State of California 

The Resources Agency **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION** 

PRIMARY RECORD DRAFT

Other Listings Review Code

Reviewer

Primary # HRI#

Trinomial

**NRHP Status Code** 

Date

Page 1 \*Resource Name or #: Portolá Expedition Camp, CHL #22 1 P1. Other Identifier: Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail: Portolá Camp October 27th, Purísima

\*P2. Location: **Not for Publication** 

This amendment to California Historical Landmark, CHL #22, changes the name of the landmark from Portolá Expedition Camp On Purisima Creek to Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail, Purisima Creek, and amends the nomination with the enclosed documentation and Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail historic context. This amendment also confirms that the landmark meets the requirements of California PRC 5024.1(2) regarding historical landmarks preceding #770.

Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail, Purisima Creek, is eligible for listing as a California Historical Landmark because it is associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the State of California, the individual Gaspar de Portolá, and a group, the Ohlone people of what is now San Mateo County.

Purisima Creek was the site where the Portolá expedition camped on October 27, 1769, on the south bank of the creek in the vicinity of the Ocean Shore Highway, near the mouth of the creek. Members of the expedition noted a nearby Ohlone village, abandoned at the time of their visit.

DPR 523A (9/2013) \*Required information State of California 

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### **BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

*Resour	rce l	Name	or # Portolá Expedition Camp, CHL #22
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B1. Historic Name: Portolá Expedition Camp

B2. Common Name: Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail: Portolá Camp October 27th, Purísima

B3. Original Use: Ohlone Road, Portolá Expedition Camp B4. Present Use: Road

\*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular — Originally compacted dirt road now asphalt covered; campsite was Spanish 18<sup>th</sup> century mobile expedition trappings.

\*B6. Construction History: The road was established to provide links between the Ohlone community villages sometime before 1769, as the Portolá Expedition noted that the road was in existence, used, and as wide as a contemporary Spanish road. This segment continued to be a main thoroughfare until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was bypassed by a new state highway CA-1. The 1769 Campsite existed less than 24 hours.

\*B7. Moved? No Yes

CSketch Map with north arrow required.)

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Page 3 of 13 Resource Name or #: Portolá Expedition Camp, CHL #22

L1. Historic and/or Common Name: Portolá Expedition Camp: Portolá Camp October 27th, Purísima,

Ohlone-Portolá Trail, Verde Road

L2a. Portion Described: Entire Resource

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#### \*B10. Significance (continue):

In 1596, Sebastián Vizcaíno intended to colonize California, however he failed to do so. Except for his descriptions of Monterey, Vizcaíno's charts of 1602-03 were highly regarded for their accuracy and his maps continued in use until the 1790s. Even though Manila galleons explored the coasts, little note was taken about California, with one exception; when Gamelli Carreir described his south bound voyage in 1696. Thus the myth of a safe harbor at Monterey was still on the minds of Spanish officials in the 1760s, when they finally got around to planning the colonization of Alta California.

Interest in Alta California was revived by José de Gálvez, who was made Visitor-General of New Spain in 1765 (a position actually superior to the Viceroy). For reason of personal ambition, Gálvez desired to give his sphere of influence the look of expansion and not decay. Citing possible foreign interest in California, he proposed occupation of that forgotten place as a defensive measure.

He not only discussed the ever-present concern of English interests, but also mentioned rumors of Russian fur trapping activity in North America. Lack of resources and the remoteness of California were finally put aside. The Spanish now felt compelled to settle Alta California before a foreign interloper could. They desired that California become a buffer against possible aggression — to protect Mexico and, indeed, all its New World holdings. An expedition from Mexico to Alta California was sponsored by the Spanish in 1769.

The strategy in settling Alta California was to establish overland communications and transportation. This seemed necessary because of the power of the English Navy. Lack of enough colonists to occupy the new frontier would be overcome by making the California Indians Spanish in their religion and in their language. That and a gradual intermixing of blood with the Spanish would create a new race of people loyal to the crown back in Spain. In order to carry out his plans, Gálvez called upon a captain in the Spanish army, Gaspar de Portolá.

What the Spanish called the "Sacred Expedition" started out in the early months of 1769 and was the first Spanish land exploration of what is now California. Three ships were assigned the duty of supplying the main body of explorers who were on foot and mule. The vessels *San Antonio* and *San Carlos* were to rendezvous with the land contingent at San Diego. The *San José* was to meet them at Monterey.

The *San Antonio* reached San Diego first in May after 54 days at sea and awaited the arrival of the others. Despite their reputation for accuracy, charts drawn up during the Vizcaíno expedition, had marked San Diego too far north. They established the Fort Presidio of San Diego on a hill near the San Diego River. The *San Carlos* arrived three weeks later with a scurvy-ridden crew.

The first of two groups of Portolá's land expedition arrived on June 29 with only about half of the original 300 who had originally set out. The Portolá group was certainly challenged. Dozens were sick. The *San Antonio* was sent back to Mexico for supplies. A portion of these men were left in San Diego. This was the first settlement by Europeans in what is now the state of California.

Under Governor Portolá's command a troop of 64 men ventured northward on July 14, 1769, two days before the founding of California's first mission San Diego de Alcalá. Included in Portolá's party were 27 soldados de cuera commanded by Captain Fernando de Rivera Moncada, six Catalan volunteers under the command of Lieutenant Pedro Fages, scout Jose Francisco Ortega, engineer Miguel Costansó, Franciscan padres Juan Crespi and Francisco Gomez, seven muleteers, two servants, a small number of blacksmiths, cooks and carpenters, the doctor, and fifteen Christian Indians from missions of Lower California to act as interpreters. Portolá took one hundred mules and provisions for six months. The route Portolá undertook was later referred to as *El Camino Real* (the term is meant to be used in the same

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manner as we use 'Highway' today), which is close to U.S. Highway 101 today. His aim was to meet the *San José* at Monterey. Sadly, the *San José* was never heard from again — lost at sea and lost to history.

Portolá's party anxiously scoured the coast for the *San José* as they approached Monterey. When they actually saw Monterey Bay, the men felt that this place could not be the location that seafarer Vizcaíno had described as a safe harbor. And so, they marched onward. The decision to press further north was a daring one, for a number of the soldiers lay ill from scurvy, provisions were running low, and winter weather threatened. By October 28 the party had resorted to rationing food, and illness incapacitated many of the group. Their plight was such that Costansó feared that the expedition must be abandoned.

After spending several days at an Oljon village, California Historical Landmark #26, they continued to travel due northward, over ranges of burnt grassy knolls, guided by four locals of the village who could show the expedition the route to the next village and the watering holes. The terrain consisted of tablelands that ended with cliffs at the sea and bare of trees. The expedition crossed three streams with very steep cliffs in a span of two leagues. They stopped for the night at an abandoned Torose village at the northern side of the third stream, close to the coast. The guides told them that the villagers had moved into the mountains. The stream was named Saint Ives.

We set out at a quarter past nine in the morning from the valley, stream, and village of *Nuestro padre Santo Domingo*<sup>1</sup>, course due northward, over high ranges of knolls, all of them burnt off. Shortly we came onto rolling tablelands close to the shore, with everything ending very cliffy above the sea, and all very bare and not a tree in sight, having profound descents down to three large streams, all of which emptied into the sea. We went for three hours, and must have made two leagues<sup>2</sup>, when we stopped at the third stream, close to the shore, where we came upon an empty village; those belonging to the preceding place said they had moved into the mountains. We were accompanied by four heathens belonging to the spot we set out from. (I called it the stream of *San Ivo*<sup>3</sup>)<sup>4</sup>

Journal of Fray Juan Crespí, Friday October 27th, 1769

We left the valley, which the soldiers called *Valle de los Curos*<sup>5</sup>, heading north. Afterwards, we followed the coast over high hills to the north-northwest. We travelled for two short leagues, and halted near a small stream. The country had a gloomy aspect; the hills were bare and treeless, and, consequently, without fire-wood. On the northern side of this stream there were some abandoned Indian huts; all who had the curiosity to look in to see these were covered with fleas. On the road we had to dig a very long slope over which we had to make a passage in order to descend to a small stream where it empties into the sea.

