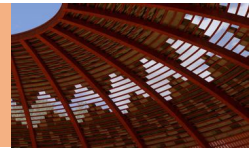


Rinihmu Pulte'irekne

**Ohlone Cultural Conservation Easement
Oakland, California**



Background

Lisjan Ohlone people have inhabited the land now known as Oakland and the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area for thousands of years, surviving over two centuries of genocide and colonization. The Ohlone are officially unrecognized by the U.S. federal government as a tribe and therefore have no land reservations or protected land bases and receive none of the rights, benefits, compensations or protections afforded to recognized tribes under U.S. laws. The Sogorea Te' Land Trust is an urban Indigenous women-led land trust based in Oakland that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people.



Photo of Rinihmu Pulte'irekne site.

Cultural Conservation Easement

The City of Oakland is partnering with the Sogorea Te' Land Trust to return approximately five acres of land in City-owned Joaquin Miller Park to Indigenous stewardship as a step towards redressing historical injustices. The site, currently referred to as Sequioa Point, is being renamed *Rinihmu Pulte'irekne*. The City of Oakland will retain underlying ownership of the property but is granting a cultural conservation easement to the Land Trust in perpetuity. The easement is technically a "conservation easement" under state law. The easement is a "reserved interest easement" which conveys all the rights of ownership to the Land Trust except for those limited rights explicitly reserved by the City. Public access will remain at the easement area except that it may be restricted when necessary to protect natural resources and during private ceremonial activities. All local, state and federal regulations will still apply to the easement site. Granting of the conservation easement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and not subject to the California Surplus Land Act.

Rinihmu Pulte'irekne means "above the red ochre" in Chochenyo, the language of the Lisjan Ohlone people.

The easement is recorded against the property and can only be modified or undone by agreement of both parties or by a court action. Accompanying the easement is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which sets forth in greater detail how the City and the Land Trust will implement and exercise their rights. The ordinance adopted by the City Council to grant the easement also includes a change to City law to waive the requirement for a Park Permit for events at the easement site because the MOA contains provisions for protecting health and safety during events such that a permit is unnecessary.

Planned Activities

The Land Trust will be able to immediately use the site for natural resource restoration, cultural ceremonies, public education and to plan for additional future activities. In the future the Land Trust plans to construct a structure to accommodate ceremonial gatherings, which would require standard permits from the City of Oakland.

City of Oakland contact: Brendan Moriarty, Real Property Asset Manager, (510) 238-6354, bmoriarty@oaklandca.gov

Sogorea Te' Land Trust: <https://soqoreate-landtrust.org/>



*Planned new ceremonial structure.
Courtesy of Chris Walker.*