



R-15-60
Meeting
August 13, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #2

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Matt Freeman
Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT

Consider Certification of Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve by the National Park Service as an Interpretive Site Associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

BACKGROUND

Established via the National Trails System Act of 1968, the National Trails System is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) within the United States Department of the Interior, and includes internationally recognized trails such as the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. One category of the National Trails System is National Historic Trails designation. One local trail in that category is the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, which runs from the San Francisco Bay Area through Arizona to (and beyond) the Mexican border south of Tucson. The Trail is operated by NPS under a 1996 Comprehensive Management and Use Plan.

As NPS prepares for its 100th Anniversary next year, the agency is seeking to add segments of the de Anza National Historic Trail to its network of Interpretive Sites. OSA Educational Programs Coordinator, Teri Rogoway, worked with volunteer Les Krammer and with NPS over several months to apply for certification and draft an Agreement that generally outlines coordination between our agencies regarding future interpretation opportunities of the de Anza Trail at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

The proposed Agreement between OSA and NPS does not obligate the OSA in any way, but does suggest one to two interpretive programs per year that could be conducted by OSA related to the de Anza Trail, and otherwise outlines coordination between the agencies regarding messaging related to the Trail.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Positive public exposure for OSA, its mission, the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve and the Coyote Valley region are foreseen as part of our association with this important element of the National Trails System. Interpretive materials such as de Anza Trail brochures and metal sign plates to attach to OSA trail sign posts, as well as direct interpretive assistance would become available to OSA to help with public interpretation of the de Anza Expedition and Trail. Location of the Preserve, plus events held there - such as the Family Harvest Feast - would be identified on the NPS website and maps. This could draw in new local audiences, as well as visitors from more distant locations exploring the various National Trails.

Potential financial benefits: if certification is approved, NPS could potentially provide grants to OSA for partial funding of interpretive panels that cover the de Anza expedition and trail. A grant in the range of \$1,000 to \$3,000 for such a panel currently being designed by the OSA has already been offered by the National Park Service.

PROCESS

If approved by the Board, the agreement between OSA and NPS would be executed, a press release issued, and a speaker from the de Anza National Historic Trail office of the National Park Service would be scheduled to speak before the public at the Family Harvest Feast on September 19, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact to budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve certification of the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve as an Interpretive Site associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and authorize the Assistant General Manager to sign an agreement with the National Park Service to effect a non-binding partnership regarding this certification.

Prepared by:

Marc Landgraf, External Affairs Manager

Teri Rogoway, Educational Programs Coordinator

*Attachment(s): Resolution 15-42 – de Anza Trail Certification
Exhibit B -- Proposed Agreement with the National Park Service*

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

RESOLUTION 15-42

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY
TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFYING
THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY COYOTE VALLEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
AS AN INTERPRETIVE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH
THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

WHEREAS the National Trails System Act of 1968 established a National Trails System which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS); and

WHEREAS the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, part of the National Trails System, runs through the Coyote Valley in southern Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service is interested in adding segments of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to its network of Interpretive Sites; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service is interested in certifying Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve as an Interpretive Site associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's constituents would benefit from such certification through exposure through National Park Service website, print, and other marketing of the Interpretive Site, which would draw greater interest and visitorship to Coyote Valley and the preserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the General Manager or her designee to accept and execute the above referenced Agreement with the National Park Service certifying the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve as an Interpretive Site Associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Authority and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Mike Potter, Chairperson
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

William P. Parkin, Legal Counsel

Kellie Guerra, Clerk of the Board

EXHIBIT B

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Juan Bautista de Anza
National Historic Trail
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104
415-623-2343 phone



Interpretive Site Certification Agreement

Between the National Park Service and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

This agreement represents the Secretary of the Interior's certification, under section 7(h) of the National Trails System Act, that **Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (Coyote Valley OSP)**, located in Morgan Hill, California, meets the national historic trail criteria established by the National Trails System Act and any supplemental criteria prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

The National Park Service and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (Santa Clara County OSA) agree voluntarily to strive to achieve the highest level of resource protection and visitor appreciation of trail resources and history at Coyote Valley OSP, as provided for in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail) for "...the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment." (National Trails System Act 16 U.S.C. - 1241 et seq. Section 3(a)(3)).

I. Name and Location of Site

Coyote Valley OSP, parcel #712-05-010 and #712-05-011, sits at the western end (terminus) of Palm Avenue in Morgan Hill. It is to the north of Tilton Ranch, parcel #712-05-012, to the south of the Silver Creek Valley property, parcel #712-03-099, and to the east of the Cinnabar Hills Golf Course on McKean Road.

II. Owner or Managing Authority Responsible for Trail Site

Name: Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Address: 6980 Santa Teresa Blvd. #100
San Jose, CA 95119
Telephone: 408/224-7476
Fax: 408/224-7548
Contact: Teri Rogoway, Educational Programs Coordinator
Marc Landgraf, External Affairs Manager
E-mail: trogoway@openspaceauthority.org
mllandgraf@openspaceauthority.org

III. Site Description and Historic Relationship to the Anza Trail

EXHIBIT B

Interpretive Relationship to the Trail. The preserve sits less than one mile to the west of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail corridor and recreation retracement route. Coyote Valley OSP is within the Amah Mutsun Ohlone homeland and evidence of settlement have been found on the property by archaeologists. The property was also part of the Rancho Laguna Seca land grant before becoming part of the Tilton Family Ranch and continuing as a working farm into the twenty-first century. Today, the Coyote Valley OSP is a natural area, similar to the landscape setting the expedition encountered and provides opportunity for programming, learning, and recreating in that setting. The property and subsequent interpretive themes of the Coyote Valley OSP plan reflect the area's American Indian, Spanish colonial, and natural history past while providing information on the legacy of the Anza Expedition and the associated change and settlement of California.