Diary of Miguel Costansó, Friday October 27th, 1769

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Our Father Saint Dominic, now San Gregorio

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Spanish league was originally set as a fixed unit of distance of 5,000 varas (slightly more than an English yard), about 2.6 miles or 4.2 km. In 1568 Philip II of Spain officially abolished the league. It originated as an average distance you expect to cover in one-hour walking over level terrain.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sic;. (Saint Ives).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Added in different ink.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Diarrhea Valley, now San Gregorio; Costansó and Crespí named the same locales separately.

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On Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> it was declared that they had found San Francisco Harbor and its inlet, confirmed by the sighting of the Farallone Islands. They decided to return back to the coast to the point-of-pines and find *Monte Rey*. "May God let us find it; it would be a great mischance for this entire Expedition." <sup>6</sup>

The expedition's most notable sighting was San Francisco Bay, but nearly every stop along the route was a first. It is also important in that it, along with the later Pedro Fages 1770 visit, followed by de Anza expedition of 1775-6, established the overland route north to San Francisco which became the El Camino Real. That route was integral to the settlement of Alta California by the Spanish Empire and made it possible for the Franciscan friars to establish a string of twenty-one missions, which served as the nuclei of permanent settlements, established a cattle ranching economy and converted thousands of Native Americans to Christianity.

Historians have long hailed the sighting of the bay as crucial to the development of the Peninsula and surrounding areas. Had Portolá not happened upon "the great estuary," it may have taken many more years before a land party might have encountered San Francisco Bay, further retarding the march of events of the Spanish California period. While Monterey was established in 1770, it only lasted six years as the Spanish northernmost outpost, for in 1776, the mission and presidio at San Francisco were established as a direct result of the discovery of the Bay.

The 1769 episode encouraged more exploration. In 1772, the new military governor of California, Pedro Fages, went north from Monterey as he had in 1770, except this time he took along Father Crespi and penetrated much farther north and then east. In a failed attempt to get around the Bay, he charted the landscape deep into the East Bay and discovered Suisun Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

From descriptions made in 1772, the Spanish could now begin to put together the keys to the military protection and commercial promise of Alta California. They could now envision that if the Golden Gate was navigable then access to the greatest natural harbor on the west coast of the Americas could be gained. Because the Gate was so narrow, the entire San Francisco Bay might be sufficiently defended against a naval threat from the bluffs nearby. Advancing that train of thought, if the Golden Gate could be controlled and utilized, and if the Bay could likewise be controlled and utilized, then the deep waters of the Delta could be used by ships to sail into the interior of California. Further exploration indicated that if the Delta could be sailed, then the Sacramento River might be navigated to the north and the San Joaquin River to the south. In the era before railroads, when maritime shipping was universally the most important type of transportation, these realizations had great significance.

It had all started in 1769. Although Spain lacked the personnel and resources to fully exploit the situation, and later the Mexican authorities were even less able to take advantage of it, after the United States military take-over of California in 1846 and the Gold Rush that followed three years later, the Americans were. They fortified the Golden Gate with a variety of forts and gun emplacements before the Civil War (1861-1865). The port and City of San Francisco grew in population and economic importance so that by the end of the nineteenth century it could be considered the "Imperial" city of the American West. For thousands of years, California had existed as a difficult to reach place, inhabited by a native people unknown to the rest of the world. From Portolá's Expedition forward, this would all change. Within 200 years, this California would become the most populated, economically powerful and culturally influential state in the most important country in the world.

The expedition included individuals who had a profound influence on the history of California. Gaspar de Portolá y Rovira (1723–1786), was a veteran of 35 years of service to the king, had served as military

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Crespí, pg 611

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officer and governor. As commander of the Spanish colonizing expedition on land and sea that established San Diego and Monterey, Portolá expanded New Spain's Las Californias province far to the north from its beginnings on the Baja California peninsula. Portolá's expedition was also the first time Europeans saw San Francisco Bay. The expedition gave names to geographic features along the way, many of which are still in use. Portolá was the first of the newly created position of Governor of the Californias and given overall command. He served in office from November 30, 1767 to July 9, 1770. His legacy continues today with numerous streets, schools and two towns, Portola and Portola Valley, named after him.

His company of officers would become instrumental in California history. Fernando Rivera y Moncada became captain of the Presidio of Loreto and later third governor of California 1773-1777, Lieutenant Pedro Fages would gain future notoriety as military commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> governor and explorer of Alta California, and Sergeant José Francisco Ortega chief scout of the expedition would later serve as comandante of the Presidios of San Diego and Monterey and found the Presidio of Santa Barbara and Missions San Juan Capistrano and San Buenaventura. Other men of note in the company included Juan Bautista Alvarado whose son would become governor and Jose Raimundo Carrillo future captain and comandante of the Presidios of Monterey, Santa Barbara and San Diego.

The uniqueness of this trail is that it is based on two cultures, the Ohlone and the Spanish, who were unknown to each other until 1769. This is the story of two peoples—the indigenous population and their culture, and the coming of the Spanish and European colonization. This road contains historic and archæologic resources which span a wide spectrum of human history on the Peninsula. During the Portolá expedition these stories intertwined. This would be a tragic interface; within living memory of first contact, the Ohlone lifestyle would be gone, forever altering the history of California. People have always held a view of the way the universe works, which for them seems definitive. This meeting of peoples was the day the universe changed for the First Americans.

It is important to state that throughout Portolá's journey up the coast and especially on Ohlone lands, the Spanish used the Indian trails, even referring to them as "roads." First American trails represent the earliest transportation routes in California, and these trails eventually became State Highways, public roads, and sections of today's California Coastal Trail. Seeing todays' roads is like looking into the past, as our earliest ancestors have continuously moved up and down the same roads, through the same watersheds for food, bartering, health, and interaction with neighbors.

Costansó and Crespi turned out to be terrific diarists of the journey. Crespi, who had been Father Serra's student back in Spain even before Serra became a Franciscan, was particularly enthusiastic about the things they saw and the people they met. Every tribe controlled the land and people within its own area. Within each tribal region a number of villages existed, each with its own village head and set of high-status families. Tribal size varied from 40 to 500 persons. It was the Portolá Expedition that has given us the only definitive recording of these communities, the only known documentation of Quiroste.

Once in Ohlone country, the Portola Expedition found the native people to be most gracious, offering food and guidance. The four local tribes that moved to Mission Dolores from the Pacific Coast south of the Golden Gate in the 1780s and early 1790s were the Aramai, Chiguan, Cotegen, and Oljon groups. They were attracted to a Mission Dolores farm and chapel in the present city of Pacifica. That site, the outstation of San Pedro and San Pablo, eventually became the headquarters of Mexican Period Rancho San Pedro, and most recently, Sanchez Adobe County Park.

The Purisima Creek watershed and nearby small creeks on the coast south of Half Moon Bay was the home of the Cotegen local tribe. One of their towns was "Ssalaime, the principal place of the Cotegenes" (SFR-D 216). Cotegen outmarriages were predominately with the Oljon to the south and Chiguan to the

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north; fewer links can be identified from mission records to the larger bayshore groups to their east. The pre-mission Cotegen population is estimated to have been 65 people. Most members of the group moved to Mission Dolores or its outstation of San Pedro between 1786 and 1791; also, five people baptized at Mission Santa Clara from the San Bernardino District were tentatively identified as Cotegens. The average year of adult Cotegen baptism was 1790. The man who provided the only first-person Ramaytush word list available to linguists, Pedro Alcantara, was a Cotegen (by birth and paternal line, with a Yelamu mother) who was baptized at Mission Dolores as a child in 1786 (SFR-553).

The Ohlone harvested "plant, fish, and animal resources" from the environment and acquired additional resources through extensive trade networks. Their impact is still evident today, including networks that extended across the San Francisco Bay to the north and east. A sexual division of labor existed within Ohlone society: women harvested plant foods, including acorns and seeds, while men hunted and fished. In regard to the material culture, "women spent a considerable portion of their time each year weaving baskets, which were necessary for gathering, storing, and preparing foodstuffs." "Houses were hemispherical in shape and were generally made from grasses and rushes, although some were constructed from large sections of redwood tree bark. Women tended to wear skirts made of plant fiber, while men were generally unclothed. Women tended to have tattoos on their chins. Men had long beards with pierced ears and nasal septums."

