



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community

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Non-Profit 501-C3 - 41563
EIN 411848659

Dear Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners.

9/7/2022.

My name is Sharon Lennartson, and I am the Tribal Chairwoman of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community, a not-yet federally recognized Tribal 501(c)(3) organization. I write in support of the Lake Hiawatha compromise plan, which would change the nearby golf course from 18 holes to 9 holes and restore the water of Lake Hiawatha to a healthy and safe condition.

The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community has over 125 members in good standing. The majority of our ancestors can be traced to the Mendota area for hundreds of years. Our community is dedicated to protecting important and sacred sites and to bringing Dakota culture back to its birthplace in Minnesota for the benefit of future generations.

We were distraught to learn how Lake Hiawatha's water quality is impaired due to trash and excessive golf course pumping. Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek drain into the Mississippi River. It is vitally important to protect our waters, so near to Dakota sacred sites at the convergence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers and indeed connected to them. A plan that protects the waters of Lake Hiawatha and the Lake Hiawatha Delta Habitat aligns with our Tribal community's dedication. A clean and healthy lake and delta are essential for our feathered, scaled, furred, and all of our relatives to thrive.

According to the vision of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community, human beings must act as trusted stewards of the land and water for those who live now and those who come after us. We betray that trust by continuing to ignore the impaired lake water, putting the already-damaged environment at further risk. In that spirit, the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community urges you to pass the Lake Hiawatha compromise plan.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lennartson
Tribal Chairwoman
Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community

Thank you so much for your time, and please feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Sharon Lennartson Tribal Chairwoman

Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the Dakota Culture for Future Generations.