

Bay Area Rock Art Research Association

Bay Area Rock Art Conservation and Education Fund ■ Bay Area Rock Art News ■ Bay Area Rock Art Archive at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley ■ Rock Art Site Conservation Advocacy ■ Rock Art Field Trips

May 20, 2007

James Benney
PO Box 446
Orinda CA 94563

Re: Disclosure of cultural sites on public and private lands

Dear James Benney,

Last evening the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association convened its semi-annual membership meeting¹ with our priority agenda item being to discuss your publication, Native American Indian Sites in the East Bay Hills, and the content of your website, *Eastbayhillspeople.com*. Your publication of directions and GPS coordinates to sensitive cultural sites on both public and private lands, without consultation with local land managers, most-likely Native American descendants, and other stakeholders in this public patrimony in the East Bay is of the utmost concern to our members.

The members of BARARA are unanimous in the belief that the publication of directions to cultural sites that are not actively managed by the responsible land management agency for public visitation is a breach of basic ethics, and further, directly places the protection of these sensitive sites in jeopardy.

Many of the members of the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association have known you and your passionate appreciation for cultural sites in the East Bay hills for many years. However, the stark disconnect between your strongly held personal beliefs in what constitutes responsible site visitation and our own has become unavoidably apparent with your publication activities. By this letter, the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association formally requests that you reconsider the potential harm your activities may cause to these sites and, 1. withdraw your publication, Native American Indian Sites in the East Bay Hills, from circulation, and 2. remove all site location information, including directions and GPS coordinates, from your website. We request that you do this immediately. Your failure to do so will preclude any further association between yourself and BARARA, and the activities of our organization.

On behalf of the BARARA membership, sincerely,



Leigh Marymor, Co-founder

¹ Members present: Leigh Marymor, Paul Freeman, Jon Harmon, Chris Gralapp, Caroline Toner, Arthur Monroe, Jim Hale, and Betty and John Goerke.