



MUWEKMA OHLONE INDIAN TRIBE

OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGION

'Innu Huššištak Makiš Mak-Muwekma "The Road To The Future For Our People"

March 13, 2018

To: Elaheh Kerachian, Associate Planner

City of Santa Clara, Community Development Department

1500 Warburton Avenue

Santa Clara, CA 95050

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TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR
NORMA E. SANCHEZ

Thank you for contacting the Muwekma Tribal administration previously back in March 30, 2017 regarding the City of Santa Clara's "notice that the City is considering a general plan amendment from Santa Clara Station High Density Residential (37-50 du/acre) to Santa Clara Station Very High Density Residential (51-90 du/ac). Specifically, the project seeking the general plan amendment is located at 575, 611, 625, 645, 675 Benton Street; 3340, 3370, 3390, 3410 The Alameda; 1188, 1250 Sherman Street; 602 Fremont Street / APNs: 230-07-002, 004, 009, 010, 013, 029, 031, 034, 038, 053, 059, 060 in the City of Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, California."

As you know, over the past score of years, I, as the elected chairperson of the Muwekma Tribe, have been identified as the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) representing the Most Likely Descendant Tribe by the State Native American Heritage Commission for several projects relative to our ancestral heritage cemetery sites located on (CA-SCL-755 which the tribe has renamed **Širkeewis Rüpin Tiprectak** meaning the **Black Willow Marsh Site**); and adjacent to Santa Clara University (CA-SCL-30H, 3rd Mission Santa Clara Indian Neophyte Cemetery) [see Alan Leventhal, Diane DiGiuseppe, Melynda Atwood, David Grant, Susan Morley, Rosemary Cambra, Dr. Les Field, Charlene Nijmeh, Monica V. Arellano, Susanne Rodriguez, Sheila Guzman-Schmidt, Gloria E. Gomez, and Norma Sanchez: Final Report on the Burial and Archaeological Data Recovery Program Conducted on a Portion of the Mission Santa Clara Indian Neophyte Cemetery (1781-1818): Clareño Muwékma Ya Túnnešte Nómmo [Where the Clareño Indians are Buried] Site (CA-SCL-30/H). Report Prepared for Pacific Gas and Electric Company; and had oversight on test excavation on Benton and Sherman Streets where it is believed to include the location of the 3rd Mission Santa Clara's Indian Neophyte Rancheria/settlement (see Alan Leventhal, Rosemary Cambra, Norma Sanchez and Elena Reese, Results of a Phase I Presence/Absence Subsurface Archaeological Testing Program and Archival Literature Search on the Vanguard Parcel Located at the Southeastern Corner of Benton and Sherman Streets, City of Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, California. Report prepared for Mark Robson, Santa Clara Development, Santa Clara, California, 1995).

As a result, as the only BIA documented previously federally recognized tribe of the San Francisco Bay region (see attached documents) with ties to Mission Santa Clara, our Tribe is very concerned about the potential adverse impacts and destruction of any of our ancestral heritage sites especially as they relate to the history and heritage of our ancestral Thamien Ohlone people whom were missionized into Mission Santa Clara.

Given the fact that the boundaries for both the 3rd Mission Indian Neophyte Cemetery, the Indian Rancheria/settlement as well as other known and unknown historic and pre-contact sub-surface features have not been clearly defined through systematic archaeological testing, we recommend that and full archaeological data testing and evaluation program be implemented. Also given the potential sensitivity of the proposed project we recommend that all subsurface excavations and structure, foundations and tree removal be monitored by an archaeologist and a Muwekma Ohlone Native American monitor. Furthermore, should any ancestral human remains be discovered during the course of construction, then the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal members and archaeologists be contracted and involved in the exposure, removal, documentation, analysis, writing a final report and reburial of the remains.

In conclusion, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal leadership expects a comprehensive field program that will offset any adverse impacts to the Tribe's ancestral heritage cemetery and historical mission era sites. Furthermore, the Tribe desires that suitable informational public signage be designed in consultation with our Tribal leadership in order to further educate the general public about the history and heritage of the Thamien –speaking Ohlone tribal groups as well as neighboring tribal groups that were brought under the sphere of influence of Mission Santa Clara and the ensuing adverse impacts to our people through the colonial eras of Spanish and American conquests and destruction. Lastly the Tribe also desires to submit a tribal ethnohistory to any of the final archaeological reports that addresses the Muwekma Ohlone history and heritage and ties to the Thamien region and the Tribe's continued existence today.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at [REDACTED] or call Muwekma Tribal Administrator, Norma Sanchez at [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Muwekma Tribe,

[REDACTED]

Rosemary Cambra, Chairwoman and MLD

Cc: Muwekma Tribal Council
Cultural Resources File (City of Santa Clara General Amendment 2017-2018)
Albion Environmental