



**Peace and Justice Working Group
of The Presbytery of San Jose**
Elder Meredith Hurley, Chair

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Robert Salisbury, Senior Planner
Santa Clara County Department of Planning & Development
70 W Hedding St, East Wing, 7th Floor, San Jose, CA 95110
sgtquarry.comments@pln.sccgov.org
CC: planning.commission@pln.sccgov.org

Re: Sargent Ranch Quarry, Environmental Impact Report, SCH # 2016072058

Dear Mr. Salisbury:

As the Peace and Justice Working Group of the San Jose Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we write **to submit comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Sargent Ranch Quarry Project**. Our Presbytery, which is a collective composed of 30+ Christian church congregations, voted last fall to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, naming and confessing our complicity in colonizing and oppressing our indigenous siblings. This is the first of many steps that we are taking to address the historical and contemporary injustices committed against our indigenous siblings. We are dedicated to healing our relationship with native communities in our midst *and* to healing our relationship with Creation. We thus have serious spiritual and community concerns regarding the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts on the cultural resources belonging to the Amah Mutsun tribal band and on the biological resources present in the quarry.

Our specific concerns are as follows:

- The project does irreparable environmental damage as proposed, and in the alternative proposals. As Presbyterians and people of faith, we understand that we are all stewards of Creation, our environment. We affirm and uphold the principle of the interconnected web of life. We understand that we have a moral and spiritual responsibility to stand up for justice. Our faith teaches us to protect God's people by being good stewards of the land, being faithful carers of sanctuaries and sacred places, and by naming our respect and dignity for God's people, especially those marginalized in long-threatened cultures.
- Thus, we are also concerned that the project does irreparable cultural damage as proposed, and in the alternative proposals. It is clear that a mining operation in this location would cause irrevocable ecological, cultural and spiritual harm to this sacred landscape that is of great significance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and to us, the concerned public. As people of faith, we uphold and live out the principles of the inherent



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worth and dignity of every person. As representatives of a large collection of Christian communities in the south Bay, we see the faith of others as worth protecting, and we see inherent goodness in honoring the spirituality of others, especially those of marginalized spiritualities. This project clearly harms the spiritual practice of local native communities.

We, a well-represented and involved community organization, **urge the County to reject the conditional use permit for Sargent Ranch Quarry due to its inherent and significant impacts to the environment and on the tribal cultural resources** that would result from the proposed project. We equally believe these impacts would occur in **all of the alternative projects identified in the EIR**. We suggest you listen to the voice of the people and choose the “No Project Alternative” as the only acceptable course of action.

Thank you for the opportunity for concerned community groups like ours to provide comments on this project. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Peace and Justice Working Group of San Jose Presbytery
% Ruling Elder Meredith Hurley, Chair
Addie Domske, Peacemaking Advocate