



Alameda Native History Project

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JUNE 3, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT RE: SHUUMI LAND TAX & SOGOREA TE LAND TRUST

My name is Gabriel Duncan. I'm the founder of the Alameda Native History Project and a recognized descendant of the Benton Paiute Tribe.

I'm asking the City of Alameda to remove all references to the Sogorea Te Land Trust from the City's website and to stop promoting the Shuumi Land Tax.

Shuumi is not a donation to Ohlone people. It enriches a single individual—Corina Gould—who is not enrolled in any tribe and who created the so-called “Confederated Villages of Lisjan” in 2018. That group is not a historic tribe and is not recognized by any tribal, legal, or academic authority. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe has formally condemned her actions as identity fraud.

According to their official statement:

“The Shuumi Land Tax dupes well-meaning people into believing they are donating to the Ohlone people. They are not. They are only enriching a single Ohlone woman.”

City endorsement of this misinformation undermines legitimate tribal sovereignty and erases the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe—whose members are federally documented, historically tied to this land, and actively fighting for restoration.

You cannot claim to support Native people while promoting a scam that diverts resources away from recognized tribal nations.

Submitted by Gabriel Duncan
6/3/2025
Oral Communications

I emailed all of you about this already. None of you responded. So tonight, I'm handing you Muwekma's official statement condemning Corina Gould and the Sogorea Te Land Trust—so you can't say you didn't know.

Do the right thing: remove Sogorea Te and Shuumi from the City website.

Respectfully,

Gabriel Duncan

Gabriel Duncan

Founder, Alameda Native History Project



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

CORINA GOULD'S WIDE-RANGING IDENTITY FRAUD, THE SOGOREA TE LAND TRUST, AND THE SO-CALLED "LISJAN NATION"

Corina Gould is a descendant of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. Her uncle John Guzman, Jr. and aunt Reyna Guzman Cerda and their respective families are enrolled with the Tribe, and have been enrolled in the Tribe since 1995. Their tribal enrollment numbers 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 494, 501, 511, 512, and 513. Since the 1990s Ms. Gould has chosen not to enroll in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, so that she can maintain her independence and confuse individuals and foundations by presenting herself as the Chairwoman of the so-called "Confederated Villages of Lisjan" which **never existed prior to 2018**.

Her behavior is unethical, and it defrauds the Ohlone people.

It was not until 2018, that Ms. Gould created her organization claiming to be the **Confederated Villages of Lisjan**. The meaning of the word Lisjan is not fully understood by California linguists. In 2009, the renowned anthropologists and ethnohistorians Randall Milliken, Lawrence Shoup, and Beverly Ortiz, were contracted by the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area to research and publish information on how the various surviving Ohlone tribal groups and unaffiliated individuals with Ohlone ancestry were connected to the San Francisco Presidio, as well as their respective regions. The title of this comprehensive ethnographic and ethnohistoric analysis is *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*. Nowhere in this very comprehensive study is Corina Gould or any of her various organizations mentioned, even though she had the opportunity to contribute.

Prior to December 13, 2005, Ms. Gould did not even know her genealogy before she requested it from former Muwekma Tribal Chairwoman Rosemary Cambra. Our Tribe's ethnohistorian, Alan Leventhal, then provided her a comprehensive report of her genealogy going back to her ancestors' origins and pre-conquest. Upon being informed of her genealogy, she chose not to enroll and later decided to start presenting herself as her own tribe.

For years she has made the assertion that she is not part of Muwekma because she "comes from a different village." This is nonsensical since her lineages are enrolled in Muwekma.

On this fraudulent premise she has convinced Regan Pritzker's Kataly Foundation into providing her "Sogorea Te Land Trust" with more than \$20 million to purchase a sacred burial site in Oakland that does not belong to her – all under the moniker of "rematriation." But that's not rematriation. It's a well-orchestrated theft of Ohlone Land and a sacred site from the Muwekma Ohlone People.

Gould is able to propagate her scheme with funding from well-meaning entities who do not have a clue about the aboriginal and legal history of the three historic previously federally recognized Ohlone/Costanoan tribes: Verona Band of Alameda County [Muwekma Ohlone]; San Juan Bautista Band of San Benito County [Amah-Mutsun]; and Monterey Band of Monterey County [Esselen Nation].

Gould's behavior is unethical. She continues to push manufactured fiction on her organizations' websites and makes irresponsible claims to land that doesn't belong to her – even producing maps that attempt to erase Muwekma, and divide our aboriginal territory among similarly illegitimate “pop-up tribes”.

The Confederated Villages of Lisjan (which she also refers to as the “Lisjan Nation”) is a recently constituted fiction with no history prior to 2018. It is not a historic tribe or a sovereign nation in any legal or anthropological definition of a Native American Tribe. The Confederated Villages of Lisjan is an organization of indigenous and non-Native activists who are not Ohlone (with the exception of Ms. Gould). They are activists from other parts of the country. They do not have shared lineages and they are not kin to one another. They have no government, constitution, or history.

The Confederated Villages of Lisjan is a pure political fiction designed to enrich Gould.

Gould has been so brazen and unashamed of her behavior that she is actively promoting a “Shuumi Land Tax” to dupe well-meaning people who live on Ohlone land into believing that they are donating to the Ohlone people. **They are not.** They are only enriching a single Ohlone woman.

Other well-meaning progressive organizations then wear the Shuumi Land Tax like an armor that absolves them of doing the hard work of reconciliation, examining the settler-colonial mindset, or acknowledging how their actions can lead to more settler-colonial violence, albeit unintentionally.

Indigenous sovereignty isn't a brand that can be bought and sold. It's not a moniker that activists can fraudulently thrust upon themselves without any historic continuity.

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe does not recognize Ms. Gould's claim to be a Chairwoman of a tribal nation, nor do we acknowledge the legitimacy of the recently created Confederated Villages of Lisjan. Nor should anyone else.

Muwekma is the only legitimate, sovereign, and previously federally recognized Ohlone tribe. Our sovereignty has been acknowledged by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The BIA has issued a determination of our tribe being unambiguously previously federally recognized and never terminated by an act of Congress. The federal courts have affirmed that Muwekma is the successor to the Verona band of Alameda County, and that our members are directly descendant from that previously recognized and never terminated tribe. Our tribe was first recognized by the federal government in 1906, and several times subsequently.

We outright condemn the behavior of Corina Gould, who is a non-enrolled Muwekma Ohlone Indian.

From: [Andrew Lau-Seim](#)
To: [CITYCOUNCIL-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting Written Statement - Unacceptable Construction Conditions
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:36:03 AM

Hello,

I wish to submit the following written comment for the Alameda City Council Meeting on 6/3/2025:

My street, the 3200 block of Fillmore Street, was recently affected by the "Cyclic Sewer Repair Project, Phase 21." The condition our street was in during the construction, and left in at the conclusion of the construction, was completely unacceptable. Construction dirt and dust was spread throughout our neighborhood during the project, with no effort to control the dirt and dust, and was not cleaned up on Fridays or at the final conclusion of the project. City staff was kind enough to come out and inspect our street on 6/2/2025 on short notice when requested, but city staff very disappointingly told me, "this is acceptable" when shown the construction conditions left behind. They also told me this is the condition they have left other streets affected by this project in, which is even more disturbing. Apparently the City and its contractors feel no obligation to leave streets in a clean and livable condition. The as-left conditions are completely unacceptable. Our street, our homes, cars, yards, sidewalks, and even home interiors, are covered in construction dirt and dust. The contractor made no effort to restore our street to a livable condition, and city staff apparently find this to be "acceptable." I would love to show City Leadership photos and videos of the conditions city staff told me are acceptable, but the bottom line is that the city owes its residents and property owners better conditions when construction projects are completed. I would urge City Leaders to review construction conditions and determine for themselves if the way our streets are being left is acceptable for residents and property owners. I personally think the City of Alameda can do much better.

Thank you,
Andrew Lau-Seim
3259 Fillmore St.
Alameda, CA 94501

From: [Andrew Lau-Seim](#)
To: [CITYCOUNCIL-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting Written Statement - Resident Notification
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:35:58 AM

Hello,

I wish to submit the following written comment for the Alameda City Council Meeting on 6/3/2025:

Project notification to residents and property owners is insufficient. On 5/7/2025 I received a 48-hour notice for the start of "Cyclic Sewer Repair Project, Phase 21." This notice was received *after* utility crews started marking street underground utilities, and *after* I called Public Works to ask why our street appeared to be preparing for construction. I was told the contractor had failed to provide notice, and construction would be delayed until 48-hour notice was provided. The 48-hour notice was delivered the following day. The project didn't allow parking on our street from 7:30am-5pm Monday through Friday from 5/9/2025 through 5/30/2025. 48-hour notice is insufficient for a project that took away all street parking for three weeks. The City of Alameda must notify residents and property owners in writing one month and one week prior to the start of a project that directly impacts us in such ways. City Council Meetings and Facebook are insufficient methods of advance project notification. Residents and property owners should not be required to attend Council meetings or use social media to be aware of projects that will impact them or their properties. Mail, home delivery or direct outreach to affected residents and property owners is well within the City's means, and in my view is the only acceptable form of notification for projects that disrupt our lives. I would ask the city to revise project notification requirements so residents and property owners will be aware of projects that disrupt their homes and businesses long before 48-hours. I believe one month and one week notification is reasonable and appropriate and I urge the city to implement this change in notification time and method so residents are better informed.

Thank you,
Andrew Lau-Seim
3259 Fillmore St.
Alameda, CA 94501