The socio-political landscape was determined in large part by the relationships between tribes and tribal leaders. As anthropologist Randall Milliken relates, "Within each tribal territory lived a number of intermarried families that comprised a small autonomous polity ... Members of the local groups hosted dances, pooled their labor during specific short harvest periods, defended their territory, and resolved internal disputes under the leadership of a headman."

Of the ten tribes of the San Francisco Peninsula, the Aramai (whose territory was in today's Pacifica) were perhaps the most politically influential. Headman Luciano Yagueche of the village at Pruristac had at least three wives and six children. His offspring married the children of other headmen more frequently than any other headman or high-status person. Aramai men accounted for nearly one-third of leadership positions at Mission San Francisco de Asis, which is impressive given the tribe's comparatively small size. Luciano Yagueche's son, Manuel Conde Jutquis, retained an important status at the mission from his baptism in 1779 until his death in 1830.

A second important leader from the village of Pruristac, Manuel Liquiiqui, perhaps a shaman or secondary headman, married the daughter Luciano Yagueche. Because marriages between members of the same village were quite unusual for the Ramaytush, Manuel Liquiiqui may well have been a very important person in the Aramai tribe. Another indicator of his high status was that of his son. In Ramaytush culture the prominence of the father was conferred to his children, and a position of high status in the mission staff required as a prerequisite high status in the neophyte community. Manuel Liquiiqui's son, Luis Ramon Heutlics, stood witness at more marriages than any other Ramaytush person and eventually became alcalde.

Another important Aramai man, Jorge Jojuis, most likely a brother or son of Luciano Yagueche, served on the mission staff as a witness for many Ramaytush marriages. Members of the neighboring Chiguan tribe, however, did not have prominent roles at Mission Dolores. The Aramai, then, were not only the most politically dominant Ramaytush tribe—they dominated indigenous leadership at Mission San Francisco de Asis during its formative years from 1786 until the early 1800s.

Relations between tribes were managed by intermarriages, especially among high status families. Tribal conflict originated from infringements upon tribal territorial boundaries and from wife stealing; however, "despite their political divisions, the people of the Bay Area were tied together in a fabric of social and

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genetic relationships through intertribal marriages." In addition, tribes united for the purpose of ongoing trade both at the local and regional levels. Regional, seasonal fiestas brought tribes of differing languages and ethnicities together. As Milliken describes, "Regional dances provided opportunities to visit old friends and relatives from neighboring groups, to share news, and to make new acquaintances. People traded basket materials, obsidian, feathers, shell beads, and other valuable commodities through gift exchanges. Intergroup feuds were supposed to be suspended at the dances, but old animosities sometimes surfaced. All in all, such 'big times' strengthened regional economic ties and social bonds."

The Ohlones of the San Francisco Bay Area shared a common world view and ritual practices. According to Milliken, "People believed that specialized powers came to them through association with supernatural beings or forces." One common practice was the planting of a painted pole decorated with feathers, to ensure good fortune in the next day's hunt or other event. Prayers accompanied by the blowing of smoke toward the sky or sun and offerings of seeds and shell beads were common practices. Any person with a special talent or gift was thought to be imbued with supernatural power. Dreams guided a person's future actions.

Oral narratives were both a form of entertainment and a means of education. The narratives typically involved Coyote, head of the animals, and the Duck Hawk, his grandson. Generally, the "narratives indicate that the present events and places in nature were determined by the actions of a pre-human race of animal beings during a former mythological age."

Similar to other tribes in California, "dances comprised the main form of communal religious expression. Each local group had its own series of festivals. Every festival had its own set of specific dances, each with a unique set of costumes, accompanying songs, and choreography. During the most sacred dances, participants and costumes could only be touched by specialists, since they were thought to be invested with supernatural powers. No dance cycle details were documented for any of the groups around San Francisco Bay."

It was the Portolá Expedition that has given us the only definitive mapping of these communities. It was this expedition that provides us with a view into the two cultures and insight into how they interacted with each other. Furthermore, both the land and the people of this area were changed forever by the expedition and following habitation by European and Mexican people.

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Figure 1 California Antigua y Nueva by Diego Troncoso in 1787 is one of the first maps depicting the Ohlone-Portolá Road along the San Mateo County coastside. Believed to be the earliest map to locate missions in Alta California, as well as El Camino Real that connection the missions. The full map also shows the four Presidios located at San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Francisco. The map is thought to be the first map to depict the administrative borderline between the two Californias established by Francisco Palóu between the Franciscan and Dominican jurisdictions in 1774. Although there are some geographical inaccuracies, the map reflects islands, ports and rivers along the coastal region of California. A version of this map that included an ornate cartouche with a crown on top and the printed notation, Mar Pacifico, was included in the 1787 publication entitled, Relación histórica de la vida y apostólicas tareas del Venerable Padre Fray Junípero Serra, y de las misiones que fundó en la California septentrional, y nuevos establecimientos de Monterey.

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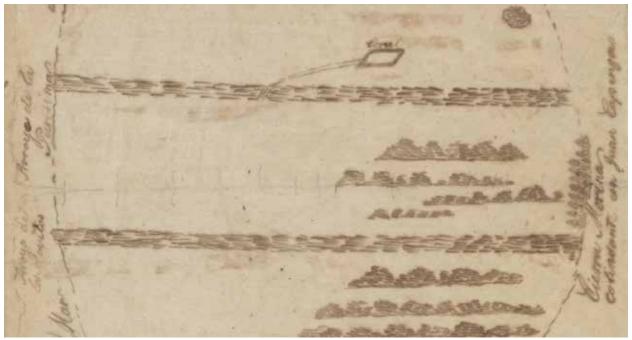


Figure 2 Diseño del Rancho Cañada de Verde y Arroyo de la Purisima, 1840s. North is at the top with Purisima Creek running east to west. A road is crossing the creek, given the topography of the area that is most likely the Ohlone-Portolá Trail. To obtain a land grant during the Mexican period, the applicant accompanied the petition with a topographical sketch or diseño. Mexican law did not require precision surveying. The technique involved in making a diseño was that of the ability to stay in the saddle, to read a magnetic compass, and to measure the distance between two points by means of a rawhide cord tied between two poles; the processing was carried out with pencil, quill pen, ink and water color.

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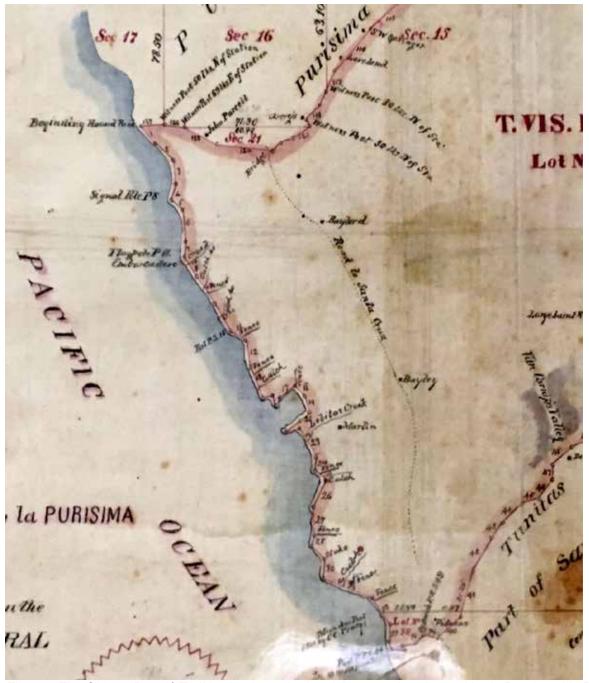


Figure 3 The Ohlone-Portolá Trail is clearly marked and the same location as Verde Road on this Rancho map

