

## BAY AREA RECLAIMING (/)

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# **Bay Area Reclaiming in Solidarity to Protect the West Berkeley Shellmound (//www.bayareareclaiming.org/solidarit y/bay-area-reclaiming-in-solidarity-to- protect-the-west-berkeley- shellmound)**

5/31/2018

14 Comments ([//www.bayareareclaiming.org/solidarity/bay-area-reclaiming-in-solidarity-to-protect-the-west-berkeley-shellmound#comments](https://www.bayareareclaiming.org/solidarity/bay-area-reclaiming-in-solidarity-to-protect-the-west-berkeley-shellmound#comments))

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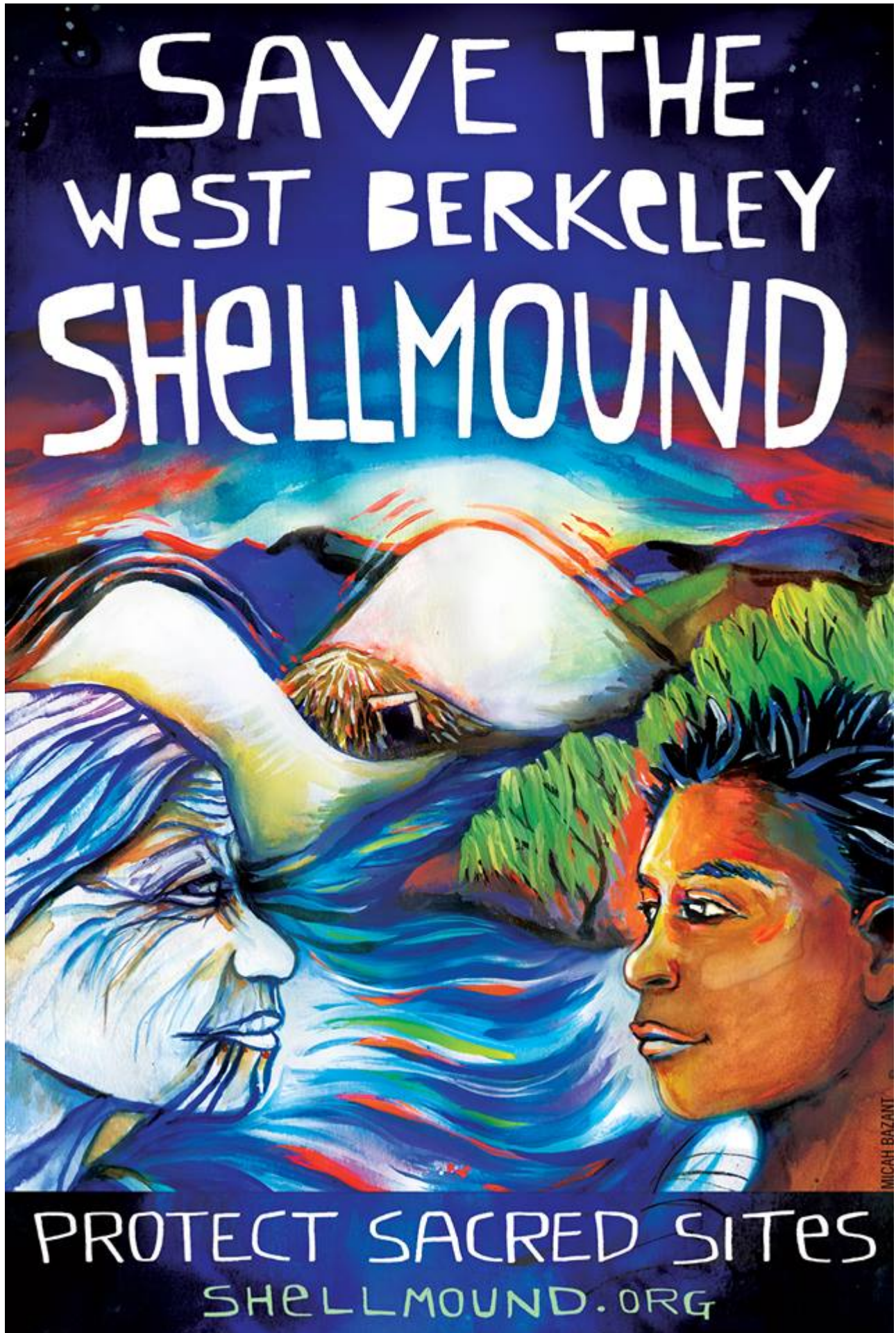


Image by Michah Bazant

**\*\*Urgent Call to Action by Ohlone Families. Please contact the City of Berkeley in the next 36-48 Hours\*\***

We, the undersigned members of the San Francisco, North Bay, and East Bay (and international) Reclaiming communities of witches support Ohlone families and allies working to #SaveTheWestBerkeleyShellmound. Despite genocidal violence by the Spanish and later U.S. colonial governments, Ohlone people are still here. We acknowledge the Ohlone and neighboring California Indian tribes and nations, including the Pomo, Miwok, Patwin, Yokuts, Salinan, and Esselen peoples as the past, present, and future care-takers of the lands on which we reside.

The Reclaiming Tradition was founded in the 1980s when members the original collective were involved in demonstrations against the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The origins of our spiritual practice include modern interpretations of earth-based ceremonial traditions of pre-Christian Europe. Our commitment to feminism, ecology, and justice in all its forms compels us to support Ohlone peoples. We do so with the awareness that our spiritual tradition was founded on occupied Ohlone territories.

