



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

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## FW: CF 15-0548 - Electronic Public Comment in Lieu of Personal Appearance Before City Council

1 message

**Mark F. Mauceri** <mfmauceri@lofeliznc.org>  
To: Eric Villanueva <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 16, 2015 at 1:40 PM

Mr. Villanueva-

I had submitted this e-mail and attachment to be included as public comment. I understand there may have been no back-up person to ensure that it made it into the council file if you were out of the office.

Can these comments be added to the council file as previously requested?

Please let me know.

Thank you.

-- Mark

**Mark F. Mauceri | Vice President, Administration | Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC)**  
p.o. box 27003 | los angeles | california | 90027-0003 | usa | 323.935.6900

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**From:** "Mark F. Mauceri" <mfmauceri@lofeliznc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, September 4, 2015 2:06 PM  
**To:** Eric Villanueva <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>  
**Subject:** CF 15-0548 - Electronic Public Comment in Lieu of Personal Appearance Before City Council

Dear Eric-

In reviewing Tuesdays' City Council meeting agenda (Item #9), we now see it is unlikely public comment will be taken regarding Council File CF 15-0548, as the opportunity was afforded when this issue was heard in sub-committee. Please add this to the electronic file before council meets regarding on September 8th.

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) of which I am a governing boardmember has formally submitted a Community Impact Statement (CIS) addressing our position on this issue. However, we had intended on offering additional information in person before city council, and now must submit it electronically:

While we believe the spirit of this proposed agreement between the National Park Service (NPS) and The City of Los Angeles (LABOE) is sound, and SHOULD BE realized, there are key points the City Council would benefit in having knowledge of before entering into this agreement, and potentially noting such for the official record:

1. NPS has made clear locating the precise route de Anza's expedition taken between 1775-1776, is guesswork.
2. Scholars from the de Anza Historic Society have published papers asserting the route being commemorated actually traversed the Cahuega pass to enter the San Fernando Valley and avoided the river area adjacent to Griffith Park.
3. While some public commenters have declared this "trail" "...passes through Griffith Park" and pinpoints the expedition making camp near a "mountain" at the "...LA Zoo Parking Lot, The Autry Museum, and Ferraro Soccer Fields." Given the stated positions of NPS and the de Anza Historic Society, these assertions are at best, wishful thinking, and at worst, strategic prevarication.
4. Active litigation against the City cites an approved public works project having significant adverse impacts on the de Anza trail's "cultural resources and historicity." Even though the "trail" markers are purely ceremonial.
5. Public comments supporting this initiative were submitted by the officers of the same entities suing against the City, claiming "adverse impacts" on this "trail" are reasons to stop construction of recreational facilities in the area.

In summary, commemorating this expedition with signage and strategically placed view points is a worthy endeavor. However, declaring any part of the ceremonial route "hallowed ground" that most experts agree could never be precisely identified would be detrimental to the City as a whole.

Please find attached documentation attesting to the above-referenced points that should be included as part of this submission.

Thank you.

-- Mark

**Mark F. Mauceri | Recreation Representative | Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC)**  
p.o. box 27003 | los angeles | california | 90027-0003 | usa | 323.935.6900

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de Anza "Trail" facts.pdf  
1434K





## Juan Bautista de Anza

National Historic Trail  
AZ, CA



### Explore This Park

[Park Home](#)[Plan Your Visit](#)[Photos & Multimedia](#)[History & Culture](#)[Nature & Science](#)[For Teachers](#)[News](#)[Management](#)[Laws & Policies](#)[Park Planning](#)[Centennial Initiative  
2016](#)[Interpretive Planning](#)[Trail Certification  
Process](#)[Jobs](#)[Support Your Park](#)

## Trail Certification Requirements

### Did you know?

Of the 1200 miles of Anza Trail in the United States, 250 miles of trail have been built and certified as of 2010. The goal is for the entire recreation trail to be finished by 2100.

Some people have seen other historic trails, such as the Oregon Trail, where wagon wheel ruts or other permanent marks on the land are clearly visible. This gets some folks wondering where the actual historic Anza trail can be seen. They will find that there never was an Anza 'Trail.' Anza was guided by Indians on trails their peoples had used for thousands of years. He was not blazing a trail.

Two other reasons there may never be anything found from the expedition is that Anza took this route once, leaving nothing behind except the hoofprints of his horse on soft soil. Tracks wouldn't have lasted a year. And, the 300 people and 1000 head of livestock who followed him were spread out due to the dust clouds. They did not travel single file. This is why the corridor is so wide and there is no actual historic trail to be seen.

Recreation trails should be located within the historic corridor or very near it. Recreation trails are symbolic pathways of the obliterated historic tracks of Anza and all who followed him in 1775-6.

### How to get your segment of trail certified:

The NPS has seven criteria that must be met for recreation trail to be certified.

*Marian Dodge*  
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Re: CF 15-0548  
Anza Trail Certification

Honorable Councilmembers:

The certification of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail where it passes through Griffith Park along the Los Angeles River is a tremendous asset for the City of Los Angeles. It is an integral part of the the history of California and of the City. The success of the expedition in establishing the City of San Francisco solidified Spain's claim to California and kept the Russians from claiming California. One of its *soldados*, Jose Vicente Feliz, was later assigned to El Pueblo de Los Angeles as its *comisionado* or city manager. For his excellent work Feliz was granted Rancho Los Feliz which later became Griffith Park and the Los Feliz district.

One of the *padres* who accompanied the expedition kept a diary in which he describes the area where the Anza expedition camped beside the river where it makes a bend toward the west around a mountain. The mountain he describes is now Griffith Park and the level land where they camped is currently the LA Zoo parking lot, the Autry Museum, and Ferraro Soccer Fields.

The Anza Trail complements the City's River Revitalization Plan as well as the federally proposed Rim of the Valley Corridor and President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative and "50 State Report." This is a particularly important segment of the trail because it passes through publicly owned land so it is accessible to hikers and walkers. The certification of the Anza Trail allows the City to partner with the National Park Service to enhance recreational and interpretive opportunities along the LA River where it passes through Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

*Marian Dodge*

Marian Dodge



# NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Number 53

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

October 2012



**T**he Anza Expedition crossed Southern California in 1776, bound north along a route that historians have agreed upon for many decades. But recent thinking places the settlers on a notable detour. Historians now believe that Anza, like so many millions of visitors to Southern California after him, passed through present-day Hollywood.

The Hollywood Hills separate the Los Angeles Basin from the San Fernando Valley to the north. In the early 20th century, historian Herbert Bolton retraced Anza's 1775-76 route using the expedition diaries, concluding that when the settlers traveled west from Mission San Gabriel on February 21, 1776, they made camp near the southern edge of the San Fernando Valley, then passed north along the Los Angeles River, skirting contemporary Griffith Park around the east end of the Hollywood Hills and through the Glendale Narrows. This is the same route that Anza is undisputed to have taken on his earlier 1774 expedition.

But Phil Valdez and Joe Meyers—avid trail detectives and current and past presidents of the Anza Society—have a new read on this old story. The vistas described in Father Font's journal, they say, could

only be seen by a route through Hollywood.

Valdez and Meyers believe that from Mission San Gabriel the expedition travelled south of the Hollywood Hills—where Sunset Boulevard runs today—and crossed beneath the present location of the Hollywood sign. The expedition then turned north into the Cahuenga Pass, where they camped somewhere close to the south side of the San Fernando Valley.

Why in 1776 would Anza take a different route from 1774? After all, remaining near the Los Angeles River would have the least abrupt elevation change. The river route would also have provided water for livestock. Aquatic Habitat Specialist Christopher Richard explains, "The [1774 route] would have had numerous seeps, mires, sausals, and other riparian thickets; in short, not a good area for travel with hooved animals." Indeed, it is clear from Font's diary that it had been raining around the time they crossed the area. "The elevation gain over Cahuenga Pass would have been readily offset by the better footing for the livestock," Richard concludes.

