

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE **ROCKY NOOK PARK** LOCATED AT 610 MISSION CANYON ROAD, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS. 023-240-001 AND 023-280-007, MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK AND IS WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER CHAPTER 18A OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE; AND DESIGNATION OF THE ROCKY NOOK PARK AS COUNTY LANDMARK #54 PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT

RESOLUTION No. 2023-\_\_

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has considered the historical significance of ROCKY NOOK PARK located at 610 Mission Canyon Drive, Santa Barbara, California, on Assessor's Parcel Nos. 023-240-001 and 023-280-007 and as shown on the maps and legal descriptions attached hereto as Exhibit A, in accordance with the requirements, standards and criteria contained in County Code, Chapter 18A, and has determined that it is worthy of designation and protection as a County Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that ROCKY NOOK PARK is historically significant because:

1. It exemplifies and reflects special elements of the County's cultural, social, aesthetic, and natural history, and its location along Santa Barbara's primary riparian corridor, with year-round water, epitomizes the natural resources upon which Indigenous Chumash, Spanish missionaries, and early European settlers depended. The site's settlement by the Olivers in 1881 reflects a wave of well-educated affluent easterners who came to Santa Barbara County in the late 1800s, and like the Olivers were attracted by the healthful climate and scenic area and contributed to the community's horticultural reputation; and
2. It is identified with persons and events significant in local, state or national history, including owners George S. J. Oliver and Frances Dabney Oliver, and Supervisor Sam Stanwood and Carolyn Stanwood, artist Fernand Lungren, and other notable Santa Barbarans who helped purchase the property to gift it to Santa Barbara County; and
3. It contributes to the significance of a historic area, being a geographically definable area possessing a concentration of historic, prehistoric, archaeological, and scenic properties which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically by physical development, including the Santa Barbara Mission, the Mission waterworks, the Museum of Natural History, Rockwood, Glendessary, Mission Creek Bridge, and the Oliver water trough, all embedded in an area characterized by sandstone masonry, natural boulders, oak woodland, riparian habitat, and a rural road system; and

4. It is a location with unique physical characteristics and is a view or vista representing an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, and the County of Santa Barbara, and the Park's dramatic historic debris flows of sandstone boulders studded with native California trees has long served to demark the entry into Mission Canyon and a transition from the urban to the rural; and
5. It reflects significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth, and changing transportation modes, and is a distinctive example of park and community planning. It exemplifies the lifestyle and legacy of well-educated affluent easterners who settled in Santa Barbara County in the late 1800s, those who established Mission Canyon as a secluded area of rural residences and artist's studios, the nationwide parks movement, and California's and Santa Barbara's appreciation of native plants and naturalistic landscapes.

WHEREAS, designation of ROCKY NOOK PARK shall not require the expenditure of an unreasonable amount of money to carry out the purpose of County Code, Chapter 18A;

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED as follows:

1. ROCKY NOOK PARK, located at 610 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, Assessor's Parcel Nos. 023-240-001 and 023-280-007 meets the eligibility requirements for a County Historic Landmark as described in County Code, Chapter 18A, Section 18A-3, and is worthy of protection.
2. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the portion of ROCKY NOOK PARK in the unincorporated area of the County (the "Landmark") as a Historic Landmark subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Except as set forth in subsection d. below, demolition, removal or destruction, partially or entirely, is prohibited unless an application has been submitted to the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and express consent in writing has first been obtained from the Commission. Such consent may impose all reasonable conditions deemed appropriate by the Commission to accomplish the purposes of County Code, Chapter 18A.
  - b. Except as set forth in subsection d. below, no alterations, repairs (other than normal maintenance and repair), additions or changes including the addition of new structures in the park shall be made unless and until an application has been submitted to the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and all plans for such work have been reviewed by the Commission and approved or modified, and reasonable conditions imposed as deemed necessary, and that all such work shall be done under the direction and control of the Commission or other qualified person designated by it.
    - i. The historic stone curbing, sandstone foundations, sandstone walls, boulders with plaques, stone barbecue pits, and Mission Period aqueduct are character defining features of the Landmark

and, except for the aqueduct, are identified on attached site plan, and any alterations to the park shall preserve such features to the extent feasible and reflect the historic character of ROCKY NOOK PARK.

- ii. The six specimen Eucalyptus trees found on the original park parcel and located on the accompanying site plan are character defining features of the Landmark and alterations to the landscaping should preserve such trees to the extent feasible and consistent with public safety.
  - iii. The curvilinear roadway, random naturally occurring boulders, riparian habitat, and native Oak Woodland are character defining features of the Landmark and any alterations to the park and landscape should preserve these features to the extent feasible and reflect the historic character of ROCKY NOOK PARK.
- c. The foregoing conditions shall not be imposed in such a way as to infringe upon the right of the owners of ROCKY NOOK PARK to make any and all reasonable use of the property and maintain the park for recreational use that is not in conflict with County Code Chapter 18A.
- d. The following features of ROCKY NOOK PARK identified on the accompanying site plan are not subject to the foregoing conditions of paragraph 2.a. and 2.b.:
- 1) The Fire Station and Pumping Station accessed from Foothill Road and their surrounding grounds.
  - 2) The Play Area, Group Picnic Area, Restrooms and ADA compliant pathway that links them, unless expanded.
  - 3) The storage sheds and trash enclosure, unless moved or expanded.
  - 4) The manmade pile of natural boulders abutting the north edge of the main entrance, unless altered or moved.
  - 5) Assessor's Parcel Number 023-240-002, owned by the City of Santa Barbara.
- e. The following features of ROCKY NOOK PARK are exempt from all the foregoing conditions of this resolution:
- 1) Elements adjacent to or along Mission Canyon Road Corridor that are impacted by maintenance, capital improvement, or safety projects.
  - 2) Existing elements of the park used by the public for passive recreation, which are those non-motorized leisure activities or non-team sports that are dependent on the natural landscape in which the activity

occurs, that are impacted by maintenance, capital improvement, or safety projects for passive recreation.

- 3) The Administration Building and Parking Areas for the Administration Building.
- 4) The internal roadway and parking areas for public access.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara, California, this 24th day of January, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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DAS WILLIAMS, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
RACHEL VAN MULLEM  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Rierson  
Deputy County Counsel

I hereby APPROVE AND CONSENT to designation of the ROCKY NOOK PARK as a County of Santa Barbara Historic Landmark pursuant to County Code, Chapter 18A.

Owner: County of Santa Barbara

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Das Williams, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara