



Revitalization of Native American Infrastructure

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What is Native Infrastructure?

- Our infrastructure is the mountains, the rivers, fire, oceans, plants, and wildlife
- Nature cycles of migrating geese and salmon
- We don't need to create infrastructure, we need to restore infrastructure.

Western Culture Infrastructure Vs. Native Infrastructure

- Western “Infrastructure” definition: *“The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.”*
- Western infrastructure sees the need to dominate and control natural patterns and cycles of the land
- Native infrastructure sees the natural cycles of the land relationships to one another



The impact...

- Estimated in the last 150 years 90% of San Francisco Bay's tidal wetlands have been lost or seriously degraded
- Occurred through the diking of wetlands in order to develop arable land and salt production ponds and filling of wetlands and the Bay itself for military, industrial and residential uses. (Source: baykeeper.org)



Photo from: sfestuary.org



Wildlife passing bridge in Singapore |
Image: [The Finder Singapore](#)

Wildlife Corridors

- Highway 101 in Coyote Valley, trying to put in cross-over/wildlife corridor.
- Those corridors were native infrastructure.
- Putting in a road destroyed native infrastructure.



Deconstruction of Mill Creek Dam

- Habitat for salmon is scarce and impediments like dams diminish their access to critical waters and the gravelly sediment that makes for ideal spawning grounds.
- Removal is the best option for repairing the ecosystem



Existing quarry adjacent to Juristac



Photo of part of Justiac lands by Derek Neumann

Proposed Sand and Gravel Mine at Juristac

- Juristac is a critical intact upland riparian corridor with clean available surface water
- Also is the heart of ancestral lands of Amah Mutsun and place where sacred ceremonies were held
- Modern development is trying to turn it into a sand and gravel pit mine

Learn more at: protectjuristac.org

What does it mean to restore sacredness?

- All restoration efforts must start with restoring sacredness
- See the land as a relative
- Create space for Indigenous practices of saying prayers, ceremony, reeiprication
- Recognize that all life is part of a system and doesn't stand alone.





AMLT's Approach: *Research & Education, Conservation & Restoration, and Indigenous Stewardship*



- Using archaeology & historical ecology to understand Indigenous management & landscapes prior to colonization
- Using research to develop and implement land management plans, e.g. in the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve
- Implementing a cultural burning program

Indigenous Land Protection Perspectives

- Indigenous activism recognizes that Mother Earth is sacred
- Looks at physical environment, plus cultural and spiritual
- Ceremonies are held for the four seasons, all animals, healing, gratitude, etc.
- Indigenous evidence-based science requires that choices we make today result in a sustainable world for seven generations
- Cultural knowledge is often not believed and challenged unless it is proven by science
 - Example, fire management



Moving forward...

- Important to think about personal health with living on stolen land
- There are those that benefit everyday from the tragic history
- We ask those to help us restore our culture, spirituality, environments, and more.
- Recognize that you have a responsibility for that, we can't go forward without this recognition of the past.



Moving forward...

- Recognize modern infrastructures are rooted in colonization, and continuously displace Indigenous people from the land
- See the benefits of bringing back Indigenous knowledge
- Support the work to bring the knowledge and practices back in order to heal.



To Support the Amah Mutsun

- Visit protectjuristac.org to learn about the campaign to protect an Amah Mutsun Sacred Site where a sand and gravel pit mining operation is being proposed.
 - Follow Protect Juristac on Instagram: [@protectjuristac](https://www.instagram.com/protectjuristac)
 - Like the page on Facebook
[facebook.com/protectjuristac](https://www.facebook.com/protectjuristac)
- Donate and support the work of the tribe through the Amah Mutsun Land Trust: amahmutsunlandtrust.org/donate

THANK YOU!