

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

August 10, 2021

**Via USPS Mail**

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians,  
Acjachemen Nation – Belardes  
Matias Belardes, Chairperson  
32161 Avenida Los Amigos  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation  
Sandonne Goad, Chairperson  
106 ½ Judge John Aiso ST., #231  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dr. Joseph I. Castro  
Chancellor and Ex Officio Trustee  
California State University  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

Jane Close Cooley  
President, CSULB  
Brotman Hall BH-300  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90840-0115

Re: Native American Heritage Commission Public Resources Code sections 5097.9, 5097.94(g), 5097.97, Notice of Investigation Regarding Native American Sacred Site of Puvungna Located on the Campus of California State University, Long Beach (NOI# 2021-1)

Dear Chairperson Belardes, Chairperson Goad, President Cooley, and Chancellor Castro:

On July 30, 2021, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) voted 5-0 (Miranda, Chair, and Tumamait-Stenslie, Pagaling, Attebery, and Lopez-Keifer, Commissioners) to open an investigation pursuant to California Public Resources Code sections 5097.9, 5097.94(g) and 5097.97, into the dumping of construction debris/soil on the Native American sacred site of Puvungna, which is located on the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) campus. Puvungna is a 22-acre site of mostly undeveloped land on CSULB situated between North Bellflower Blvd. to the west, Earl Warren Drive to the east and Beach drive to the south. **Therefore, notice is hereby given notice that the NAHC has commenced an investigation into this matter.**

Please note that a public hearing will be held on this matter at a later date, and a Notice of Public Hearing will be issued separately from this Notice of Investigation. Following the public hearing the NAHC will recommend mitigation measures to CSULB and may seek injunctive relief for the protection of Native American cultural resources under its jurisdiction.

The purpose of this investigation and the future public hearing is to determine whether the dumping of construction debris and soil on Puvungna is interfering



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Christina Snider**  
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with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion or may result in severe and irreparable harm to a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property.

The investigation and public hearing have been requested by the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation – Belardes, Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation, and several Native Americans individuals.

The investigation and public hearing will address the following issues:

1. Whether the property consisting of Puvungna is, in whole or in part, under the NAHC's jurisdiction pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 5097.9, 5097.94(g), and 5097.97;
2. Whether the property consisting of Puvungna includes a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine on public property that is historically regarded as a sacred or sanctified place by Native American people and represents a place of unique historical and cultural significance to an Indian tribe or community;
3. Whether dumping of construction debris/soil on Puvungna is interfering with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion or may result in severe and irreparable harm to a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property; and
4. What mitigation measures, if any, would reduce or eliminate the risk of severe and irreparable harm to Puvungna.

Any documents or written testimony you, your representatives, or interested parties would like to provide addressing these issues should be received by the NAHC **no later than September 13, 2021**. The information received may be incorporated into an investigation report that will be presented at the future public hearing. However, information regarding the location and nature of Native American sites that would be eligible for inclusion in the NAHC's Sacred Lands Inventory will be received in confidence and kept confidential under Government Code section 6054(r).

Written testimony and other documents may be emailed to NAHC Enforcement Attorney Justin Freeborn at [justin.freeborn@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:justin.freeborn@nahc.ca.gov) or mailed to the following address:

Native American Heritage Commission  
ATTN: Justin Freeborn  
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

This notice will be shared with all California Native American tribes that are culturally affiliated to the area encompassing Puvungna and posted on the NAHC website.

Sincerely,



Justin Freeborn  
Enforcement Attorney  
Native American Heritage Commission

cc: Joyce Perry, Tribal Manager, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians – Acjachemen Nation  
Rebecca Robles, Tribal Member, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians – Acjachemen Nation

Andrew Salas, Chairperson, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation  
Anthony Morales, Chairperson, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians  
Robert Dorame, Chairperson, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Sonia Johnston, Chairperson, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians  
Teresa Romero, Chairperson, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians – Acjachemen Nation – Romero  
Charles Alvarez, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe  
Heidi Lucero, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians – Acjachemen Nation – Romero  
Shasta Gaughen, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Pala Band of Mission Indians  
Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Scott Cozart, Chairperson, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians