

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Video Title: A Message about Puvungna

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Since my arrival at Long Beach State, few topics have generated as much conversation and passion as the university's 22-acre parcel north of Beach Drive on the west side of campus, referred to by our Native American communities as "Puvungna."

Today, I want to set the record straight on a few issues.

In 2019, the university relocated excavated soil to this site from a nearby student-housing project. The work ended on September 28, 2019.

At that time, keeping soil from campus here on site was the preferable method of managing excavated earth based on counsel we received from our campus Committee on Native American Burial Remains and Cultural Patrimony. Native-American site monitors and an archeologist were present during this work. Any minimal construction debris inadvertently included in the relocated soil was incidental and was removed.

We have been engaged in a process with the Native American Heritage Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer, and other interested parties to ensure a permanent plan for that soil in terms of better integrating it into the surrounding landscape and introducing native plantings.

This past fall, rumors and misinformation about the site intensified.

One of the rumors involves a new university plan for a parking lot on the land. This is untrue. There are no plans in place for a structure of any kind on that land.

In fact, as we move further into the process of creating a ten-year physical master plan for our campus, the undeveloped portions of this area of campus will be held in reserve -- with no building plans noted at all.

We have long said that we honor and respect interest in this site. This commitment has been in place during my entire presidency. And we have always sought to do the right thing. Honoring our First Peoples is part of the core values of celebrating the diversity of our campus and seeking an inclusive environment for all.