

General Public Comment



To: Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County
From: Marcus V. Lopez
Date: 4/29/2024

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

On April 25, 2024, I witnessed the desecration of Shalawa, the sacred site of the Chumash, as trucks, skip loaders, Indian monitors, and the Channel Island Restoration organization workers contribute to the continued genocide and ethnic cleansing of and against the Chumash people by their lack of transparency. As I approached this site and asked questions regarding the now fenced off area of Shalawa and the planned construction of their development project, I was met with silence and this reminded me of the ethnic cleansing and genocide, from the history of California to the present time.

I have contacted, Santa Barbara County Board Representative, Das Williams; the Park Planning Director, Ryan Cooksey; and the California Coastal Commission and informed them of our concerns. To no avail, they have not responded and have ignored my plea to protect the site of Shalawa or meet with me to see what plans to protect the site were in place. They all have declined to respond.

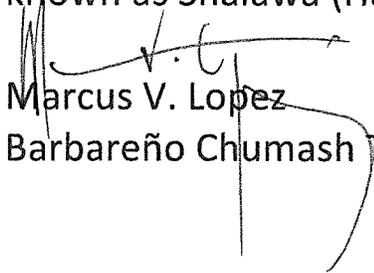
This site is an historic Federally registered site, a sacred site for Chumash peoples. This particular place is sacred and past agreements with the United Chumash Council, the Environmental Defense Council, and others have all been ignored since 1985 agreements have been swept under the rug.

The present project that is desecrating and destroying our ancestors have my concerns and call for actions, which are:

1. The total area is not being protected.

2. The fence that was put up ignores the most sensitive area.
3. The soil that is being dumped has not been tested of contaminants.
4. Indian monitors lack proper qualifications to be monitors.
5. California Coastal Commission permits, and proper Environmental Impact Reports have not been issued.
6. A Free Prior Informed Consent by all Chumash Bands of the Santa Barbara area have not occurred.
7. A formation of a Chumash ad-hoc task force to review past, present, and future plans and development; and the creation of a body of Chumash peoples that oversee and protect Shalawa to stop future acts of Genocide.

I am demanding a cease-and-desist order in the present construction plan at Shalawa from the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisor. A review of the Indian monitors as to their qualifications and knowledge of Shalawa and all parties related to these plans of desecration and destruction of Shalawa. Stop the continued disease of Genocide and ethnic cleansing of our Chumash community, particularly on the site known as Shalawa (Hammonds meadow).



Marcus V. Lopez
Barbareño Chumash Tribal Council Chair