

Greater Vallejo Recreation District
Shane McAfee, General Manager
395 Amador St. Vallejo, CA 94590

April 19, 2011

Dear Mr. McAfee,

We are writing from Sacred Sites International, a 20-year-old non-profit preservation advocacy organization, regarding Glen Cove. We have been studying and protecting natural and built sacred places since 1990 and it is our expert opinion that Glen Cove is a sacred site. It is a burial site and just like other cemeteries it should be respected in the manner that is culturally acceptable. Native Americans want the graves of their ancestors to be left in a natural state without parking lots and restrooms set upon them. Surely you can accommodate their wishes? A dirt trail would be possible without paving. People can park elsewhere and not all parks have restrooms.

Glen Cove is an ancient shellmound and in its current state, it is one of the last remaining natural shellmounds in the Bay Area. We recommend that it be left in this state out of respect for Native American culture. Additionally, we suggest that leaving the site in its present state provides a rare wild space adjacent to development and commerce.

The Emeryville Shellmound & Burial Site is gone and obliterated by a shopping center and condo development. We suggest that you follow the model set in San Bruno where the shellmound-burial site is protected and not built upon. There are homes nearby but the shellmound has been left in its natural state without roads, parking lots, or restrooms. This is an excellent model that Native Americans and non-native people can equally enjoy.

The great naturalist, John Muir, said it best, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." - John Muir, *The Yosemite*, 1912. Just as he advocated for wild places, we ask you to leave Glen Cove alone. You cannot improve on nature by adding amenities. It is also a cultural landscape with deep spiritual meaning to local Native Americans. Most of their ancestral places have been razed and developed and paved over. Please respect their wishes and leave sacred Glen Cove alone!

Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Leonard & Nancy Becker

Co-Founders, Sacred Sites International
510-525-1304