



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ohlone peoples' territory extends from what others know as the Berkeley hills to the Bay Shore, from West Oakland to El Cerrito. They call this territory *xučyun* (pronounced *Hui-chin*).

The Ohlone people have counted themselves up to 50 tribes united by a shared language family and primary language, Chochochenyo, spoken today by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe who represents many of those 50 lineages.

They have lived in the California Coast for 10,000 years.

These tribes were hunter-gatherers and harvesters who actively managed their lands and vast natural resources through an incredible breadth of knowledge and careful work. They lived in prosperity and, for humans, conflict was relatively rare.

In the 18th century, Spanish invaders colonized the area and beyond, and committed various forms of genocide under their colonial rule, particularly cultural genocide through the missionary system.

In the 19th century under the nascent Mexican state the Ohlone people continued to face mass, systemic discrimination as they legally challenged broken promises and treaties Mexico made with the Spanish missionaries to turn 'secularized' mission lands over to the Ohlone people. New efforts began to revitalize the Ohlone culture that had been targeted for erasure by the missionary system.

A few decades later, the Ohlone people and their lands were forced under American rule. The Gold Rush saw California's Native Americans become inherently 'illegal' in their very existence.

In the 20th century, many Ohlone people re-organized themselves to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and started a new, long legal and political battle for treaty recognition, government recognition of the tribe, and equal rights under the law for Native Americans. Too many of these battles are ongoing.

No one could extinguish the Ohlone people—they remain pillars of the Bay Area Community, and all the systems of our lives here are built upon their society and their land. Too often, people speak of the Ohlone people—and Native Americans—in the past tense.

The Ohlone people are here and always have been—we are newcomers on the land they have lived on for 10,000 years.

