

Letter to Vallejo Times-Herald - 4/25/11

Dear Editor,

Lately I've been following the stand off between the Native Americans and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) over the disputed burial site at Glen Cove. It seems GVRD wants to build a parking lot, bathroom benches and trails on the 15 acre parcel at the end of Whitesides Drive in Glen Cove. According to the Native Americans this would require desecrating the burial site of their ancestors which they consider sacred ground.

This dispute has brought questions to my mind and to get a better understanding of the situation I went out to Glen Cove and asked Norman "Wounded Knee" DeOcampo to explain what the relationship between the shellmound and burial site was. After he took me on a walking educational tour of the area I left with a full understanding and respect for the Native Americans position. I suggest anyone interested should do the same.

By reading GVRD's sign it points out where bones had been "reburied" meaning bones had been dug up. For some reason the sign doesn't specify these bones were the remains of humans however, because they were returned for "reburial" it's a good assumption they are the remains of Native Americans. If GVRD doesn't believe this is a burial site than they need to get California University and all interested parties involved to prove once and for all it isn't a burial site. Otherwise leave the site alone. This situation made me wonder what GVRD would say to the Catholics if they wanted to put a bathroom and parking lot over the graves at All Souls Cementayr?

Other questions that come to mind is if GVRD is asking us Vallejoans to vote for a parcel tax to allow them to maintain the parks that already exist than where are they getting the \$1.5 million to build another park? And why don't they use that \$1.5 million they have to maintain the parks already built? That \$1.5 million doesn't include attorney fees to defend against any civil rights complaints/law suits.

If this is the way GVRD spends tax dollars it can count on not getting my vote for any tax increase now or in the future.

J.T. Miller
Vallejo