



July 25, 2011

Open Letter to Our Friends at Glen Cove

Dear Friends of Glen Cove:

On behalf of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, I thank you for your efforts to protect the sacred sites here at Glen Cove in the City of Vallejo. With your help, we succeeded in securing a cultural easement that will forever ensure that Native Americans govern the protection of this area so cherished by those who gave us life.

You have persevered through many difficulties and your willingness to support our efforts is so greatly appreciated. Consistent with the terms of the agreement with the City of Vallejo, we are now declaring the Glen Cove area closed so that our cultural monitors can oversee the work of the Greater Vallejo Recreation District in its development of a public park for the use of all. We want to assure you that our monitors will be on site and taking an active part in the protection of our ancestors' burials there, and in the preservation of our heritage.

We must now ask that you end your steadfast vigil and allow the Patwin Tribes to step in and take responsibility. According to the terms of our agreement with the City of Vallejo, all demonstrators absolutely must leave within 10 days of the easement's execution, no later than Sunday, July 31, 2011. We understand that you are committed to doing that, and I would ask you to please do so to enable us to honor our own commitments to the City of Vallejo in resolving this matter peaceably.

In the interim, we also ask you to please be respectful of the local residents, many of whom supported you and our joint cause, by now respecting their own peace and enjoyment of their homes and neighborhood, allowing these families to return to their normal routines. Following your closing ceremony, we ask that you depart with care and honor and respect for all, including our ancestors, who now will remain undisturbed on this sacred land always.

Wilebodi chekihtwihn,
(Bless everybody)

Marshall McKay
Chairman

cc: Chairman Charlie Wright, Cortina Band of Wintun Indians
Chairman Daniel Gomez, Colusa Band of Wintun Indians

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

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Dear Friends:

Unfortunately, I am unable to deliver this closing message in person as I am away now and preparing for knee surgery. In my stead, Reno Franklin will be providing my message of thanks to you and the others who have worked to protect Glen Cove.

It is with heartfelt appreciation for your dedication to the preservation of the sacred burials and sites at Glen Cove that I send this message. I want to especially thank you, the leaders who made the special trip to Yocha Dehe, to meet with myself and the leadership of Cortina and Colusa, about concerns and efforts involving Glen Cove — specifically, I thank Corrina Gould, Morning Star Gali, Johonella LaRose, Norman “Wounded Knee” De Campo, Fred Short and Jose Luis Fuentes. We hope very much to bring an amicable conclusion to this effort, and I know you join me in that hope. Please know that while I cannot attend the closing ceremony, I will be with you in spirit.

Wile bo,
(Bless you and thank you)

Marshall McKay
Chairman