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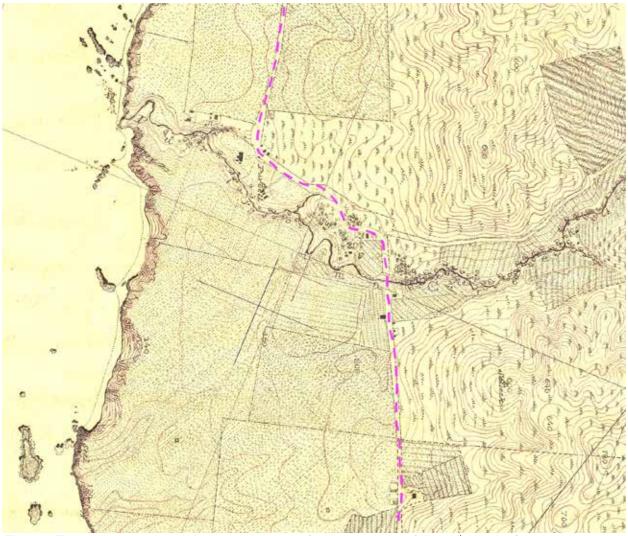


Figure 4 This 1866 map shows the immediate area for the campsite of the 27<sup>th</sup>, north of the creek towards the coast. The map is from Part of the Coast of California from Tunitas Creek Northward, U.S. Coast Survey. The town of Purissima (different spelling) was founded here in the 1850s.

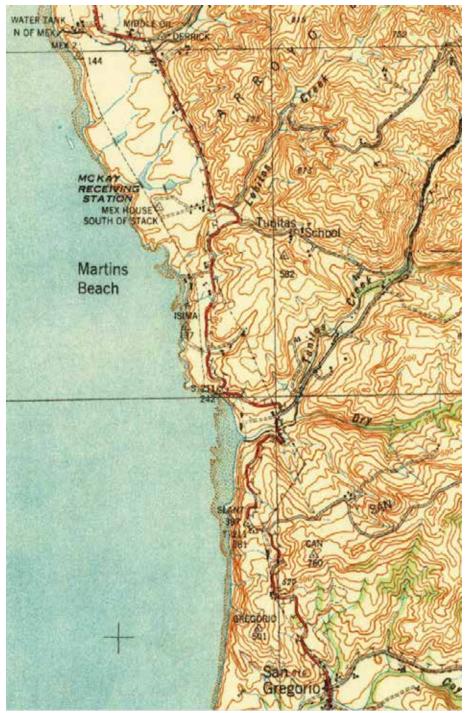


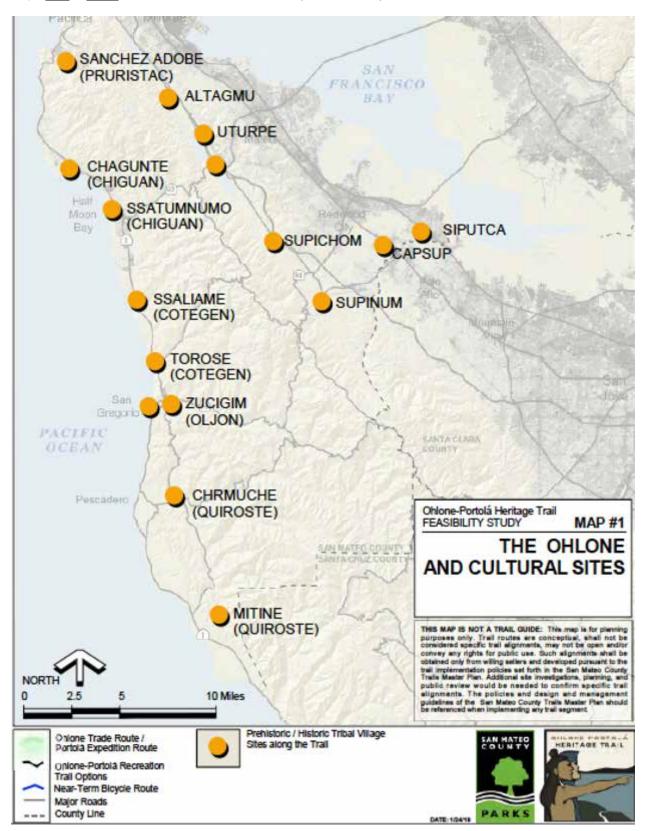
Figure 5 The old coast highway closely follows the route of the Portolá Expedition from San Gregorio(Nuestro padre Santo Domingo/Valle de los Cursos) to Purisima. They crossed three streams, today's Tunitas Creeks, Lobitos Creek, and Purisima Creek. Map is from the War Department Army Corp of Engineers 15 Minute Halfmoon Bay Quad 1940

