



**RESOLUTION OF CENSURE
of CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA ESHOO**

**FOR BEHAVIOR UNBECOMING OF A FEDERAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND DAMAGING TO
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MUWEKMA
OHLONE NATION**

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council stands for justice and equity for its members as individuals and as a group. The Council's mission is to have restored the tribe's rightful federal recognition and sovereignty acknowledged and validated by Congress, the Department of the Interior and President Joseph Biden. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council convened for a special session to address the recent trip to Washington D.C. by Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh.

WHEREAS, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is its own independent sovereign tribe; and,

WHEREAS, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is comprised of all known surviving indigenous lineages aboriginal to the greater San Francisco Bay region; and,

WHEREAS, the tribe's ancestors were forcibly detained in Missions Dolores, Santa Clara and San Jose; and,

WHEREAS, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe comprised the historic Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) documented federally recognized Verona Band of Alameda County; and,

WHEREAS, we were recognized as a sovereign government by the United States from 1906 to 1927; and,

WHEREAS, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe suffered the consequences of disgraced Sacramento Superintendent Lafayette Dorington, who was investigated for deliberately removing 135 sovereign tribes from the list of tribes awaiting land purchases. The first of which was the Verona Band of Alameda County; and,

WHEREAS, more than 12,000 of our ancestors' bodily remains are currently held on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, and in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, cannot be legally repatriated to us until our federal status is reaffirmed; and,

WHEREAS, our Tribe has been landless since before California was acquired by the United States and aboriginal title was extinguished by the Congress. Despite federal laws mandating that Bureau of Indian Affairs was to purchase land for our Tribe, an Indian Agent at the Sacramento agency unilaterally and illegally removed us from that congressionally mandated list of Tribes. Since then, our Tribal members have suffered disproportionately from homelessness, housing uncertainty, and residential displacement. Now, with the ongoing gentrification of our Bay homelands, housing prices threaten to decimate our Tribe, prevent our ability to live as a Tribe, and push us out of our homeland into a diasporic existence. The federal government has a clear trust responsibility to prevent the threat that California's housing and land use policies pose to the Tribe; and,

WHEREAS, our Tribe deserves the ability to invest in itself, to pursue economic development projects, to cultivate our tribal economy, and to unabashedly nation-build – without being ashamed of our economic aspirations, and without having to endure the aspersions that some politicians hurl; and,

WHEREAS, the full Dr. Christine Grabowski anthropological report that was commissioned by our Tribe four years ago confirms Muwekma Ohlone validity. Grabowski is a renowned expert in Tribal continuity; and

WHEREAS, the Grabowski report underscores the flawed determination issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs – in a deeply flawed process that requires further Congressional and administrative attention; and,

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress to discuss the reaffirmation of federal recognition and returned with great news of widespread support across both U.S. political parties; and,

WHEREAS, our Chairwoman represented the Tribe to members of the Congressional delegation representing districts sitting on Muwekma Ohlone land; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the delegation presented economic sanctions as a condition of recognition; and,

WHEREAS, the meeting was recorded at the behest of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo's communications with the Chairwoman have been beneath the dignity of the government-to-government relationship that exists between the Tribe and United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo inappropriately lambasted and berated the Chairwoman in front of congressional colleagues and staff, while making inaccurate accusations that were communicated to her by her staff, and for which her office has yet to apologize; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo verbalized a series of offensive comments directed at the Chairwoman during a discussion that was to focus on the reaffirmation of the Tribe's federal status, but was instead commandeered by Rep. Eshoo to bully the Tribe into ceding much of its sovereignty and civil regulatory jurisdiction, silencing the political voice of the Tribe, undermining the Tribe's ability to engage with the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo has repeatedly diminished the issue of the Tribe's existence into a trope about Indian casinos, and continues to do so in communications as late as January 17; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo has improperly injected her personal views on gambling to obscure and erode the Tribe's relationship with the federal government in a stated effort to curtail the Tribe's inherent sovereignty, attempting to impose enormous and permanent economic sanctions on the Tribe; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo's collusion with Rep. Zoe Lofgren, aiming to thwart a restoration of the Tribe's federal status without a severe cessation of rights, has been

construed by this Council as improper pressure that raises very serious legal concerns; and,