In 1909, archeologist Nels Nelson created a map of the over 425 shellmound burial sites that ring the Bay Area. Many have been destroyed as a result of settler intrusion. One of the largest is buried below the Bay Street Mall in Emeryville. Today, the oldest shellmound and village site located at 1900 Fourth Street in Berkeley is threatened. Despite being named a historic landmark by the Berkeley Landmarks Commission and its ceremonial importance for Ohlone peoples, West Berkeley Investors has aggressively sought to build apartments, restaurants, and a parking garage on top of this site. We affirm East Bay Ohlone families whose statement says: "We oppose any desecration of our sacred site. Our sacred sites are not for sale. We will not allow our ancestors to be disturbed. This sacred site represents more than 5,000 years of our history and it also currently represents our living culture. We will not permit the desecration of a site that is sacred to our families, our culture, and our ancestors."

We recognize the role of Ohlone women on the front lines of sacred sites protection, Indigenous rights, and cultural survival. This is especially important to mention in light of the rising epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirits across Turtle Island (North America). We also acknowledge the struggle to protect the West Berkeley Shellmound is related to larger Indigenous movements to defend sacred places against the forces of commodification, extraction, and pollution including efforts to protect Oakflat (Apache), defend Mauna Kea (Kānaka Maoli/Native Hawaiians), and resist the numerous oil pipelines through Indigenous territories.

Acting in solidarity includes following the lead of Ohlone elders, showing up when asked, contacting local officials, donating when we can, and having community discussions about the ongoing impacts of colonialism on Ohlone and other California Indian tribes and nations. We commit to doing our part to support Ohlone peoples to protect the West Berkeley Shellmound and other sites for the generations of Ohlone peoples yet unborn.

### **Calls to Action**



\*Contact the City of Berkeley and tell them why saving the Shellmound is a priority for you. Email the city planner: [tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info (mailto:tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info)]. E-mail the city attorney [attorney@cityofberkeley.info (mailto:attorney@cityofberkeley.info)]. Call and e-mail the City Manager Dee Williams Ridley at 510-981-7000 or manager@cityofberkeley.info (mailto:manager@cityofberkeley.info) [manager@cityofberkeley.info (mailto:manager@cityofberkeley.info)] **Within the next 36-48 hours.**

\*Donate to our legal fund <https://shellmound.org/take-action/> (<https://shellmound.org/take-action/>)

\*Learn more at <https://shellmound.org> (<https://shellmound.org>)

\*Stay connected through social media:

West Berkeley Shellmound group on Facebook (<https://tinyurl.com/hwe3696> (<https://tinyurl.com/hwe3696>))

Twitter (@WShellmound)

Instagram (@savetheshellmound)



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Photo by Brooke Anderson Photography

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14 Comments (<http://www.bayareareclaiming.org/solidarity/bay-area-reclaiming-in-solidarity-to-protect-the-west-berkeley-shellmound#comments>)

**Amy Graham**

5/31/2018 08:38:49 am

I stand behind this statement.  
Save the Berkeley shell mound.  
Amy Graham

Reply

**Abel G**

5/31/2018 09:54:55 am

I sign this statement in support of Ohlone families to save the West Berkeley Shellmound.

Reply

**Mykel Kathryn Mogg**

5/31/2018 10:09:53 am

I urge the city of Berkeley to honor their commitments to Ohlone people and protect this sacred site. I hope that this place will be protected as a site for Ohlone people to gather in ceremony for many generations to come.

Reply

**Irisanya**

5/31/2018 11:07:01 am

I also sign this statement in support of Ohlone families to save the West Berkeley Shellmound.

Reply

**Ingrid Pollyak**

5/31/2018 11:16:57 am

I stand with Ohlone folks-- let there be no desecration of this sacred site.

Reply

**Cypress F Gormly**

5/31/2018 01:12:21 pm

I stand with the Ohlone.

Reply

**Toni Savage**

5/31/2018 04:42:29 pm

Please leave the Shellmound to the Ohlone

Reply

**Hilary Mary Buffum**

5/31/2018 05:44:16 pm

I stand solidarity with the Ohlone people. Save the Berkeley Shellmound. I urge the city of Berkeley to do what you said you would do and protect this sacred site.

Reply

**elaine magree**

5/31/2018 08:25:10 pm

I agree with this statement.

“We oppose any desecration of our sacred site. Our sacred sites are not for sale. We will not allow our ancestors to be disturbed. This sacred site represents more than 5,000 years of our history and it also currently represents our living culture. We will not permit the desecration of a site that is sacred to our families, our culture, and our ancestors.”

Come on Berkeley- do the right thing.

Reply

**Dani Burlison**

6/1/2018 06:56:43 am

I urge you to preserve the last 2.2 acres of the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village site. Berkeley's commitment to the Ohlone people should be honored and this historic site should be preserved for future generations.

Reply

**Rahula Janowski**

6/1/2018 10:25:34 am

I support this statement completely.

Reply

**Quincy Nolan**

6/1/2018 12:46:21 pm

I stand in complete support of this statement

Reply

**Holly blush-wood**

6/1/2018 01:46:50 pm

Not one more desecration in the name of greed.

Reply

**Kaeli Mogg**

6/1/2018 02:13:19 pm

Make the right choice, Berkeley, and honor your agreements with Ohlone people. Protect this sacred site.

Reply

## Leave a Reply.

Name (required)

Email (not published)

Website

Comments (required)

Notify me of new comments to this post by email

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# Reclaiming

This is a place where you might hear more from various voices and groups within Reclaiming.

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