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Findings of burials consistent

Muwekma Ohlone monitor Golden Gate Recreation Area

by George Snyder
San Francisco, California (NFIG)

Leaders of the Muwékma Ohlone, the people whose ancestral territory includes the Presidio of San Francisco, say a multi-million dollar revamp envisioned for part of the former military property is tarnished because Native Americans are being left out in the planning

Native Americans are being left out in the planning for an area they consider to be sacred ...

for an area they consider to be sacred ground. Earlier this month, the National Park Service announced that with the help of a \$10 million grant from the San Francisco-based Haas family, about 100 acres of land at the Crissy Field section of the Presidio, now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, will undergo a face lift.

Rightly, the former air field, is a hardpacked, partially paved stretch of abused earth. Included in the project is the restoration of a 20-acre marsh, and creation of picnic grounds, bike paths and a recharged beach sometime in the year 2000.

Rosemary Cambra, tribal chair of the Muwékma Nation, says, however, those

ambitious federal designs were made without any real input from her people.

"To be included means to be part of the decision making," she said. "That includes working with all of the agencies doing any kind of mitigation work on the Presidio, including native plant restoration... after all we were the original landscapers."

Cambra says the Ohlone people have a moral and spiritual right to be included in Presidio management, particularly at Crissy Field, because of the discovery of burial and ceremonial sites there in 1872, 1912 and 1972.

The most recent find was the skeleton of a woman buried about 720 A.D.

"Everywhere they will dig they will find us," she said. "Our cultural history and our political history as a tribe has been complex. We have been working with the federal government and the park service in trying to

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