WHEREAS, the Bay Area delegation appear to have a colonialist mentality demonstrated by an abject lack of respect and engaging in overt hostility, particularly Congressman Eric Swalwell who claimed we are “shooting arrows” for addressing political battery in a press release, and Congressman Ro Khanna who purported that we don’t understand colonialist actions as much as he does; and,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eshoo threatened the Tribe to cease disseminating factual information; and,

WHEREAS, congressional staff misrepresented past communications and distorted agreements offered; and,

WHEREAS, it is apparent that Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has put undue political pressure on the other members of the Bay Area delegation, in conjunction with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren working with junior reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle in an attempt to smear the tribe, deceive the press and the public, derail congressional relations and distort agreements and conversations;

THE COUNCIL, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, PREFERS THIS RESOLUTION OF ADMONISHMENT AND FORMALLY ASKS REP. ESHOO TO APOLOGIZE FOR HER BEHAVIOR AND TREATMENT OF THE MUWEKMA OHLONE NATION, AND THAT SHE PLEDGE TO AVOID FURTHER UNDERMINING THE TRIBE’S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED ON THE 18th DAY OF JANUARY OF 2023.

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Charlene Nijmeh, Chairwoman

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Monica V. Arellano, Vice Chairwoman

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Richard Massiatt

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**Richard Massiatt
Councilman**

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Joann M. Brose

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**Joann Massiatt - Brose,
Councilwoman and Elder**

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Sheila Guzman Schmidt

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**Sheila Guzman
Schmidt, Councilwoman**

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Frank Ruano

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**Frank Ruano
Councilman and Elder**

DocuSigned by:

Carol M. Sullivan

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**Carol Juarez
Sullivan, Councilwoman and
Elder**



From the office of the

MUWEKMA OHLONE TRIBAL COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jonathan Lockwood

Thu., Jan. 19, 2023

424-666-9417

Eshoo, Lofgren censured by Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council for colonialist conduct

Spokesperson says Tribal Council disappointed in shameful conduct of congressional members

CASTRO VALLEY, Calif.—The Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council admonished Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., in a formal resolution condemning their colonialist behavior and shameful conduct in a recorded meeting with the tribe’s chairwoman.

Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council Spokesperson Jonathan Lockwood released the following statement:

“Everyone loves Muwekma. Everyone supports Muwekma. Everyone living in the Bay Area recognizes Muwekma Ohlone lands. From Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley to every Democratic Party in the Bay Area, the state legislative delegation and county and city elected officials, faith and community leaders and student activists in the region, everyone recognizes this.

“It’s time for our congressional delegation to represent their constituents and the Tribe, cease the colonialist behavior, take the time to educate themselves and support reaffirmation of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. The tribe underscores their gratitude for the members who have stood in stark contrast with the Bay Area delegation from Speaker Pelosi to Congressman Jay Obernolte, from Los Angeles to New York.”

Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh was invited to a meeting that became unexpectedly hostile with five members of the Bay Area congressional delegation, in which, one of the members claimed she was “shooting arrows” at the members by communicating discrepancies in members and staff claims in public and private communications. Another purported the Tribe doesn’t adequately understand colonialism, and another mentioned he didn’t know the Tribe.

The recording was reviewed by the Council as a matter of government-to-government relations, and highlighted the ignorance of indigenous issues by the delegation, standing in stark contrast to the reception Chairwoman Nijmeh experienced with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and members of both sides of the aisle from California to New York.

Highlights from the resolution follow:

Our Tribe deserves the ability to invest in itself, to pursue economic development projects, to cultivate our tribal economy, and to unabashedly nation-build – without being ashamed of our economic aspirations, and without having to endure the aspersions that some politicians hurl.

Congresswoman Eshoo’s collusion with Rep. Zoe Lofgren, aiming to thwart a restoration of the Tribe’s federal status without a severe cessation of rights, has been construed by this Council as improper pressure that raises very serious legal concerns

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**For media inquiries please call Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council
Spokesperson Jonathan Lockwood at 424-666-9417 or email at
jonathanlockwood@protonmail.ch.**