We would be unlikely to read about Anza's decision to diverge from his 1774 route to Cahuenga. A busy





# Continued - Hollywood



soldier, Anza's diaries describe matters of immediate importance, not the deliberations behind his decisions. He would not have shared any of his thoughts with the much more thorough diarist Father Font, with whom he interacted only when necessary. Anza wrote just seven sentences about travel on February 21, one of which implied the ground they crossed that day was muddy.

Anza, historians now believe, went north across Los Angeles one way with his soldiers in 1774, and

another with the colonizing expedition in 1776. Swamps and rivers are difficult to imagine today in the area. They were drained or diverted long ago. Even so, with imagination, we can erase Sunset Boulevard and the Hollywood Bowl from the landscape to picture natural wetlands, widely fluctuating rivers, and the 240 souls that crossed them on their way to a new life in a largely unknown land.

*Adapted from a full article and map to be posted at [www.anzasociety.org](http://www.anzasociety.org)*



*In 1776, Anza is now believed to have diverged south from his 1774 route (shaded line) to follow the present-day Hollywood Freeway (dashed line).*

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90001

**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

SEP 19 2014

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By Shaunya Bolden Deputy

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Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust and Friends of Griffith Park

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH CHARITABLE  
TRUST and FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK

CASE NO.: **BS151089**

Petitioners,  
v.

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Respondent.

(California Environmental Quality Act)

Real Parties In Interest

Does 1-10.

**BY FAX**

RECEIPT #: CCH465980071  
DATE PAID: 09/19/14 02:50 PM  
PAYMENT: \$435.00  
RECEIVED:  
CHECK: \$435.  
CASH: \$0.  
CHANGE: \$0.  
CARD: \$0.

CIT/CASE: BS151089  
LEA/DEPT:



1       6. The EIR prepared for the Project admits that the removal of mature trees will have  
2 significant and unmitigable impacts on aesthetics and biological resources on the Crystal  
3 Springs Area, but the City improperly rejected feasible alternatives that would have reduced  
4 these impacts and reduced the Project's impacts on free family recreation.

5       7. The Project will also have significant adverse impacts on the Park's cultural  
6 resources and historicity, including the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, which  
7 runs through Crystal Springs and has important historical connections with the Feliz Adobe in  
8 the same vicinity.

9       8. The Statement of Overriding Considerations claims the Project will benefit the  
10 City by serving at-risk youth, but the Project contains no conditions guaranteeing that at-risk  
11 youth actually be provided access to the Project's baseball fields. At-risk youth do not reside  
12 within walking distance of the proposed fields.

13       9. Since the EIR fails to adequately disclose, analyze, and mitigate the Project's  
14 significant impacts, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations lacks substantial evidence,  
15 the City's approval violates CEQA, and the Project approvals must be rescinded.

#### 16                                   JURISDICTION

17       10. This Court has jurisdiction over the writ action under section 1094.5 of the Code  
18 of Civil Procedure.

19       11. This Court also has jurisdiction over the writ action under section 1085 of the  
20 Code of Civil Procedure, and sections 21168 and 21168.5 of the Public Resources Code.

#### 21                                   PARTIES

22       12. Petitioner Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust was established to administer the  
23 estate of Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, the namesake of Griffith Park. Since the Park's inception,  
24 the Trust has worked to complete Griffith-endowed projects such as the Greek Theatre and  
25 Griffith Observatory, while protecting the Park's natural spaces. The trust upholds Colonel  
26 Griffith's vision for a free public park in perpetuity for his beloved "plain people" -- a respite  
27 from urban pressures. In 2008, it was the Trust that applied to have Griffith Park in its entirety  
28 declared a City Historic-Cultural Monument.



14. Respondent City of Los Angeles is a political subdivision of the State of California.

## Griffith Park and the Crystal Springs Picnic Area

16. In 2008, the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust submitted an application to the City seeking the designation of Griffith Park as a Historic Cultural Monument. More than 50 civic and community organizations lined up to support the Trust's application. On January 27, 2009, the City Council voted unanimously to designate Griffith Park L.A. Historic Cultural Monument Number 942.

18. The Crystal Springs picnic area is located in the southeastern portion of Griffith Park, west of Interstate 5. Crystal Springs is connected to the Los Angeles River and North