



*Mákkín Mak Muwékma Wolwóolum, 'Akkoyt Mak-Warep, Manne Mak Hiswi!*  
We Are Muwekma Ohlone, Welcome To Our Ancestral Homeland!

## **Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgment For The City of San Jose and Surrounding Region Thámien Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory**

We would like to recognize that while we gather at the **Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley located in the City of San Jose**, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the **Thámien Ohlone**-speaking tribal groups, which included the lands of the **Paleños** - whose tribal region was named after their powerful chief **Capitan Pala**, and the two Mexican land grants located in the East Hills above San Jose - and who were intermarried with the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, whom were missionized into Missions Santa Clara, San Jose, and San Francisco.

The present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 600 members, is comprised of all of the known surviving Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace the Tribe's ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San Jose, and San Francisco, during the advent of the Hispano-European empire into Alta California beginning in AD 1769. The Muwekma families are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized **Verona Band of Alameda County**, now formally recognized as the **Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of San Francisco Bay Area**. Muwekma means **La Gente – The People** in our traditional Chochenyo-Ohlone language.

The lands on which the **Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley in the City of San Jose** has been established, was and continues to be of great importance and significance for the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal People. This region extends to surrounding areas that held several **Túupentaks** (*too-pen-tahks*), traditional semi-subterranean spiritual roundhouses. Túupentaks were places of celebrations, healing, rituals, dances, intertribal feasts, and religious ceremonies which were once located on the historic **Lopé Yñigo's Land Grant - Rancho Posolmi y Pozitas de las Animas (Little Wells of Souls)**, and also at **Marcello, Pio and Cristobal's Land Grant - Rancho Ulistac (oo-lees-tahk)**. Also, the nearby ancestral heritage "shellmound sites" served as the Tribe's territorial monuments and traditional cemetery sites for high lineage families, craft specialists, and fallen warriors.

The region surrounding the City of San Jose, and the Indian Health Center, is where many of the Tribe's ancestral heritage cemetery and village sites are located, and where many have been destroyed. These localities are viewed as special and sacred places, and we respectfully acknowledge that they had been previously settled and controlled by the ancestral Muwekma Tribal groups for many thousands of years. Today, the Muwekma Ohlone work as stewards for many of their up-to, 10,000-year-old ancestral heritage village and cemetery sites, such as the old Holiday Inn Site located downtown along the Guadalupe River - to the 9,900 year-old Metcalf Road Site, located along Coyote Creek and Highway 101.

As mentioned before, the City of San Jose is established within their ancestral **Thámien Ohlone** Tribal ethnohistoric territory, which based upon the 18 unratified federal treaties of 1851-1852, includes the unceded ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from the **Thámien Ohlone** tribal territory whose ancestors had affiliation with Mission Santa Clara. And some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from neighboring Ohlone tribes.

It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the **Thámien Ohlone** on which we gather to participate, learn and honor, but also recognize that the **First People** of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the San Jose and broader Bay Area communities today.

Even though their tribe was denied a land base through the gross negligence of derelict BIA officials, after they were first federally recognized in 1906, it is because of the tenacity and strength of their ancestors and elders, that their People have been able to maintain their traditions, and keep their culture and language alive. Furthermore, the Muwekma Ohlone families have never left their indigenous ancestral lands. Today they repair the sustained damages of over 251 years of colonization. They are focused on keeping their traditional culture strong, while they work for a bright and favorable future for their children, as they follow in the footsteps of their ancestors.

We respectfully request, that the good citizens of the City of San Jose and surrounding Towns strive to be faithful stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe by maintaining the bay, freshwater ways, native plants, animal habitats, and the air we all breath. Furthermore, we request that the City of San Jose and surrounding Towns within Santa Clara County honor the military service of the Muwekma men and women who have honorably served overseas during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and who are still serving in the United States Armed Forces today; and honor the tribal veterans and service members from California, North and South America who have served this country with dignity and honor.

In closing, it is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this **Holše Warep** (*hol-sheh wah-rehp*) ~ **Beautiful Land** to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who visits the **Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley**, and those who live or visit the **City of San Jose and surrounding towns**, to be respectful of these aboriginal lands and natural habitats within their traditional homeland, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity, strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are guests.

***Makiš horse 'ek-hinnan. 'Útaspuṭ makkam. Mak 'Iwe.***

Thank you. And on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, we hope you celebrate, honor, and stand in solidarity with all Indigenous People with their struggles to reverse the adverse colonial legacies affecting all people of color in San Jose, the Bay Area, California, the United States, and the Americas. As we gather and reflect on the sacred lands of the **Thámien Ohlone**. Aho!