



FootPrints for Peace

Creating change through Peaceful action

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO THE WARRIORS at SOGOREA TE

Footprints for Peace, Australia members, Marcus Atkinson and Kerrie-Ann (K-A) Garlick are outraged to learn that during these trying times around the world that the City of Vallejo and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District are still refusing to abandon their efforts to desecrate a Sacred Native American Burial Site.

Footprints for Peace, Australia has participated in the Sacred Site Shell Mound Peace Walks over the last 5 years. On these walks we learnt & participated in ceremonies with Wounded Knee, Johnella Sanchez (Shoshone Bannock) and Corrina Gould (Chochenyo Ohlone).

From these walks, we were privileged to experience and learn that the whole of the landscape, land, sea & waters contain areas and places of deep significance to the Ohlone people. The 15-acre Shell Mound Site known to the Ohlone people as Sogorea Te is a site of immense historical, social, cultural & spiritual importance that requires protection. It is a sacred gathering place and burial ground that has been utilized for thousands of Native American people. Today, Sogorea Te continues to be spiritually important to local Native communities.

It is a fundamental right of every person to enjoy their culture, heritage, religion and language both individually and in association with others. However, the enjoyment of these rights, have been impeded and remains under threat, particularly from desecration in the course of development projects.

We here in Australia face the same issues & many of us stand with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to protect their sacred traditional lands. Recognising Native peoples' knowledge of the land and incorporating that knowledge into the way we manage the land today can help to sustain the country as well as the culture and traditions. Too much diversity is being lost. 15-acres is not a lot of land to ask for, when already so much land has been taken from Native American people.

Here in Australia we stand in solidarity with the Ohlone people and request that the City of Vallejo and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District respect the rights and wishes of the Ohlone people and immediately stop all development at Sogorea Te from going ahead.

This sacred site means more to the Ohlone peoples' culture and tradition than merely an economic and tourism base. The Ohlone people are saying no to their sacred land being desecrated, and save what they have left, we must listen. The City of Vallejo and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District must listen to the Ohlone people and respect their wishes.

If this desecration goes ahead many people through out Australia and the world will be disgusted with the ongoing abuse of Native Peoples' by the United States. It is time to respect the wishes of the original

peoples of California, after destroying most of their sacred sites surely you would have enough decency to save Sogorea Te for future generations.

The world is watching your actions.

Yours sincerely

Kerrie-Ann Garlick & Marcus Atkinson
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