



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 24/25-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE
MUWEKMA-OHLONE TRIBE**

- Whereas,** It is the mission of the Associated Students of San José State University to represent the students of San José State University and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunities and experience; and
- Whereas,** Associated Students (A.S.) is the official voice of over 36,000 students at San José State University (SJSU); and
- Whereas,** The ethnohistoric territory of the Muwekma-Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area includes what now comprises the entireties of San Francisco County and San Mateo County, as well as portions of Alameda County, Santa Clara County, and Santa Cruz County¹; and
- Whereas,** In 1989, the Muwekma Tribal Council passed a resolution to petition the United States government for Federal Acknowledgment and the petition was officially submitted to the White House on January 25, 1995, during a meeting with California Indian Leaders²; and
- Whereas,** On May 24, 1996, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research (BAR) made a positive determination stating that they have “concluded on a preliminary basis that the Pleasanton or Verona Band of Alameda County was previously acknowledged between 1914 and 1927...”³; and
- Whereas,** The Muwekma-Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area has been working for decades to restore its federal recognition status⁴, which any Act of Congress has legally or officially terminated; and
- Whereas,** On March 7, 2022, a Senate Joint Resolution⁵ (SJR 13) was introduced by Senator Cortese and co-authored by Senator Wieckowski and Assemblymembers Kalra, Lee, and Low, which would urge the United States Congress and the Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs to reaffirm and restore the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe as a federally recognized tribe; and

¹ Ethnohistoric Territory of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe

<https://www.ohlone.edu/newark/tuibun-heritage>

² Muwekma-Ohlone Tribe's Steps Towards Federal Acknowledgement

<https://www.muwekma.org/recognition-process.html>

³ Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's BIA Preliminary Conclusion

<https://www.muwekma.org/recognition-process.html>

⁴ Muwekma-Ohlone Tribe Historical Effort in Federal Acknowledgement

<https://www.muwekma.org/learn-more-about-the-tribes-efforts.html>

⁵ California Senate Joint Resolution 13

<https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/SJR13/2021>



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 24/25-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE
MUWEKMA-OHLONE TRIBE**

- Whereas,** After being referred to the California Senate Governmental Organization Committee, SJR 13 was heard for testimony on June 14, 2022, and the bill died, further delaying the progression of the process of federal recognition; and
- Whereas,** Several San Francisco Bay Area County Democratic parties⁶ have officially supported the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in its efforts for federal recognition through legislation and urging the federal government to restore the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe as a recognized tribe; and
- Whereas,** On August 7, 2024, Representative Zoe Lofgren sent a letter to the San Jose City Council's Rules Committee opposing the process in which the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe seeks recognition, asking the Council to reconsider passing a resolution in support of federal recognition; and
- Whereas,** San José State University adopted a land acknowledgment⁷ which is currently used by the Associated Students, Student Union, and University Administration, recognizing that the land the university is on is ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Tribal land; and
- Whereas,** The Trail of Truth⁸ march is being conducted from San Francisco, CA, to Washington D.C. from August to October, demanding federal recognition from Congress; and be it
- Resolved,** That SJSU Associated Students stands in solidarity with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in their calls for federal recognition; and be it further

⁶ San Francisco Bay Area Democratic Party Support for Federal Recognition
<https://sfinquirer.com/2022/11/29/bay-area-democratic-party-endorsements-of-muwekma-recognition-roll-in-as-support-for-tribe-grows/>

⁷ SJSU Land Acknowledgement
<https://www.sjsu.edu/ha-public-art-tour/about/land-acknowledgement.php>

⁸ Trail of Truth March for Federal Recognition
<https://abc7news.com/post/trail-truth-muwekma-ohlone-tribe-starts-protest-horseback-ride-us-fight-federal-recognition/15144697/>



**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 24/25-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE
MUWEKMA-OHLONE TRIBE**

- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students encourages students to enroll in Native American and Indigenous Studies courses, attend the programming of the SJSU Native American and Indigenous Student Success Center (NAISSC), and join Native American and Indigenous student advocacy groups to support local Indigenous communities best; and be it further
- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students urges San José State University to publish a public letter of renewed support for the federal recognition of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe; and be it further
- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students calls on the student governments and administrations of any California community colleges or universities on Muwekma Ohlone land to pass similar legislation, including, but not limited to, CSU East Bay, San Francisco State University, and Ohlone Community College; and be it further
- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students urges San José City Council and adjacent city councils sitting on Muwekma Ohlone land to pass resolutions urging the State of California to pass the California Indian Organization Act; and be it further
- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students calls on the members of the California State Assembly and Senate to re-introduce the Senate Joint Resolution (SJR 13) to urge the United States Congress and Bureau of Indian Affairs to reaffirm and restore the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe as a federally recognized tribe; and be it further
- Resolved,*** That SJSU Associated Students urges Congressional Representatives and Senators to introduce a bill on the House of Representatives and Senate floor to federally recognize the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe; and be it finally
- Resolved,*** That Associated Students will make this document public and will forward this resolution to all affected parties, including, but not limited to all board members of the **CSU Board of Trustees, Mildred Garcia** (*Chancellor, CSU*), **Cynthia Teniente-Matson** (*President of San José State University*), *Members of the President's Cabinet, Shawn Whalen* (*Chief of Staff*), **Mari Fuentes-Martin** (*Vice President of Student Affairs*), **Dawn Lee** (*Associate Vice President and Dean of Students*), **Jahmal Williams** (*Director of Advocacy for Racial Justice*), **Kristin Dukes** (*Chief Diversity Officer*), **Jon Tucker** (*Director of Student Involvement*), **Elisa Aquino** (*Director of the Native American and Indigenous Student Success Center*), **Vincent Del Casino** (*Provost of San José State University*), **Charlie Faas** (*Vice*



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

President and Chief Financial Officer), California State Student Association Board of Directors, Charlene Nijmeh (Chairwoman of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe), Ro Khanna (U.S. Congressman, 17th District), Zoe Lofgren (U.S. Congresswoman, 18th District), Alex Padilla (CA Senator), Laphonza Butler (U.S. Senator), Ash Kalra (CA State Assemblyman, 25th District), Alex Lee (CA State Assemblyman, 24th District), Evan Low (CA State Assemblyman, 26th District), Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Susan Ellenberg (Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 4, Omar Torres (San José Councilmember, District 3), Matt Mahan (Mayor, San José), Mercury News, San José Spotlight, and The Spartan Daily.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leonardo Plazola

Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Supported by:

Ariana Lacson

A.S. President

Katelyn Gambarin

Director of Legislative Affairs

Srishti Sinha

Director of Intercultural Affairs

Passed and Adopted by the Associated Students of San José State University Board of Directors at a regular meeting held September 25, 2024 by a vote of 12-Yea 0-Nay 0-Absention 0-Absent

DocuSigned by:

A blue ink signature of Chima Nwokolo, consisting of a series of connected loops and curves.

D53DAR0D6CC747E
Chima Nwokolo, Vice President

Associated Students, SJSU

9/30/2024

Date



(408) 924-6241



sjsu.edu/as
as-info@sjsu.edu



Student Government
Diaz Compean Student Union
2F, Suite 2300

