

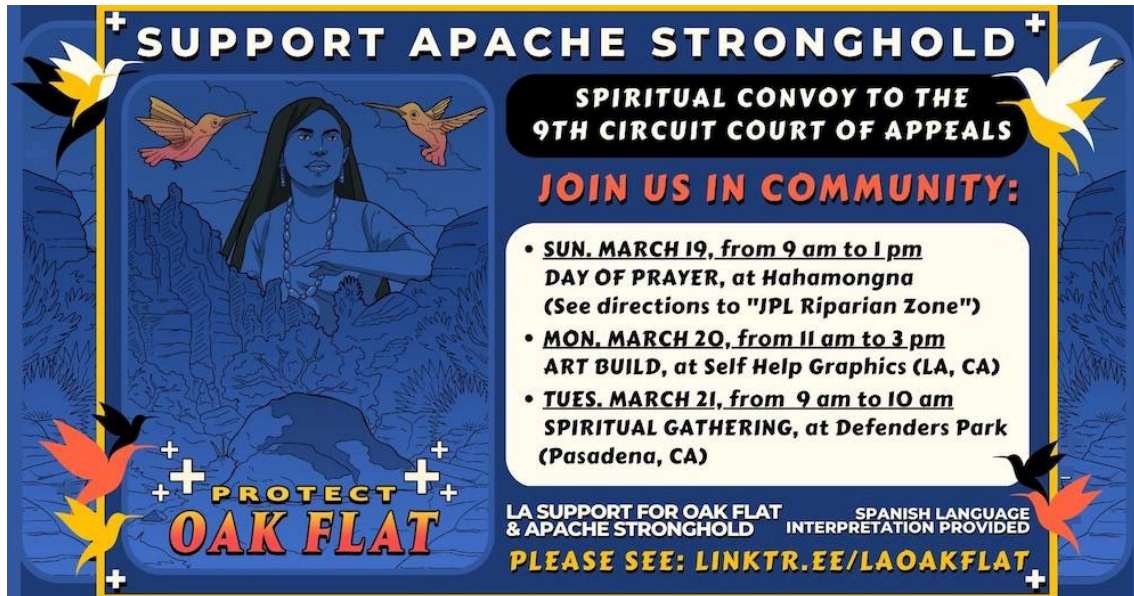
Thu, Mar 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA



For almost 10 years, the threat of devastation has hung over Oak Flat, a sacred site in Arizona. Apache Stronghold, whose members have fought tirelessly to save the land, has secured another court hearing—this time, in Pasadena. Bishop Barber and other faith and social justice leaders will be joining them, and you can too. Details below.

Announcement



Apache Stronghold comes to Southern California Tuesday March 21, 9am Defenders Park (near the U.S. Court of Appeals Richard H. Chambers Courthouse) | [Map](#)

Apache Stronghold, a coalition of Western Apache and other Native tribes, is fighting in court to protect Oak Flat—one of their most sacred sites—from complete destruction by a foreign-owned mining company. Although a federal appeals court ruled against them last year, it has recently agreed to rehear the case, giving Oak Flat another chance.

Some background: Western Apaches and other native tribes gather at Oak Flat, located 40 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, for their most essential religious ceremonies. But in 2014, the United States government decided to give the land to Resolution Copper, which plans to build a mine that will swallow the site in a nearly 2-mile wide crater. The mine will also consume and contaminate 250 billion gallons of Arizona's water sources, while Arizona faces a drought. And the copper ore itself will be shipped to China.

Apache Stronghold is now on their Spiritual Convoy to Los Angeles. On March 21, eleven U.S. Court of Appeals judges will rehear Apache Stronghold's case at the Ninth Circuit courthouse in Pasadena. Joining them in-person will be Bishop Barber, Repairers of the Breach executive director Rev. A. Kazimir Brown, PPC co-director of social justice organizing Kait Zeigler and social justice coordinator Madison Ashley.

A ruling in favor of Apache Stronghold would be a huge victory for all Native tribes who want to protect their sacred sites from cultural and environmental destruction.

In the days leading up to the Tuesday hearing there will be a prayer vigil and art build. [Visit Apache Stronghold online](#) to learn more about Oak Flat, the people fighting to save it and several ways you can help. You'll also find information on the flyer above.

"Oak Flat is the place we have connected with our Creator for millennia," says Dr. Wendsler Nosie, Sr. of Apache Stronghold. "And the generations that follow us deserve to continue this holy tradition."

Upcoming meetings



Close the Wealth Gap, CA organizing meetings

Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Join us any Wednesday evening to get answers to your questions about the Third Reconstruction Agenda and learn about organizing efforts and pick up new skills. On March 22 we'll be going over plans for our April 4 readings of [Dr. King's Beyond Vietnam speech](#)—a tradition that the PPC has honored for years with gatherings both in-person and online. Check here for more details next week.

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

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PPC in the media

“America Is in a Disgraced Class of Its Own”

Just this morning, [The New York Times](#) published a guest essay by Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond. Its headline refers to the fact that this country supports poverty-fighting measures like housing assistance and food stamps at a much lower rate than other “rich democracies.” This despite the fact that one third of us have household incomes below \$55,000. The author cites several actions that could lift America out of this shameful state, and he quotes Bishop Barber to support his thesis that we need to work toward full poverty abolition: “We have to challenge the tragedy, the catastrophe, of compromise,” Bishop Barber told him. Read the whole essay [here](#).

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.