping. The Sargent Creek watershed encompasses over 1200 acres and is estimated to provide hundreds of acre-feet of groundwater recharge and runoff. If the pits excavate below the water table, the integrity of the Sargent Creek watershed would be affected and its ability to recharge groundwater significantly impaired. Sargent Creek supports a rare stream-dwelling population of California red-legged frogs, a federally listed threatened species, which could be significantly impacted by the disruption, increased sediment, and other impacts to the creek and the watershed.

The project applicant (the Debt Acquisition Company of America, which acquired the property in bankruptcy) claims that this open-pit mine is somehow environmentally sensitive, arguing that approving a new quarry in Santa Clara County will reduce imports of sand and gravel from elsewhere. This argument ignores the fact that our region already has plenty of rock quarries; a new quarry would be just as likely to displace other existing sources of sand and gravel as to reduce imports. It should be noted that multiple climate action organizations in the Silicon Valley area, including Climate Reality Silicon Valley, 350 Silicon Valley and 350 Bay Area, Mothers Out Front, Sunrise Silicon Valley, and Sustainable Silicon Valley, have signed the [Statement of Opposition to Sargent Ranch Quarry](#).

We request that the City Council approve the Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice Kaufman".

Alice Kaufman
Policy and Advocacy Director, Green Foothills

From: [Stephanie Spaid](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Protect Juristac/ Oppose Quarry
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:51:36 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Please approve the resolution supporting protection of Juristac and opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Why destroy such an incredible natural, sacred and ecological habitat?

All too often, Indigenous communities are marginalized and ignored in the decision-making process. By supporting the protection of Juristac, you will be sending a message that their voices matter and that we value their contributions to our community. This resolution is an important step in recognizing and acknowledging the historical trauma that Indigenous communities have experienced. It is time for us to take concrete action to address this legacy of injustice. I stand for justice today and for making amends for past injustices to those who have been marginalized through the legacy of colonialism.

Stephanie Spaid

From: [ganitsky](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Supporting protection of Juristac
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:03:36 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Please approve the resolution s\and opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

All too often, Indigenous communities are marginalized and ignored in the decision-making process. By supporting the protection of Juristac, you will be sending a message that their voices matter and that we value their contributions to our community. This resolution is an important step in recognizing and acknowledging the historical trauma that Indigenous communities have experienced. It is time for us to take concrete action to address this legacy of injustice.

Enrique Ganitsky



From: [Tita Ganitsky](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support Juristac
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:13:51 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Please approve the resolution s\and opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

All too often, Indigenous communities are marginalized and ignored in the decision-making process. By supporting the protection of Juristac, you will be sending a message that their voices matter and that we value their contributions to our community. This resolution is an important step in recognizing and acknowledging the historical trauma that Indigenous communities have experienced. It is time for us to take concrete action to address this legacy of injustice.

Tita Ganitsky



From: [Yasemin Han](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:07:17 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Please approve the resolution supporting protection of Juristac and opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry.

Juristac is both a sacred Indigenous landscape for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and a critical wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers. An open-pit mine excavating the hillsides would be devastating for the cultural and spiritual significance of Juristac and the ability of wildlife to migrate in and out of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

All too often, Indigenous communities are marginalized and ignored in the decision-making process. By supporting the protection of Juristac, you will be sending a message that their voices matter and that we value their contributions to our community. This resolution is an important step in recognizing and acknowledging the historical trauma that Indigenous communities have experienced. It is time for us to take concrete action to address this legacy of injustice.

Thank you,
Yasemin han, Mountain View resident

From: [Marn-Yee Lee](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Juristac resolution (agenda item 4.2)
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:26:40 PM

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Dear Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

With regard to Item 4.2 on the April 25 Council agenda (Resolution in Support of the Efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as Open Space), I am writing to express my support and to urge you to approve this resolution.

The Sargent Ranch Quarry is an environmentally harmful and irresponsible project. The damage that would be inflicted by this open-pit mining operation would be irreparable. There are plenty of other locations for a sand and gravel mine -- we shouldn't sacrifice a sacred Indigenous site and unique local ecosystem for sand and gravel.

Furthermore, the truly sustainable option to obtain construction materials like sand and gravel is to **recycle used concrete, not to open up new mining pits**. There are already companies in the Bay Area that recycle and sell crushed concrete for use in building and construction projects. That's where we should be looking for new supplies of construction material -- we shouldn't assume the only way to get sand and gravel is to stick to 19th-century resource-extraction techniques.

Please vote to approve the resolution to protect Juristac.

Thank you,
Marn-Yee Lee
Resident