

General Public Comment



April 21, 2024

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2024 APR 22 P 2:51

SHALAWA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The County Board of Supervisors
Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

In the course of my continued efforts to protect my family's burial site for decades, there has been an enormous amount of hate and disregard leveled at me for doing so. Though there are Federal and State protections in place for Tribal Native American Sacred Sites across our country. It appears that the Environmental NGO, Channel Islands Restoration, recently appeared on my family's burial site (the location known as Hammonds Meadow) and cut all the new growth, including the desecration of my Family's Burial Site is still ongoing on their part. I do not recall anyone giving Tribal permission for this group to tamper with our Burial Site.

What astounds me is how does the County Park Director (previous and present) have the immanent control over the Board of Supervisors, Administrators Department, as well as the County Legal Department regarding the violation of documented Federal and State statutes, that have become stronger over the decades of our Sacred Sites.

On Feb. 28, 2024 I received a letter from Jacquelyn Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors that to her knowledge that there was no activity planned regarding Hammonds Meadow.

It was also brought to my attention that a new permit was required by my Family's adversaries to continue their attempts to desecrate our burial site.

By representatives of Channel Islands Restoration coming onto the sacred burial site that is recognized both Federal and State Governments, as a protected site without consent, the organization is (once again) likely not just trespassing and desecrating the site, but is in violation of laws which exist to protect archaeological and culturally sensitive sites
Just recently the adversary known had com to the property with out informing with us native people.

On Feb. 28, 2024 Jacqueline Alexander, Chief Deputy of the Board of Supervisors, said "Please be advised. to best of my knowledge the County Board of Supervisors is not expected to hear any upcoming items related to Shalawa (aka:Hammonds Meadow) and the Chumash Ceremonial Site".

When I inquired I was told that a new permit was required due to no activity.

I also have been communication with NAGPRA, and provided them with the documentation that My family's Burial Site is also on the State of California and Federal register as a "Recognized Sacred Site".

I demand at this juncture that Channel Island Restoration, and Ocean Meadows of Montecito do not trespass on our Burial Site, I also demand a consultation with the new Park Director for the County of Santa Barbara.

Any and "ALL" consultations will be recorded, due to my disabilities, which are protected under the ADA.

Also, I insist that the three Chumash families that allowed this desecration to occur while on Santa Barbara County television, will no longer be a part of discussion of the desecration, until they can show that they are worthy of said loyalty to our families, both the living and those buried at Shalawa.

One family member told that she was coerced by those involved. "They said that I had to pay for the up-keep of the property, and that there was no way I could afford to do that." She told me this right after the last meeting.

That is outrageous. All of us see what has been going on here and it really must stop.

Regards,



David Blue Wolf Diaz