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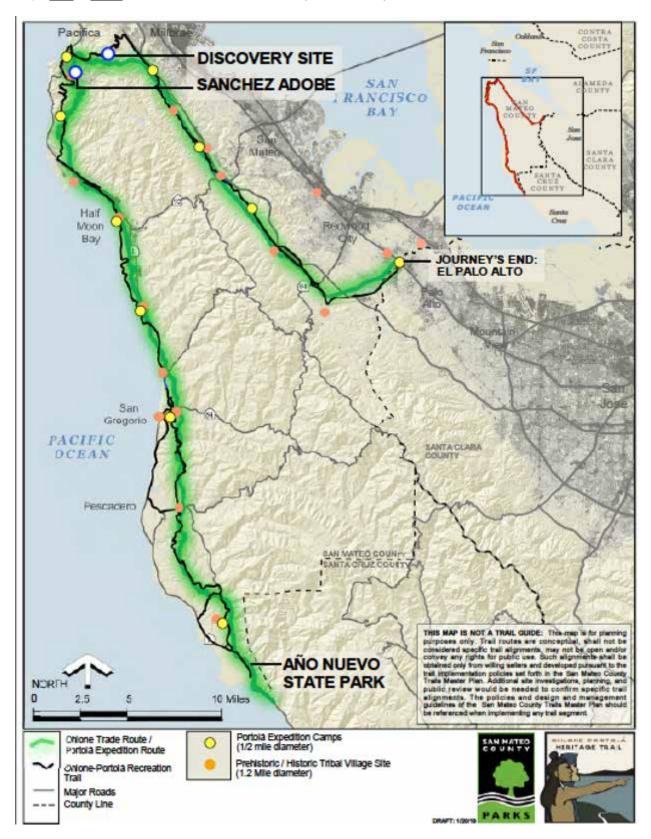


Figure 6 This recent photo is near the same location as the 1932 submittal.

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**B13.** Remarks: California Historical Landmarks #2, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 92, 94, 375, 394, 655, 665, 727, 784 are directly related to the Portolá Expedition.

Portolá campsite #3 was registered as California Historical Landmarks #22 on 20 February 1932. There is currently no plaque for this site.

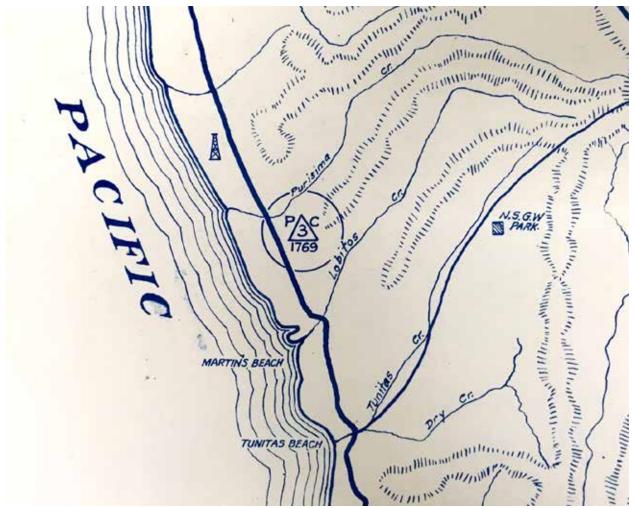


Figure 7 Map submitted in 1932 application shows the site south of Purisima Creek.

#### B12. References (continue):

Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail Feasibility Study Discussion Draft - May 5, 2019

The State Department of Natural Resources and the State Park Commission in Cooperation with the California State Chamber of Commerce, *Second Report*, 1 July 1932

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