Description. Coyote Valley OSP is a 348-acre preserve with rolling hills and oak woodlands that look down on a large, grassy meadow. Coyote Valley is an important historical and cultural site for the local Amah Mutsun Ohlone people and has also shared in the tradition of farming in Santa Clara County. This area is critical corridor between the Diablo and Santa Cruz Mountain ranges, helping in the safe passage of wildlife in the South Bay. The preserve is accessible from Palm Avenue in Morgan Hill, just south of Santa Teresa and Bailey Avenues, off Highway 101.

IV. Facilities and Uses

Existing Facilities and Programs. Coyote Valley OSP is a new facility which opened in June 2015. Amenities include, but are not limited to,:

- 4-mile trail loop that meanders through the hillsides and canyons of the preserve
- vault toilet
- paved parking lot
- all-access picnic tables
- open air educational outdoor classroom area (planned)
- ¾-mile paved all-access loop trail through the meadow (planned)
- dirt roads leading to the trailhead
- interpretive signage

In addition to the physical amenities, there are will be regular staff and docent-led educational programs, hikes, night activities, and educational series. A brochure with trail map is available. There are plans to include Anza Trail interpretive signage within the preserve.

V. Legal and Policy Compliance

To achieve and retain official site certification, any use, development, or resource management activity at the site (such as historic restoration and rehabilitation, vegetation controls, exhibits, etc.) will require compliance with appropriate environmental and historic resource protection laws including the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, and others as required

Section 5 (a) (15) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.) states that, for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, "Before acquiring any easement or entering into any

EXHIBIT B

cooperative agreement with a private landowner with respect to the trail, the Secretary shall notify the landowner of the potential liability, if any, for injury to the public resulting from physical conditions which may be on the landowner's land. The United States shall not be held liable by reason of such notice or failure to provide such notice to the landowner." The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority remains responsible for the potential liability, if any, for injury to the public resulting from physical conditions which may be on the landowner's land.

By entering into this certification agreement, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior and the United States Government assume no liability for any injury to the public resulting from the physical conditions which may be present on the land.

Policy Compliance. The approval date for the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Use and Management Plan was September 26, 2013.

VI. Management Policies and Practices

Public Access. The trails are open to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The all-access trail will not be open to equestrians. Use of property is free to the public.

Site maintenance. The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority is responsible for maintenance of the site. Refer to the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Use and Management Plan sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

Signage. There will be two interpretive signs, one along the paved trail all-access loop and one on the main trail at the first, southernmost scenic overlook.

VII. Certification

The National Park Service agrees to certify the approximately three hundred and forty-eight (348) acres of Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Through this agreement, the National Park Service and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority agree, if mutually deemed appropriate, to work jointly on planning, interpretation, resource management and other matters that relate to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail at the historic site and to strive to meet the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail.

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority retains all legal rights to the property, and nothing in this agreement is to be construed as granting any legal authority to the National Park Service over the property or any action by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority.

This certification agreement is nonbinding, and may be canceled by either party at any time by written notice. The National Park Service and Santa Clara County Open Space Authority agree, whenever possible, to identify issues or concerns to allow for resolution.

This agreement will remain in effect unless cancelled by either party, or until the ownership of the property is transferred to another entity.

EXHIBIT B

Trail Site Certification

I affirm that: (A) I am authorized to represent the owner/manager; (B) this site of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is available for public use regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap; (C) I will notify the National Park Service if there is a potential change affecting the certified status of the site:

Matt Freeman
Assistant General Manager
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
6980 Santa Teresa Blvd. #100
San Jose, CA 95119

Date

On behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, I certify the site described in this agreement as an official component and complementary interpretive facility of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and agree to provide the official trail markers for the site.

Naomi Torres, Superintendent
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
National Park Service
333 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Date

Exhibits:

- A National Trails System Certification Program
- B Maps of Trail Site
- C Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Use and Management Plan

EXHIBIT B

National Trails System Certification Program

Date: August __ 2015

Property Name: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

County: Santa Clara County

Primary Contact:

Name: Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Address: 6980 Santa Teresa Blvd. #100
San Jose, CA 95119
Telephone: 408/224-7476
Fax: 408/224-7548
Contact: Teri Rogoway, Educational Programs Coordinator
Marc Landgraf, External Affairs Manager
E-mail: trogoway@openspaceauthority.org
mlandgraf@openspaceauthority.org

Contacts are (*check one*) Owner, **Designated staff**

+++++

EXHIBIT B

National Trails System Certification Program

Certification Evaluation Form (required)

-For Staff Use-

Evaluator:

Name: BriAnna Weldon

Home office: JUBA

Date: 6/3/2015

Property: Coyote Valley OSP

1. Property is (check all that apply): an historic site, a trail segment (> ½ mile), **an interpretive facility**

2. National Historic Trail(s) associated with the property: Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

In the opinion of the evaluator, this property *meets all criteria* for certification as part of an authorized national historic trail.

Signature (agency evaluator)

Date