

**Brianda Negrete** Public Comment - Group 4

#4



**From:** Cindy Sundberg (cindysundberg@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message <kwautomail@phone2action.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Support fossil-free new buildings for Santa Barbara County!  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

I support taking climate action and making new buildings sustainable and carbon-free!

New all-electric buildings will improve people's health by reducing toxic air pollution; combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and improve housing affordability by saving construction costs and lowering utility bills.

A study for the LA Dept of Water and Power finds that "all-electric new construction results in savings of \$130-\$540 per year relative to a gas-fueled home over the life of the equipment."

All-electric buildings are less expensive to build and less expensive and healthier to live in.

Thank you for maintaining Santa Barbara County's environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sundberg  
1236 Stafford Ave  
Concord, CA 94521  
cindysundberg@yahoo.com  
(925) 367-8096

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at [core.help@sierraclub.org](mailto:core.help@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5500.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Susan Bott <susanbott@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** BOS, Item 5, January 24th/ RE: Outdoor lighting/ Objective Design Standards

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

The Save Our Stars Committee of WE Watch appreciates the County's efforts with the Objective Design Standards. However, we are concerned that there is no mention of outdoor lighting issues in those Standards.

We have been working for several years with the County and have submitted a draft outdoor lighting ordinance which has been assigned a planner to the project. Buellton, Solvang and the county are working together with Save Our Stars and have a first meeting on January 26th.

We think it is advisable to at least include a placeholder for Outdoor Lighting issues in the Objective Design Standards. That way concrete lighting standards can be added later.

Thanks for your attention to our concerns,

Nancy Emerson, Chairperson

Save Our Stars Committee

WE Watch

[www.we-watch.org](http://www.we-watch.org)

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Susanne and Benjamin Sawyer <neeps.tatties@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 5:35 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park--Historic Landmark status

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors--

Please designate Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark. As a special cultural, environmental, and historic treasure and so beautiful in its natural mix of trees, plants, rocks, and Mission Creek, it needs to be protected as it is and from any future "improvement" and additional human/automobile impact.

No park that I know of in Santa Barbara County needs and deserves such protection more. The existence of a Chumash village there in old times is reason enough for this special designation.

Our grandchildren have loved their times in Rocky Nook Park as part of nature groups, their inner natures expanded as only being in such a place can bring.

Best wishes, Benjamin Sawyer and Susanne Hammel-Sawyer  
30 Winchester Canyon Rd., #122  
Goleta, CA 93117

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Tahnia Mark <tahniamark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 9:35 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Save Rocky Nook Park  
**Attachments:** Save Rocky Nook Park.jpg

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

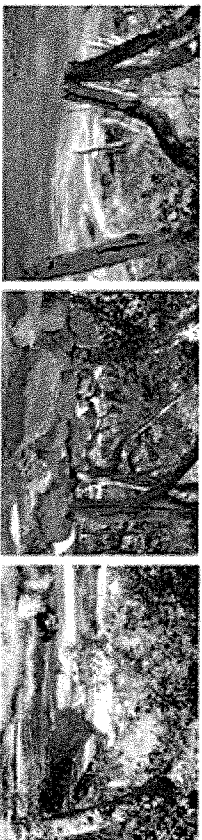
I grew up going to Rocky Nook Park with my dad and sister. We would hike around the creek and have a picnic with the mosaic alligators. It is hard for me to believe that this park is in danger and I am asking that you re-evaluate your position and designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark. I have had many an adventure at Rocky Nook and there are few places left in Santa Barbara for children to experience the joys of nature so organically. As a teacher I have seen a great decrease in students' abilities to entertain themselves as they get hooked on technology. Rocky Nook is a free place that parents can take their children and teach them how to have fun and enjoy nature.

Sincerely,

Tahniamark

# OPEN LETTER TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## Support Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark



Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please vote to designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark, following the unanimous recommendation of the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. Rocky Nook Park is one of the most historic, scenic, and important places in Santa Barbara County.

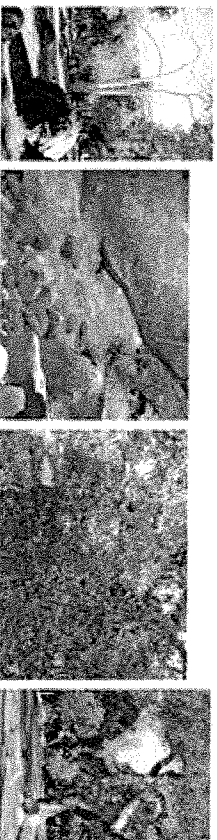
Rocky Nook Park features all of the elements of Santa Barbara County's natural and human-made environment and history. The Park's boulders are the largest remaining geological site of the debris flow that resulted in so much sandstone being located in Santa Barbara. The Chumash lived here for millennia. The water of Mission Creek and surrounding sandstone provided material for aqueducts, the mission water works, and the Santa Barbara Mission. Stonework in Rocky Nook Park dates to the Spanish and Mexican periods. In the nineteenth century, American settlers moved to what is now Rocky Nook Park. Rocky Nook was saved by members of the community, who raised the money for its acquisition and decided it to the County of Santa Barbara for permanent use as a park. Rocky Nook Park became the second county park in 1928, and the first county park on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. During the New Deal, rock fireplaces were built in the Park by the WPA that remain to this day.

Rocky Nook Park is a scenic, historic, and environmental treasure that should be saved for future generations. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,  
Committee to Preserve Rocky Nook Park

*P.S. To the Community--You can help! Write the Board of Supervisors by Monday, January 23, in support of designating Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark at: [stevie@countyofsb.org](mailto:stevie@countyofsb.org)*

## SAVE ROCKY NOOK PARK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!



*Paid for by the Committee to Preserve Rocky Nook Park*

**Brianda Negrete**

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**From:** Rachel Aarons <rbaarons@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 10:32 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please record my support for the designation of Rocky Nook Park as an historical site. It has years of history to validate this status.

Dr. Rachel B. Aarons  
2735 Las Encinas Road,  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## **Brianda Negrete**

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**From:** rbobh@west.net  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 11:09 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am very much in favor in advocating the above park for its uniqueness and historical importance.

Rose Herrett

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Peter Conn <pconnt43@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 11:24 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Item: 4, P & D 23-00056, Hearing to consider Rocky Nook County Park designation as a County Historic Landmark  
**Attachments:** plant list Rocky Nook Park 1993.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Clerk of the Board,

I had included a plant list in my letter in support of landmarking Rocky nook Park dated 1-19-23. It was not included on the website.

Would you kindly add it? Plus I added uses of the plants this time.

I feel it is important to note that the Parks Department has been trying to be very consistent in planting Rocky Nook Park with appropriate plants for its natural environment.

These plants were good for bird habitat as noted in the attachment above. Rocky Nook Park is considered a national "hot spot" for birding. 73 different species were counted here in 2022.

Many of the plants in the list above were used by the Chumash.

Here are some Rocky Nook Park plants that the Chumash used.

(from Docent guide at the SB Botanic Garden, 2014).

Bay tree: burls were made into wooden bowls; leaves were boiled and used for flavoring or in medicines.

Chia sage: seeds were toasted and ground in food and drink; seeds were also used for poultices.

Coffee berry: leaves were remedy for poison oak; bark was a laxative.

Blue elderberry: berries were food; leaves were for medicine; straight branches were used for arrows and for poles for homes.

Horsetail (Equestrian sp.): dry stems used to polish bowls. High silica content.

Santa Cruz Ironwood: used for harpoons.

Lemonade berry and sugar bush: berries were pounded and dried. Eaten without cooking.

Coast live oak: acorns ground, rinsed, cooked for eating; acorns used for jewelry; acorns ground into paste and used to prevent sunburn; wood for fire.

Sycamore: bowls were made of burls; poles were used for construction, leaves evidently were used by the Ohlone People but I don't about the Chumash.

Toyon: berries were mashed, dried or roasted and eaten; hard wood used for tool, fish hooks, etc; wood used for fuel; tall poles decorated for ceremonies.

Willow: flexible branches used for frame of Ap (house), musical instruments, shelters, and baskets; bark was used for belts, sandals and skirts; poles were used for ladders; wood was used for fires in sweat lodges.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Paulina Conn  
Mission Canyon resident





PARK DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM

Mike Fahas  
FYE  
FILE

DATE: February 19, 1993  
TO: Jim Isaac, Park Operations Supervisor  
FROM: Claude Garciacelay, Park Planner *CG*  
RE: Plant List for Rocky Nook Park

I compiled the following list of plant material for use around restroom area, tot lot and adjacent to newly constructed walk. These shrubs should provide habitat/food value for birds in the park per Mike's request. I checked West Covina & San Marcos Nursery catalogs as not all available through West Covina.

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Cotoneaster dammeri 'Lowfast'	Bearberry (W&S)	12 - 1G
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon (W&S)	3 - 5G
Mahonia nevinii	Nevin Barberry (S)	7 - 5G
Mahonia repens	Creeping Mahonia (S)	18 - 1G
Prunus illicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry (W&S)	6 - 5G
Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'	Coffee Berry (W&S)	15 - 5G
Ribes speciosum	Fuschia Flowering Gooseberry (S)	6 - 5G
Ribes viburnifolium	Catalina Evergreen Currant (W&S)	30 - 1G
Sambucus mexicana	Mexican Eldeberry (S)	3 - 5G

W = West Covina  
S = San Marcos

Let me know if these are available and we'll coordinate a time for planting. I can draw you up a freehand plan for approximate locations or I can just spot in the field.

Thanks!

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Suze McClellan <szeshamrock@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 11:42 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,  
I have lived in Santa Barbara my whole life & I love & respect our great city & especially the outlying areas.  
I beg you to please designate Rocky Nook Park a historic landmark.  
Please save our old, beautiful bridge too.  
These areas are meaningful & steeped in our history.

Thank you.

Best,

Suze McClellan  
(805) 680-7676

Ojai Jelly

Patrona, Jelly-Slinger

Where Heat Meets Sweet 🍯🍯

Ojai+Santa Barbara+Baja California

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_http://www.ojaijelly.com\\_\\_;!!fs0MJmijOm0!tAsa5ej3i5XZyCoxOHhp\\_TpX\\_GCsgDkUy4nrRHdpMpeMFcuTClxjVkzB5qi2OAvKtx3SBxXTGvg24Nt9DRsue5w\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.ojaijelly.com__;!!fs0MJmijOm0!tAsa5ej3i5XZyCoxOHhp_TpX_GCsgDkUy4nrRHdpMpeMFcuTClxjVkzB5qi2OAvKtx3SBxXTGvg24Nt9DRsue5w$)

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Peter Conn <pconnt43@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:03 AM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Public letters not seen on Co. Website for Item 4 Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark Designation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Board,

There are letters from the public that have been cc'd to me in support of designating Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark as unanimously voted on by the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission on November 14, 2022 that I did not see on the website.

Others people just let me know that they had written in support of designating Rocky Nook Park a Historic Landmark without including the letter(s) they had sent.

[Here is the list that I did not see on the County Board of Supervisors website.](#)

Sincerely yours,

Paulina Conn

1. ----- Original Message -----

From: "[Notice]" <[evanjones1@cox.net](mailto:evanjones1@cox.net)>  
To: [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)  
Cc: [evanjones1@cox.net](mailto:evanjones1@cox.net)  
Date: January 20, 2023 at 1:11 PM  
Subject: rocky nook park yes to designate an historic landmark

1/15/23 To whom it may concern , Hello my name is Evan B. Jones , I am a 5th. generation Santa Barbara resident . I am a Member of the Caroline and Roland Hazard families and the Dr. Doremus and Jones families . My Ancestors benefited the Santa Barbara community with a number of wonderful gifts such as The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History , Mission Creek Bridge, Rocky Nook Park, Old Mission Rose garden, Cottage Hospital , Botanical Gardens , Many City Parks and Plantings , and many other Gifts, Donations etc. wholly or in part for the benefit of the people of Santa Barbara and future generations. They believed in Historical Preservation and Gifting . So do I . Please Make Rocky Nook Park an Historical Landmark ! Thank You and best Evan B. Jones 1370 Kenwood Road, Santa Barbara CA 93109 . cell 1-805-448-0618

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2. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Peter Marin <[marinsbca@yahoo.com](mailto:marinsbca@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** PRESERVE THE PARK  
**Date:** January 18, 2023 at 11:55:41 AM PST  
**To:** "[sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)" <[sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)>  
**Reply-To:** Peter Marin <[marinsbca@yahoo.com](mailto:marinsbca@yahoo.com)>

I am writing on behalf of the on-going attempt to preserve and protect Rocky Nook Park.

I have lived directly behind the park, with my wife, Kathryn Marin, for more than 50 years, at 750 Mission Oaks Lane. We've raised two children here and have also, along the way, offered safe harbor to their classmates and peers and others in need of shelter.

The park is an essential part of the past in need of preservation by the county. It is like a window in time, a sort of worm-hole in time, preserving a part of the environment (and that includes the plant and animal history of the county) that would vanish if meddled with.

It is a much used parl by members of all ethnic and economic groups, allowing a rest from the present, a respite from the various crises confronting us, and one as available to the poorest of the poor as it is to the well-to-do.

As time passes, as things change, we need these spots to -- well, let me get flowery -- replenish our souls. They offer us spaces in which to remember and reflect and to understand our own personal relations to change, time, the past and yes even the future... They allow us to breathe deeply and to preserve our own humanity, our human-ness, our grounding in nature, time and space.

The prak, like the other few spaces available to most of us, MUST BE preserved as it is, must be somehow put legally beyond change, must be allowed to stand, as it is, for many of the values in danger of disappearing around and among us. It offers an alternative to, and relief from, rapid change, radical developments in technology and political struggles. Ther's something sacred about it, in the sense that it stands somehow outside or beyond human error, human will, the human hunger for, yes, even "improvements" that make way for the future via the destruction of the past, literally, yes, depriving us of the ground under our feet.

The interesting thing for me, personally, is how the immigrant population in SB, attuned to parks in Mexico and points south, has made use of the park, adapting to its nature and adapting its aspects to their own needs and uses, making it a point at which and in which Santa Barbarans of all economic and ethnic backgrounds meet and dwell together.

It's a hole in time, a hole in space, allowing us access to much that might otherwise disappear, and you'd make a grave error in not doing EVERYTHING YOU CAN to protect it as it is.

Peter Marin (for himself and his wife Kathryn)  
750 Mission Oaks Lane, SB CA. 93105.805 682 4903...

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3. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rich Untermann <[runtermann1@cox.net](mailto:runtermann1@cox.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: Designation of Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark  
**Date:** January 18, 2023 at 10:47:32 AM PST  
**To:** Peter Conn <[pconnt43@cox.net](mailto:pconnt43@cox.net)>

On Jan 18, 2023, at 10:46 AM, Rich Untermann <[runtermann1@cox.net](mailto:runtermann1@cox.net)> wrote:

Santa Barbara County Supervisors  
105 E Anapamu St.  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Jan. 13, 2023

Re: Please vote to designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

First, thanks for your work helping improve the Walking Path along Rocky Nook Park from the SB Mission to Foothill Boulevard. The Pedestrian Crossing signals the County recently installed dramatically improve safety for those walking to the Park. As the County grows, there are few things more important than linking Parks, Open Space, and beautiful landscapes.

Rocky Nook Park is a vital part of continuity of landscape between the Mission and Foothill Boulevard. The Park has so many natural attributes – trees, boulders, native vegetation, the creek, - on and on. The Park embodies so many cultural and historic events and occurrences - that makes it extremely appropriate for Historic Landmark designation.

The Park's character is a significant part of the heritage of the County and the State. The Park is identified with people who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the County. It exemplifies a past way of life important to remember and celebrate. The Park is in a unique location and is vital to link other landmarks of the neighborhood - but above all it contributes to the preservation of natural resources within an urban area.

I urge you to vote for the Landmark Designation, which will strengthen and reinforce this historic corridor.

Regards,

Rich Untermann  
2845 Glendessary Lane  
SB CA 93105

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4. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Phyllis Margolis <[pmargo4@gmail.com](mailto:pmargo4@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Make Rocky Nook Park a county historic landmark  
**Date:** January 17, 2023 at 3:14:04 PM PST  
**To:** [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)

Rocky Nook Park is an historic, vital part of Mission Canyon. Like the Santa Barbara Mission, the Museum of Natural History, Rocky Nook Park is a jewel of the canyon. My kids grew up climbing its boulders and now my grandchildren are doing the same. It has a long,

storied history of settlers going back thousands of years. The park needs to be preserved for the future generations to enjoy.

Thank you.

Phyllis & Paul Margolis  
100 Miradero Ln, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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5. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [mimimimi805@gmail.com](mailto:mimimimi805@gmail.com)  
**Subject: Re: Need letters ASAP for Rocky Nook Park**  
**Date:** January 17, 2023 at 11:12:07 AM PST  
**To:** Peter Conn <[pconnt43@cox.net](mailto:pconnt43@cox.net)>

Sent! Thanks Paulina 🙏

Sent from my iPhone

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6. **From:** [Joel Michaelsen](mailto:Joel Michaelsen)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)  
**Cc:** [SupervisorWilliams@countyofsb.org](mailto:SupervisorWilliams@countyofsb.org)  
**Subject:** Historic Landmark status for Rocky Nook Park

January 17, 2023

To: Santa Barbara County Supervisors  
Fr: Joel Michaelsen, Santa Barbara resident

Re: Historic Landmark status for Rocky Nook Park

I have been a Santa Barbara resident for more than 50 years. For the last 30 years I have lived on the lower Riviera not far from the Mission, so Rocky Nook Park is in my neighborhood. I strongly support its designation as an Historic Landmark. In fact, I was quite surprised to discover that it the designation hadn't been done long ago. It is such a gem and so rich in natural and human history, that Historic Landmark status should be a foregone conclusion. It is a marvelous showcase for everything from the great Ice Age debris flow deposits and the nearly intact riparian woodland vegetation to its importance as a gathering place for people, first the Chumash and then the various European immigrants.

In fact, the story of the establishment of the Park is, itself, an interesting history lesson. Visionary private citizens initiated a campaign and raised money to acquire the land for the Park. Some of your predecessors on the Board had the insight to recognize and endorse the merits of the citizens' petitions, and to move them forward to make them a reality. All of us who are able to enjoy the Park now owe a debt of gratitude to those citizens and Supervisors.

As a resident of Santa Barbara and the Mission Canyon neighborhood, I strongly support the Historic Landmark designation for Rocky Nook Park.

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** **Patti Danner** <[pdanner805@gmail.com](mailto:pdanner805@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:27 PM  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park  
**To:** <[sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)>

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of Rocky Nook Park becoming designated as a historical site.

My family and I have enjoyed the park over the years, and the designation as a historical site is well deserved.

As a home to our ancestors, this precious historic land is the oldest in the County. Stories are taught of the Chumash village that existed for thousands of years, as well as the Spanish and Mexican governments building an aqueduct from the creek. This is something we should cherish.

I ask that the preservation of this land become a permanent part of history, so many more generations may enjoy this rare and unique park.

Thank you.  
Patricia Danner

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8. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Susan Chamberlin <[landscapehistory1993@gmail.com](mailto:landscapehistory1993@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Jan. 24 Meeting RE: Rocky Nook Park  
**Date:** January 8, 2023 at 5:58:26 PM PST  
**To:** [williams@countyofsb.org](mailto:williams@countyofsb.org), [supervisorwilliams@countyofsb.org](mailto:supervisorwilliams@countyofsb.org), [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)  
**Cc:** [lcapps@countyofsb.org](mailto:lcapps@countyofsb.org), [jhartmann@countyofsb.org](mailto:jhartmann@countyofsb.org), [nelson@bos.countyofsb.org](mailto:nelson@bos.countyofsb.org), [steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org](mailto:steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org)

TO: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Susan Chamberlin, MA  
landscape historian & landscape architect (CA #2001)

RE: Rocky Nook Park

Santa Barbara Supervisor Sam Stanwood was a visionary who led the effort to acquire Fanny Oliver's Rocky Nook property as a County Park. Today Rocky Nook Park is before you because the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission believes it should become a Landmark.

It is hard to argue with that. There are Chumash archaeological sites in the park from when it was part of a Chumash village called Xana'yan. It is natural and little changed from the period when the Olivers owned the property. A Landmark designation would ensure that when changes are proposed they would be carefully considered.

At a meeting with Supervisor Williams on January 5 to urge him to vote yes on landmarking, he said that those attending had a "hidden agenda"--a desire to obstruct any future widening of the road through Mission Canyon. Because the park deed has a restriction that the park can only be used for park purposes, it is unlikely that land could be taken from the park for the road.

I live near the park. I would like to see it landmarked because that would add it to the list of sites that represent the best of our County and help preserve it for future generations.

I hope you will be visionaries and make Rocky Nook Park a Landmark.

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9. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert La Cava <[freebirdblc@gmail.com](mailto:freebirdblc@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Clerk of the Board has different email address than I sent you  
**Date:** January 3, 2023 at 11:35:21 AM PST  
**To:** Peter Conn <[pconnt43@cox.net](mailto:pconnt43@cox.net)>



Letters have been sent to new email address.  
Happy new year.

Sent from my iPhone

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10. Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Susanne and Benjamin Sawyer <[neeps.tatties@gmail.com](mailto:neeps.tatties@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** **Re: Need letters ASAP for Rocky Nook Park to Board of Supervisors**  
**Date:** January 20, 2023 at 5:43:14 PM PST  
**To:** Peter Conn <[pconnt43@cox.net](mailto:pconnt43@cox.net)>

Hello Peter and Paulina--

Our letter supporting Historic Landmark status for Rocky Nook Park just went in. I hope it will be part of a giant wave that the Board of Supes will surf to a "YES."

I could not find our original letter so looked to my inner world for the connection to Rocky Nook and came up with a new one.

Our best--Ben and Susanne

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Peter Conn <pconnt43@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:14 AM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Fwd: HLAC Nomination Rocky Nook Park  
**Attachments:** The Olivers and Mission Canyon.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

This is one more letter in support of designating Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark that I did not see on the website under Public Comments. It includes a historical attachment.

Sincerely,

Paulina Conn

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Hattie and Michael Beresford <[hattieberesford@gmail.com](mailto:hattieberesford@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** HLAC Nomination Rocky Nook Park  
**Date:** January 9, 2023 at 11:52:58 AM PST  
**To:** [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org), [Williams@countyofsb.org](mailto:Williams@countyofsb.org), [lcapps@countyofsb.org](mailto:lcapps@countyofsb.org), Joan Hartmann <[jhartmann@countyofsb.org](mailto:jhartmann@countyofsb.org)>, [steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org](mailto:steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org), [Nelson@countyofsb.org](mailto:Nelson@countyofsb.org)

Dear Supervisors Joan Hartmann, Laura Capps, Bob Nelson, Steve Lavagnino, and Das Williams,

I am writing to ask you to confirm the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee's recommendation to confer historic landmark status on Rocky Nook Park. Thanks to you and previous supervisors, the County has an impressive list of over 50 Historic Landmarks and 19 structures and areas designated as having historic merit. Thank you!

Official County recognition of structures and areas of historic importance ensures that there is official awareness and appreciation of our collective history, and it builds esteem for that history. Many of the places on the County Historic Landmarks list might not exist today without landmark status. **They were protected for future generations by decision makers in the past.** It is important for a community to honor its history by retaining the physical evidence of that history. It creates a sense of belonging and identity.

Rocky Nook Park is layered with Santa Barbara History starting with evidence of an ancient debris flow and Chumash village, through the days of Spain and Mexico and the American settlers, to its donation by the friends of its last owner, Frances Dabny Oliver, as a park in her honor. This latter was facilitated by Carolyn Stanwood. (I have attached that story for your perusal should you be interested.)

Thank you for your consideration and thanks also to the dedicated, hard-working, and sometimes unappreciated members of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee for the decision to recommend landmarking this very special place.

Regards,

Hattie Beresford

Local historian and author of “The Way It Was” column, *Montecito Journal*

## **The Olivers and Rocky Nook** *by Hattie Beresford*

“Behind the old Mission extends a pretty canyon shaded by sycamore, oak and laurel trees. Here an elderly couple had founded their abode --- a dear old rambling wooden house hidden away among thick foliage and vines,” wrote artist and early Santa Barbara resident Elizabeth Eaton Burton in her memoir. The elderly couple was Frances and George S.J. Oliver, who had purchased the little ranch in 1881/82 and promptly named it Rocky Nook. (*My Santa Barbara Scrap Book* by Elizabeth Eaton Burton, edited by Hattie Beresford and Michael Redmon, 2011; *Letters and Journal of Edith Forbes Perkins 1908-1925*, edited by Edith Perkins Cunningham, 1929, Vol. 4, p 195)

Frances Caroline (Dabney) Oliver (1833-1926), was the daughter of Charles William Dabney, merchant and American consul in the Azores, a position held by the Dabney family since Thomas Jefferson appointed John Bass Dabney to the office in 1806.

Boston-born George Stuart Johannot Oliver (1831-1904) was connected to the Dabneys through family relations. Having spent time in the Azores when he was 18, he returned to Massachusetts where he graduated from Harvard in 1851 and at some point moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1859, he married Frances (Fanny) Dabney in Boston. On his marriage application, he listed his occupation as “gentleman.” (Massachusetts Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1963, 9 June 1849; Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, 8 December 1859; Ancestry.com posting by Roland H. Baker III, 23 December 2015, as well as numerous other web sources)

George and Fanny returned to the Azores where the “gentleman” went to work for the Dabney family mercantile enterprises and eventually served as vice-consul. It was an adventure-filled life, and George was a keen observer as he revealed in a letter regarding the heroism of Samuel Dabney and his son Herbert. A storm had come up and a French ship, tethered by its anchor, broke up as it was being driven ashore.

“Among the rollers and fragments of the wreck, hurled madly here and there, could be seen the heads and arms of the unhappy men who were struggling for their lives, while amid the howling of the wind and the roar of the surf, arose the shriek of the drowning and the excited cries of the spectators. It seemed suicide to venture into the surf.” George goes on to say that the two Dabneys tied ropes around their waists and struggled gallantly, at great risk to their own lives. In the end they managed to rescue 4 of the 5 men saved out of a crew of 25. (House Documents: Otherwise Published as Executive Documents... U.S. Congress. House. 1880-81, Volume 1.)

When George’s health deteriorated, he retired from the company and diplomatic service. In spring 1881, he and Fanny joined John Murray Forbes on his visit to Santa Barbara with his son John Malcolm Forbes and family. (*Morning Press*, 28 December 1904, obit) The Forbes were part of the famous China Trade Forbes/Perkins family of Boston. John Murray’s brother, Robert Bennet Forbes had captained the *Nile* and visited Santa Barbara in the 1830s. (Perkins, Vol 1, p. 243) In the 1840s, John Murray phased the family business out of the China/Opium Trade and into railroads. His son, John Malcolm Forbes became a New York railroad magnate.

During this 1881 visit to Santa Barbara, Forbes’ grandchildren were stricken with scarlet fever. Believing they needed fresh air, he purchased the estate of Judge E.B. Hall in Montecito. Under the supervision of George Oliver, the house was altered to suit Forbes’ needs. He named the house *Mount St. George* in his honor. (Perkins, Vol. 1 p 243)

In March 1882, John Murray Forbes wrote his brother, “Our good friends George and Fanny have just bought a little ranch in the cañon behind and above the Mission, where they find

in the present temporary occupants the beautiful bridesmaid at the wedding Dana attended 50 years ago still holding a high social position, though doubtless old Father Time has made many personal changes.” (Perkins, Vol 4, page 195)

## Mission Canyon

A thousand years ago, a debris flow flooded today’s Mission Canyon with gigantic boulders, giving rise to the Spanish name for Mission Creek, *Pedregosa*, meaning rocky. The Chumash village of Xana’yan lay along its banks but disappeared soon after the arrival of the Spanish. They ceased to exist by February 1801. (*Santa Barbara Land of Dynamic Beauty, A Natural History*, Edward Keller with assistance from Valery Rivera Keller, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, update 2011 as stated in Fran Galt’s official nomination of Rocky Nook Park for landmark status; *Mission Santa Barbara 1782-1965*, by Maynard Geiger, O.F.M., p 29) The rocky terrain of the canyon provided an easy source of material for the stone foundations, walls, buildings and aqueducts of the Mission, and the creek provided a steady source of water.

In the 1880s, only 95 families occupied the entire Hope Precinct of which Mission Canyon was only a small part. Most were farmers coming from the Eastern states or descending from the old Californio families. Names like Ruiz, Salcido, Dominguez, and Oreña predominated. A sprinkling of other occupations dotted the area; a hunter from Missouri, a compositor, a painter, a sea captain, a laundryman, a carpenter from Kentucky, and a few merchants and clerks. Charles A. Storke, lawyer and future mayor of Santa Barbara, and A. M. Canfield, the Superintendent of Public Works, lived in Hope Precinct. (U.S. Census, 1880, Hope Precinct list)

Into this rural Eden, the Olivers retreated, just after the devastating drought in 1880/1881 had left stock dying, men hungry, and hay prices rising from 6 dollars a ton to 27 dollars a ton. (*Personal Reminiscences* of Robert Bennet Forbes, letter from his brother dated March 10, 1882, p 402) Eventually the rains returned and Fanny created a garden where, according to Edith Forbes Perkins’ memoir, “wild flowers feel at home....So deftly has she mingled the cultivated with the wild, that all seems of Nature’s own planting.” (NOTE: Edith Forbes Perkins was Robert Bennet Forbes’ daughter, who came to winter in Santa Barbara starting in 1908 because her daughter, Edith Forbes Cunningham lived in Montecito.) (Perkins, Vol 3, p 173)

Eschewing tropical palms and exotic shrubs, which would mar the simplicity of the rocky hillsides, Fanny nevertheless created botanical surprises along the paths of *Rocky Nook*. Edith describes, “tall mulleins from the Roman Campagna, an acanthus forcing its way from between two rocks, as much at home as in Greece itself; Matilija poppies too regal ever to be called ‘wild’; purple lupines, blue phacelias,...vines which climb up into tall trees and hang their blossoms down; ...a garden, to paraphrase another’s words, ‘given leave to be itself.’ Not to know this garden and its gracious owner, Mrs. Oliver, is not to know Santa Barbara.” (Perkins, Vol 3, p 173)

Mrs. Hannah C. Moor, who had become acquainted with the Olivers circa 1885, said that Fanny’s garden was a wild tangle. Fanny hated formal gardens and thought that the whole climate would be changed due to the abundant water needed to keep them up. She was never reconciled to the concept of green lawns. (“The George S.J. Olivers” by Mrs. Hannah C. Moor, *Noticias*, Vol 31, no. 3, Fall 1985, p. 54)

On his first visit to California in 1887, the Oliver's cousin, Charles Elliot Perkins (husband to Edith Forbes Perkins), wrote, "The Oliver Canyon is really an ideal kind of nook. They don't feel the sea air much, and at this season they don't need it." (*Family Letters and Reminiscences 1865-1907*, Charles Elliott Perkins and Edith Forbes Perkins by Edith Perkins Cunningham, 1949, pp 184-185)

In fact, as far back as 1884, Mission Canyon was described as a place of great natural beauty in a local newspaper article. "Here may be found many delightful nooks, ferns, waterfalls, wildflowers. There is a carriage road to the Bower's Place, and thence a bridle path to the Fern and Seven Falls beyond." (*Santa Barbara Daily Press*, 3 July 1884; Galt)

By 1910, while there were still hostlers and farmers, laborers and bookkeepers living on Mission Canyon Road, others had discovered the idyllic little canyon. Robert Cameron Rogers, poet and editor of the *Morning Press* and family lived in the Tudor mansion called *Glendessary* they had built in 1900. (Santa Barbara County, HLAC document) Rowland Hazard, a descendent of Narrangansett Planters in Rhode Island, had been looking for a place to build a winter home in 1885 for the precarious health of his wife. Working with J.J. Perkins, a former businessman in Boston, they spent days scouring all of Santa Barbara and Montecito for property. When Perkins showed them an old farm on a hill behind the Mission with wide views of the sea to the south and canyon and mountain views to the north, they took it immediately. They built *Mission Hill* and later their son, Rowland Gibson Hazard, established *Dial House*. (*A Precious Heritage* by Caroline Hazard, page 122)

Rowland Hazard loved building walls and bridges. After the wooden bridge crossing Mission Creek burned in a fire circa 1890, he designed a stone bridge, which was constructed by Joe Dover and engineered with the assistance of Alfred Poett. The Oliver property started on the eastern side of the stone bridge at the mid point of the arch. Hazard was also responsible for the scotch picket walls and many other structures of local stone in the area. (Hazard, pp 118-119, 141)

Also across the street from the Olivers, were George Eames Potter and his wife Caroline Case Potter. (Caroline would later marry County Supervisor Sam Stanwood after George's death.) George Potter was an insurance agent but also considered himself a farmer, having established *The Orchards* in Mission Canyon. (1910 and 1920 U.S. Census and City Directories) Herman Eddy, president of County National Bank and Trust; Enoch J. Marsh, a school teacher; artist Fernand Lungren; and Christopher Tornoe, metal craftsman and contractor, were some of the Olivers' new neighbors who had been drawn to life in the canyon. (1910 U.S. Census information)

And through it all, as Hannah Moor stated, "Rocky Nook with its wild garden and simple little board and batten cottage, patched and added to, was center of what was the finest and best in Santa Barbara in the early days." (Moor)

## George

Fanny and George were enormously well-respected and loved, as memoirs and letters of their friends attest. For his part, George contributed money for the building of Hazard's stone bridge of Mission Creek, and he invested in the Santa Barbara Land Company. This company had been formed by an associate of John Murray Forbes, Albert Touzalin, who, in 1886, had

purchased all the lands Forbes had acquired in Santa Barbara, reaching from Hot Springs Road on Sycamore Canyon all the way to the sea. (Perkins, Vol. 1, page 243)

Elizabeth Eaton Burton described George as a “distinguished looking gentleman with a worldly twinkle in his eye and predilection towards watching the pretty girl bathers (in spite of the long black hose they wore above their knees), and who was a daily spectator during bathing hours at the beach.” (Burton)

“He had an artist’s eye,” said Hannah Moor, “and loved to watch the bathers, admiring a fine figure. He would have enjoyed the modern bathing suit!” (Moor)

Hannah remembers that each day George made quite a picture as he went to town wearing a yellow sun helmet and a yellow pongee duster in a yellow buckboard pulled by a sorrel horse with a yellow mane. In town he would visit the bank and receive a bag of gold and silver coins, which he refused to handle. (Moor)

“To him,” said Elizabeth Eaton Burton, “all coin was so contaminated by human contact that he would not touch it, so people learned to drop their change into, or else take it out of the bag he carried for that purpose. After a thorough boiling at home, the money would again go into circulation.” (Burton)

After an afternoon siesta, George was wont to pay visits to the neighbors. Hannah recalls that he cut quite a figure with a plaid “hanging gracefully from one shoulder, a soft hat a trifle to the side, and a cigar.” He was usually accompanied by a little Scotch terrier. (Moor) George also had an unusual interest, he was an Associate of the Society for Psychical Research, which investigated paranormal phenomena. (*Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, February 1893)

George died on December 27, 1904. The *Morning Press* obituary said he was one of Santa Barbara’s most respected citizens and related that he had come to Santa Barbara because he was in ill health. In the midst of the live oaks in Mission Canyon, “he lived a quiet, secluded life, surrounded by every comfort. Although a great sufferer he possessed a sunny disposition and a gentle manner that endeared him to all who knew him.” (*The Morning Press*, 28 December 1904)

In his will, he gave Fanny a life tenancy at *his* estate and the unlimited use of his wealth to provide for her comfort. She, Eugene S. Sheffield and Henry P. Lincoln were to be trustees. Upon her death, however, *Rocky Nook* and the remainder of his estate were to go to his Oliver relations. One wonders what Fanny, a devout suffragist, felt about this turn of events. When California gave women the right to vote in State elections in 1911, Fanny was among the first to register. (Santa Barbara County voter registration lists)

Six years after George’s death, Fanny commissioned a fountain memorial for George. Keeping to the *Rocky Nook* theme and her own love of the simple and natural, she hired stonemason George Robson to move three boulders from the Oliver property to the entrance of Mission Canyon. One became a horse trough, and another a drinking fountain for two legged creatures. The overflow spilled into a smaller bowl carved into the third boulder for birds and the smallest denizens of Mission Canyon. A brass plaque embedded in the stone reads, “In Memory of George Stuart Johannot Oliver/ Who Loved This Cañon/ 1910.” (“Oliver Fountain” by Neal Graffy, October 25, 2009)

## **Fanny**

Fanny’s fans were legion. Elizabeth Eaton Burton said, “Mrs. Oliver, to me, had the bright eyes of some small bird and the red cheeks of a winter apple. Her manner was that of a

vivacious girl and her interest and knowledge on all subjects remained unabated through all the years I knew her.” (Burton)

Fanny was, in many ways, as much of a character as her husband. Hannah Moor remembered, “Mrs. Oliver was a picture in her own covered buggy, sitting up very straight, flourishing her reins often and with much energy, for her big fat horse needed constant prompting to make the three miles from the canyon to the beach.” (Moor)

The Olivers had come to Santa Barbara with a small retinue of servants from the Azores, to whom Fanny spoke in Portuguese. George required a nurse and Fanny’s garden was maintained by Joseph Goubertier. (Moor; 1900 U.S. Census)

The rambling house was composed of tiny parlors where books were piled to the ceilings, walls were covered by paintings, and rare bits of old china, peacock feathers, and every sort of bric-a-brac crowded together on the flat surfaces of the rooms. (Moor)

Sundays became famous, for the Olivers entertained at home. Friends brought guests and distinguished visitors brought cards of introduction. Indoors, Fanny always wore a bit of Faial lace on her head, and she entertained her guests with comic little stories. Summer teas were served under the oaks. Rugs were laid on the ground and chairs brought out. Screens were set out to protect George from the drafts. According to Hannah Moor, “He was always elegantly dressed and aristocratic and graceful in manner, ever solicitous and kind to their friends. (Moor)

In 1915, Fanny, then 82, was invited to lunch at the Wetmore House, which Edith Forbes Perkins had leased on Channel Drive. In her journal, Edith wrote, “Mrs. Oliver was as unusual and delightful as ever ... To know her is indeed a blessing.” (Perkins, Vol. 1 page 237)

And Fanny was unusual. She once had taken Edith to visit the infamous Louise Hart, who lived in a bungalow on a ranch up Romero Canyon. Edith’s letter describing the experience was full of awe for Louise. She said, “Louise lives all alone --- because she wants to! She must be very brave.” What Edith doesn’t mention, and perhaps didn’t know, is that Louise was rumored to have had an affair with Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead, the creator and owner of *Arcady* before George Owen Knapp, was wont to dance in diaphanous veils on the estates of Montecito in the moonlight, and, according to Ike Bonilla, whose family lived and worked on the ranch, had a Chinese lover and smoked opium! (Perkins, Vol 1, p 241; Memoirs of Ike Bonilla at Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum).

Fanny’s sisters Clara and Roxana Dabney visited often and lived with the Olivers at times. They seemed to conform to the family mold. Elizabeth Eaton Burton wrote, “[Fanny’s]sister, who came on a visit, was one of the most charming little godmother creatures imaginable, especially when you would meet her at sunset walking backward all the way up to the Mission from the town so as not to miss the unsurpassable beautiful view!” (Burton, p 86)

Fanny kept her cool when the Hazard’s Newfoundland/St. Bernard mix dog came at her aggressively when she paid them a visit in 1887. She stood very still and didn’t move as the giant dog engulfed her elbow with his mouth before a member of the household called him off. The dog had been in several vicious dogfights and routinely terrorized a woman living at the Canfield House. For the Hazards, it was the last straw, and Bruno was taken up the canyon and shot.

Fanny and George felt terrible about the consequences of the incident, but in the end Fanny wrote to Mary Rood Hazard, “We have felt really sad about it [but] I have gone over and over this morning’s scene, always ending with the feeling that there really was a good deal of



danger. Had it occurred to a woman who was easily frightened or who had no experience with dogs, it would have assumed a different aspect.”

Afterwards, the two neighbors were especially solicitous of each other’s feelings. Fanny sent Mary Rood Hazard a beautiful Fayal embroidered towel and came over with a rainfall table, which George had made for her. Mary brought Mrs. Oliver a little Japanese vase filled with violets. When Mary revealed they wouldn’t get another dog, Fanny was alarmed. “What will you do?” she asked. “Will you have my Smith and Wesson revolver?” Mary Hazard politely declined, later confessing to her husband that she would have been afraid of the pistol! (*A Precious Heritage* by Caroline Hazard, 1929.)

The neighbors continued on good terms. Later that same year, Mary’s son, Rowland Gibson Hazard, wrote to Fanny, “My dear and kind Mrs. Oliver, I feel like calling down blessings on your head for your sweet and comforting letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>.” Fanny had been making sure that his wife was taking care of herself and looking after her interests. (*The Letters of Rowland Gibson Hazard* June 27, 1887, ed. by Caroline Hazard)

Edith Forbes Perkins wrote, “Fanny Oliver is *the* person here ... and by her sympathy and spirit holds the community, both young and old, at her feet.” (Perkins, Vol. 1, p 16-17) Elizabeth Eaton Burton added, “Indeed, she attracted a small court about her, which paid homage to her brilliant mind.” (Burton)

Probably the most telling incident of the esteem in which the community held Fanny occurred at the opening of the Lobero Theater on August 4, 1924, an evening reserved for the people who had, as the *Morning Press* reported, “made the theater a brick and concrete possibility.” Edith Forbes Perkins wrote in a letter to her son, “Last night was a great occasion -- the opening of the new Lobero Theatre. Fanny Oliver asked me the day I got here if I would go with her. She provided the tickets but I took her comfortably in my car, and I wish you could have seen the reception given to her outside, before the doors were open. Then they said she must be the first one to enter, and I saw to it that she was the first person to be seated. It was a wonderful occasion....” (Perkins, Vol 4, p 110)

Fanny Oliver died at age 92 at her Mission Canyon home on July 21, 1926. Her *Morning Press* obituary said, “Mrs. Oliver is mourned by a host of friends made during her long residence in Santa Barbara, where she took a leading part in many affairs for the benefit of the community. A private funeral was held at *Rocky Nook* before her remains were taken to the Santa Barbara Cemetery. The honorary pallbearers were her neighbors and friends: Bernhard Hoffmann, Fernand Lungren, Herman H. Eddy, James D. Lowsley, Charles W. Robson, and J. Grafton Minot. (*The Morning Press*, 22, 23, 24 July 1926)

Fanny’s will left certain dollar amount bequests to a variety of Dabney relatives and the estate itself was divided into 8 parts, all going to Dabneys. Since George had left the estate to his Oliver relations, probate must have been very interesting.

## **Rocky Nook Park**

In 1927, Carolyn Stanwood, wife of Santa Barbara County Supervisor Sam Stanwood, purchased *Rocky Nook* from the Oliver Estate. Carolyn had lived in the canyon starting in 1910 when she was married to George Eames Potter, who had established a farm and estate called *The Orchards*. Several years after George’s death, Carolyn married Sam and they lived there until

1938. ("Rocky Nook Park" by Carolyn C. Stanwood, Oct 8, 1962 -- Document Box 126 at the Gledhill Library of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum)

Frances Oliver had given the executors of her estate, one of which was Henry P. Lincoln (Lincoln House/Upham Hotel family) of Santa Barbara, full power of sale of any of her property. Fanny's will left the estate to a slew of Dabney relatives and George's will had left the remains of the estate, after Fanny's life tenancy was completed, to several Oliver relatives. (George and Fanny's wills filed January 5, 1905 and August 18, 1926, respectively.) It was clear that the estate, which had already been diminished in size by the sale of 3.74 acres to Edward Seldon Spaulding on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1925, needed to be sold in order to fulfill the bequests of various portions to those who had inherited. (C. Stanwood)

Carolyn Stanwood wrote, "Mr. Henry Lincoln, Mr. Stanwood's brother-in-law was administrator of the estate.... Mr. Lincoln thought he had a purchaser, but that fell through, and my husband felt it was a good investment, so I purchased the property of 13 ½ acres." Prior to the purchase, Carolyn had been informed that Mrs. Oliver had wanted to give the estate to the county for a park, but with so many relatives to provide for, she realized it would have to be sold. (C. Stanwood)

"A group of friends, close friends, of Mrs. Oliver," wrote Carolyn, "knew about this wish and decided to try to raise the money to buy the main portion, so I held the property while they did just that." Carolyn sold them 9 acres, which were directly deeded to Herman Eddy's County National Bank and Trust Company of Santa Barbara and then immediately deeded to the County for the purpose of a county park. (C. Stanwood; Deeds dated 5 May 1928 and 7 May 1928)

Carolyn named the "kind friends" who contributed to the purchase of the park, but almost 40 years later she was not sure if she remembered them all correctly. She named the following: Mary P. Hazard, Caroline Hazard, Mrs. MacVeagh, Florence Fernald, Mrs. Herman (Rosamond) Eddy, Mrs. Albert (Katherine) Bacon, Frances and Edward Payson Ripley, Mrs. Robert Cameron (Beatrice Fernald) Rogers, Miss Bertha Spaulding, and Miss Roxanna Dabney, Fanny's sister, who sold her portion of the estate to the group for \$10 gold. (Stanwood) According to a 1948 article, however, these friends included Fernand Lungren, Joseph A. Andrews, F.W.M. Cutcheon, Elmer J. Bissel, Lora J. Knight, Margaret K. Andrews, Anna Williams Dreer, Gwethelyn Jones, and Caroline Hazard. (News-Press, 16 May 1948)

Carolyn Stanwood recalls that the friends had a stone placed on the side of the road leading up through the park. Its inscription read "ROCKY NOOK/ Given to County/ by/ Friends of Frances Dabney Oliver/ who lived here from 1882 to 1926. (Stanwood) In the 1990s, this plaque was replaced with one that credits Sam and Carolyn Stanwood alone. ("History of Carolyn and Sam Stanwood," by Viv Obern, Hope Ranch Park Homes Association, Winter 1990 and files of Reina del Mar Parlor #126.)

"Mr. Sam Stanwood, my husband," wrote Carolyn, "was Supervisor, second district. He soon had the Park put in shape for the people to enjoy. Under his direction they built a Spanish type house, as appropriate for the community and its traditions, a rest house, barbeque pits and tables, and removed the old Oliver house, cleared the roads, etc. (Stanwood)

"Accounting for the other 4 ½ acres, I sold to the Woman's Club an acre above their property for badly needed parking space," wrote Carolyn. She gave the remaining acres to her nephew and gave the County 50 feet above the bridge, so they could widen the bridge when necessary. (Stanwood)

The “Spanish style” cottage was occupied by Rocky Nook Park caretakers and their families for the next 50 plus years. The original caretaker/ranger for the park was Ricardo Ruiz who, according to Carolyn, was born on the property. When he died, his daughter Esther Ruiz Flores became caretaker. When she retired, Richard Ruiz, Ricardo’s son was made caretaker. In October 1962, he was replaced by David Rubio, another descendent of a historic Californio family. (Stanwood)

In 1984, the cottage was remodeled into offices and became the headquarters for the County Parks Department, up until recently when the office was moved to the County Administration Building on Anapamu Street.

Over the years, Rocky Nook Park became a favorite picnic spot for the local citizenry, seemly an extension of the Oliver’s Sunday open air entertainments, for even in the 1880s and ‘90s, friends remember picnicking at Rocky Nook. (Back of 1880s photo of Oliver Cottage, Gledhill library.) In August 1933, a nature camp took over the park. Camper tents, administration tents and classroom tents sprouted like mushrooms underneath the oaks. Students collected specimens, attended hands-on classes, visited gardens at various estates, and attended illustrated lectures. Mrs. John F. Manning, chairwoman of the Garden Club of America and Montecito, had conceived of the idea for a two-week nature study and had organized the project. It was wildly successful. (“Studying nature in Rocky Nook Park” by Stella Haverland Rouse, News-Press, 7 August 1983.)

Twenty years after the establishment of the park, the News-Press published a series of articles about the 20 County Parks then in existence. Of Rocky Nook Park, they wrote that an early account of the park had said, “The park is a horticultural gem as it contains nearly all the species of shrubbery found in California and some specimens are the only ones in the State. Mrs. Oliver was for years deeply interested in collecting rare plants and the gardens are a monument to her ability as a collector.” (News-Press, 16 May 1948)

The article continues, “The name Rocky Nook is descriptive of the park. Its nine acres on the banks of Mission Creek are covered with big, well-worn boulders, shaded by oaks, sycamores and other growth. Although most of the rare plantings which Mrs. Oliver collected have died out from age or lack of care, its native beauty is still largely undisturbed.”

Today Rocky Nook Park is a little oasis of historical import that reflects and commemorates the history and influence of the Oliver family and the culture of Mission Canyon in the early days. More than that, however, the park and the nearly 90-year old cottage/office commemorates the history of the County Parks and the efforts made to provide the people with beautiful, peaceful and natural places for outings and retreats at the doorstep of the urban environment.

*Many of the sources of information were pointed out to me by **Francesca Galt**, Mission Canyon resident, who has **thoroughly** investigated the Canyon, the Olivers, and the Park. Though I’m sure there’s more to learn (there always is), there would not be as complete a picture without her work. Many thanks!*

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Raphaella Nau <raphienau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 7:48 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To whom it may concern,

Please save Rocky Nook park by designating it a Historic landmark. The way it is situated not only makes it a safe place for us to take our kids, but they are able to learn so much about nature.

This is where their environmental education and love for conservation begins and this can only happen if the city/county save it for them and future generations.

Best,  
Raphaëlla

Please excuse any brevity and/or typos.  
Sent from my iPhone

**Brianda Negrete**

---

**From:** nrg814@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 7:49 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park should be designated as Historic Landmark

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please protect and preserve this unique and scenic area for future generations by declaring it a Historic Landmark. It's an important part of Mission Canyon, with Mission Santa Barbara across the road.

Sincerely

Roxanne Gilman  
San Roque resident

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Colleen Newell <crosenewell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:33 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Please Save Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello,

I am writing to express my love for Rocky Nook Park in hopes that you will preserve it as a state historic landmark. The park is home to much wildlife and beauty, and it provides a vital natural sanctuary for residents. I've spent many hours walking its trails, picnicking under its shady oaks, and wondering about its role in the history of Santa Barbara and California as a whole. I believe we have much to learn from the park as well. Its geography and boulder formations have much to teach us about the way landslides shape the environment we call home. If there was to be more building in this area, it would lead to ecological degradation and worsen traffic congestion on the narrow roadways surrounding it. We must preserve Rocky Nook Park the way it is.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Rose Newell  
(949) 636-4796

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** barbara lyon <barbelyon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:33 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

I implore you to approve the Historic Landmark status of our beloved Rocky Nook Park! I am a 3rd generation Californian, bless the Indigenous and Hispanics who preceded my family! We must honor them, we must cherish our history and retain it for all generations to come, just as we give love to and tend to our families, gardens, trees, beaches, mountains, and all of our environment, physical and cultural. For without them we are lost!

I have been at Rocky Nook when the grammar school children are visiting it with their teachers learning all about the history abundant in the rocks, river, ways of living, gathering and cooking food from there, the entirety of its history. The children are all smiles enjoying it so much!!! I have gone there walking dogs and getting to know neighbors and others. Kindly please read the PhD worthy 500+ pages with photographs done by Paulina Conn of the Old Mission area, and the one done by Francesca Galt on Rocky Nook itself. Please don't gloss over these fabulous works documenting our history, for they are gifts of hundreds of hours of love, scholarship and tenacity for posterity given selflessly without asking anything in return except the Historical Landmark it deserves.

Rocky Nook is the quintessential California landscape. We have allowed such places south of us in Los Angeles, the Valley, San Diego and elsewhere to be utterly destroyed and replaced with tract homes, industrial parks and what I call "plasticized" environments that thwart our humanity and connections with nature and each other. I know because I come from generations of ranchers there who loved and took care of those places. Now no more expanses of wild flowers, no more free running brooks, no more picnics underneath beautiful old oaks, sycamores and other trees dipping our toes in the water and loving the sun, no more hospitality in nature. No more hikes and walks in the wilds. Destroyed and gone forever. Only ersatz "plastic" walkways, bright lights not needed. Let's keep it natural FOREVER!

Kindly, again, I implore you to grant Rocky Nook the Historical Landmark status it deserves.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lyon  
Mission Canyon

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** C Colao <colaodesign@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Support and PROTECT Rocky Nook Park

**Importance:** High

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Rocky Nook Park is one of my favorite walking areas. It provides solace and a sense of well-being when I walk its paths and breath the fresh air provided by the trees and plants.

I write this email to ask that you place your votes to protect this favorite, historic, and natural space for future generations and forever! Vote to designate this sacred and historic place as a County Historic Landmark.

Our area is growing and building quickly; especially, with the demand for more housing. Please consider how important it is to designate this little piece (and peace) of heaven. Rocky Nook Park holds the voices of the past — it IS our past and it needs to be held in high esteem and be, forever, a reminder of all the good, and not so good, that happened on this land. It is a history that should not be forgotten or ignored. It is who we, the people of Santa Barbara, are and what makes this area so special.

Thank you for your consideration in voting with your heart, with your conscious, and with your love for the history and natural beauty of Rocky Nook Park to protect it in perpetuity!

Warm Regards,

Carol Colao  
A Proud Resident of San Roque



## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** lannyebenstein@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Board of Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County

Dear Members of the Board,

Although you have received much public input on Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark designation, I hope you will also consider this letter, which is largely personal and based on longtime residence in Mission Canyon. My family moved to Mission Canyon in 1963, and I have had the good fortune to live here since. We have also had the good fortune to own a county historic landmark--Glendessary--and this, too, gives me perspectives that may be of interest to you.

Having grown up in Mission Canyon in the 1960s and '70s at a time when young children were not quite as guarded by their parents as now (I and my friends walked or rode our bikes on our own three-quarters of a mile to Roosevelt School starting in 1st grade--something that would be unheard of today), I got to know Rocky Nook Park and surrounding environs very well. I remember crawling, at about 6 or 7, through quasi-subterranean aqueduct passages only about a foot wide and two feet high and storm drains and tunnels that would be a county or city risk-manager's nightmare (and which, I'm glad to say, have largely been closed). Since I was not particularly mindful of private property as a child, I have, I suppose, been on most of the larger properties, and many of the smaller ones, in Mission Canyon. I always enjoyed going to the Museum of Natural History and Botanic Garden, as well as Rocky Nook Park. My friends and I regularly hiked up Mission Creek and played underneath the great stone arched bridge adjacent to Rocky Nook. I have attended many picnics and other events in Rocky Nook Park and continue to walk through it frequently.

On this basis, historic landmark status for Rocky Nook Park--pursuant to the Resolution you will consider this Tuesday--is not merely appropriate but necessary. I have with my own eyes seen historic elements on both public and private land, including aqueduct remnants, destroyed or diminished since the 1960s. Rocky Nook Park needs to be protected through historic landmark status, and it needs to be protected now.

Concerning my family's ownership of a county historic landmark, when we acquired Glendessary in 1992, I thought it would be a big hassle to work with the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, and I can sympathize with some members of County Public Works who might similarly feel that this would be the case with Rocky Nook Park. However, my personal experience as owner of a county historic landmark has been the opposite of what I thought it would be--that is, it's been a huge benefit and asset for the property to be landmarked. Going through the HLAC process on major issues has been a boon, not a bane, to the property. The members of HLAC and County staff are dedicated and professional experts, not thorns in the side. They work with property owners, not against them. They help the landowners of historic landmarks, whether privately or publicly owned, to accomplish their goals for a property *while respecting historic integrity*. This creative process results not merely in a better final product, but often one that is less expensive.

For this reason, I believe the HLAC decision to exclude the exception to historic landmark status proposed by Public Works (to add a clause to the landmark resolution that would exempt Rocky Nook elements adjacent to or along Mission Canyon Road) was the right decision for several reasons. First, the existing resolution that you will consider this Tuesday already explicitly excludes "normal maintenance and repair". There is no requirement in the existing resolution that Public Works or any other County department seek HLAC approval for routine and maintenance items. But HLAC participation is required for major changes--which is as it should be. The right process for major changes (if any) should be to go to HLAC first, not exclude HLAC from the process.

I would add, too, that the outcome of not reaching resolution at the HLAC level is, in truth, relatively minor. Pursuant to the County Historic Landmarks Ordinance (attached), any "interested party" (landowner or otherwise) who is dissatisfied

with a decision by HLAC may file an appeal "from any action of the historic landmarks advisory commission" and "the board of supervisors may confirm, modify or set aside any or all such actions of the historic landmarks advisory commission." In other words--*whether the clause suggested by County Public Works were included or not, the Board of Supervisors would retain complete authority and control over decisions in Rocky Nook Park.* Exclusion of the clause, as recommended by HLAC in the Resolution you will consider Tuesday, merely requires that before County Public Works, or any County department, would propose a major, non-routine, non-maintenance alteration to Rocky Nook Park, they would have to go to the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission first, which would be both beneficial and exactly what the process should be.

Thank you for your consideration. Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark pursuant to the Resolution before you this Tuesday will be a great step forward for a truly historic area in Santa Barbara County. I would say in closing that I believe--so historic is the Santa Barbara Mission-Mission Historical Park-Rocky Nook Park area--that it would qualify for consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the highest form of international recognition for a historic, natural, cultural, and scenic site. Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark will help to unify the historical awareness and understanding of the comprehensive area, and, if desired, be a step in this direction.

Sincerely,  
*Lanny Ebenstein*  
Lanny Ebenstein, Ph.D.  
60-Year Resident of Mission Canyon  
Family Owner of County Historic Landmark

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** lannyebenstein@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob  
**Subject:** Re: Rocky Nook Park--attachment  
**Attachments:** County Ordinance.pdf

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

I neglected to include the attachment with the original email; it is attached here--Lanny

-----Original Message-----

From: lannyebenstein@aol.com  
To: SupervisorWilliams@countyofsb.org <SupervisorWilliams@countyofsb.org>; lcapps@countyofsb.org <lcapps@countyofsb.org>; jhartmann@countyofsb.org <jhartmann@countyofsb.org>; Nelson@bos.countyofsb.org <Nelson@bos.countyofsb.org>; steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org <steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org>; sbcob@countyofsb.org <sbcob@countyofsb.org>  
Sent: Sat, Jan 21, 2023 12:34 pm  
Subject: Rocky Nook Park

Board of Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County

Dear Members of the Board,

Although you have received much public input on Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark designation, I hope you will also consider this letter, which is largely personal and based on longtime residence in Mission Canyon. My family moved to Mission Canyon in 1963, and I have had the good fortune to live here since. We have also had the good fortune to own a county historic landmark--Glendessary--and this, too, gives me perspectives that may be of interest to you.

Having grown up in Mission Canyon in the 1960s and '70s at a time when young children were not quite as guarded by their parents as now (I and my friends walked or rode our bikes on our own three-quarters of a mile to Roosevelt School starting in 1st grade--something that would be unheard of today), I got to know Rocky Nook Park and surrounding environs very well. I remember crawling, at about 6 or 7, through quasi-subterranean aqueduct passages only about a foot wide and two feet high and storm drains and tunnels that would be a county or city risk-manager's nightmare (and which, I'm glad to say, have largely been closed). Since I was not particularly mindful of private property as a child, I have, I suppose, been on most of the larger properties, and many of the smaller ones, in Mission Canyon. I always enjoyed going to the Museum of Natural History and Botanic Garden, as well as Rocky Nook Park. My friends and I regularly hiked up Mission Creek and played underneath the great stone arched bridge adjacent to Rocky Nook. I have attended many picnics and other events in Rocky Nook Park and continue to walk through it frequently.

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Concerning my family's ownership of a county historic landmark, when we acquired Glendessary in 1992, I thought it would be a big hassle to work with the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, and I can sympathize with some members of County Public Works who might similarly feel that this would be the case with Rocky Nook Park. However, my personal experience as owner of a county historic landmark has been the opposite of what I thought it would be--that is, it's been a huge benefit and asset for the property to be landmarked. Going through the HLAC process on major issues has been a boon, not a bane, to the property. The members of HLAC and County staff are dedicated and professional experts, not thorns in the side. They work with property owners, not against them. They help the landowners

of historic landmarks, whether privately or publicly owned, to accomplish their goals for a property *while respecting historic integrity*. This creative process results not merely in a better final product, but often one that is less expensive.

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Thank you for your consideration. Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark pursuant to the Resolution before you this Tuesday will be a great step forward for a truly historic area in Santa Barbara County. I would say in closing that I believe--so historic is the Santa Barbara Mission-Mission Historical Park-Rocky Nook Park area--that it would qualify for consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the highest form of international recognition for a historic, natural, cultural, and scenic site. Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark will help to unify the historical awareness and understanding of the comprehensive area, and, if desired, be a step in this direction.

Sincerely,  
*Lanny Ebenstein*  
Lanny Ebenstein, Ph.D.  
60-Year Resident of Mission Canyon  
Family Owner of County Historic Landmark

The historic landmarks advisory commission, or other interested persons, may petition the board of supervisors for funds necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The boards of supervisors may expend all reasonable amounts of money needed to carry out the purposes of this chapter or to acquire fee title or such lesser ownership rights or rights of possession or negative easements as it deems necessary or expedient to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 4425, § 1)

### **Sec. 18A-7. - Appeal from decision of historic landmarks advisory commission.**

Any interested person may appeal in writing to the board of supervisors from any action of the historic landmarks advisory commission filed with the clerk of the board of supervisors within ten days from the date of such action; or in the case of the affected property owner, within ten days of service of notice of the action by certified mail to the owner of the property as appears on the latest available county assessor's records, and the board of supervisors shall set a public hearing, duly advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least ten days before the date of such hearing, to consider such appeal, and the board of supervisors may confirm, modify or set aside any or all such actions of the historic landmarks advisory commission.

(Ord. No. 4425, § 1)

### **Sec. 18A-8. - Enforcement of chapter.**

The historic landmarks advisory commission is charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and all conditions imposed hereunder. If unable otherwise to obtain compliance with the provisions of this chapter and conditions imposed hereunder, it may refer the matter to the board of supervisors or to the district attorney or to the county counsel for appropriate action.

(Ord. No. 4425, § 1)

### **Sec. 18A-9. - Places of historic merit.**

The historic landmarks advisory commission is authorized and directed to locate and identify other places of historic merit which may satisfy the criteria for designation as an historic landmark, or by reason of a unique feature have, in the opinion of the commission, special historic, aesthetic or cultural value.

Premises may be designated as having historic merit by the historic landmarks advisory commission, under the provisions of this section, even though the premises may not qualify for designation as an historic landmark.

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Loryann Velez <loryannvelez1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 1:47 PM  
**To:** James Yee; sbcob; pconnt43@cox.net  
**Subject:** Letter of support Rocky Nook park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear County Board of Supervisors

I would like to address the following to support county historic landmark designation efforts in regards to Rock Nook park.

Just past the historic landmark Santa Barbara Mission, area roads lead to a more rural landscape created by the forces of nature a millennium ago. The rustic Rocky Nook Park gives a real taste of what this area must have looked like before it was settled. The towering trees are lush and the park offers shaded picnic areas, short trails, and the area is strewn with large sandstone boulders. When nature takes a rest, Rocky Nook Park is a peaceful place away from the crowds and the street. Regarding the designation of Rocky Nook Park as a Santa Barbara County Historic Landmark. I am in support as a prominent Chumash descendant in advocating the historical protection of this area. These are the important objectives that I would like to address. Rocky Nook Park is an essential part of Santa Barbara County's heritage. Rocky Nook Park represents all aspects of the county's history and environment and its unique blend of history and the environment. The Chumash had a village and lived in the Rocky Nook Park for thousands of years. Rocky Nook park is the oldest county park on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. Effort to advocate protection of Rocky Nook Park as a historical landmark is consistent with the Mission Canyon Community Planned. Supporting this landmark Rocky Nook Park is a historic and environmental treasure that should be preserved and safeguarded for the future. I'm a living chumash woman who feels strongly in voicing my support letter to Santa Barbara County Supervisors that it should be preserved and safeguarded for the future.

**Brianda Negrete**

---

**From:** Ben Burleson (gmail) <ben.burleson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:44 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello!

As a county resident and neighbor of the park, I support the designation of Rocky Nook Park as an historic landmark.

Thank you,  
Ben Burleson

785 Charlotte Ln  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
805-617-0022

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Barrett Cordero <barrettcordero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:00 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** barrettcordero@gmail.com; Catherine Cordero  
**Subject:** Historic Landmark Rocky Nook

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Board of Supervisors,

I have a 31 employee business based here in Santa Barbara. I'm from Santa Barbara, and I live at 795 Charlotte Ln, right next to Rocky Nook park.

We are there daily and it's truly transformational and historic. I think classifying it historic would have it stand out more to all visitors, plus preserve and capture its historic history.

Separately, the walking path on Mission Canyon Rd is in desperate need of immediate fixing. I fear if neglect continues it could result in significant liability for the County should someone get hurt walking on the poor paths and dangerous near by road.

Thank you for all you do.

**Barrett Cordero**

President | O: 805-730-0620 M: 805-689-2303

*Awakening Greatness Within*



## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Jason Galt <jgaltessq@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:44 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbarans,

I am writing to express my desire that you strongly consider granting historical landmark status to the Rocky Nook park to protect its present and past integrity, and the intentions of its grantor.

Failing to do so, could discourage future donors who fear their intentions would not be followed in the future. The park is beautiful with its hundred year plus old trees and natural landscape formed over thousands of years.

To allow changes would be inconsistent with the preservation goals of the community.

Thank you,  
Jason Galt

Sent from my iPhone

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Nick Vrolyk <realtorno2@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:50 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Jeanne; Vrolyk Nick  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park Historical Designation

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My family moved to Santa Barbara in the 1950's and we have enjoyed Rocky Nook Park ever since.

If ever there was a park that is the essence of Santa Barbara then it is Rocky Nook. With it's majestic Oaks and Sycamore Trees, granite Boulders and overlooking Mission Creek it deserves to be preserved in its present form for all future generations to enjoy as my family has and continues to enjoy to this very day.

Please have the wisdom and forethought to designate this wonderful park as a County Historic Landmark.

Many thanks,  
Nick and Jeanne Vrolyk

Sent from my iPhone

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Susan Shields <shields3033@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:40 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook designation as Historic Landmark

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

I support the arguments made by Paulina Conn concerning the significance of this piece of land as part of the legacy of the indigenous people who lived here first. I have visited both the remains of the Mission structures next door to Rocky Nook Park and the park itself. I always find the experience of walking or sitting quietly at Rocky Nook like being taken back in time to another era that reminds me of the ancestry of our community. I support its designation as a historic site.

Susan Shields  
3033

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Pma Tregenza <ptregenza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 3:39 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park Preservation Designation

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors for the County of Santa Barbara,

I have strolled through, picnicked, sketched and wrote poetry, met wonderful people from all over the world, along with playful dogs and children in every frequent venture out to Rocky Nook Park since 1974 when I first arrived here. The environment is peaceful and thrilling all at once through its constant change in the seasons.

The park itself is an historical landmark simply by where it sits amongst other important areas of our history and who has been there for those who have gone before us for the thousands of years prior to my ever stepping on the property. And whether I can go to it or not cannot be an issue. It's not there for me. It's not there for everyone. It's there for itself and has proven so by its continued existence to withstand extreme weather conditions and the threats that people have deemed "improvements" in the past and in its present state.

It is a venerable elder, and needs to be respected as such. In the recent rains, we could see the waterfalls coming over the mountains and talked about how it was feeding Mission Creek.

Wasn't Rocky Nook donated to the County to be preserved and protected as the park we know?

Let's respect our elders and take what I hope will be the final step in doing so by designating it a County Historic Landmark. Please.

Thank you and with great sincerity,

Pma Tregenza

Pma Tregenza  
[ptregenza@gmail.com](mailto:ptregenza@gmail.com)  
[805-689-3336](tel:805-689-3336)  
Slàinte

## **Brianda Negrete**

---

**From:** Constantine Papazacharioudakis <dpapazach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:21 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** County Historic Landmark for Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I'm writing to express my favor to establish Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark.

When I was a kid I enjoyed exploring the park and climbing on the boulders with my friends. As an adult I enjoy bringing my lunch to the park and being in its nature. It's a peaceful and beautiful place to visit.

It's important to preserve the experiences kids get to have at this park and to preserve the history of its longtime presence dating back to the Chumash. This is why I believe a historic landmark status is necessary.

Mike Pahos was a close family friend of mine and I know he loved Rocky Nook Park.

Please grant Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark status.

Thank you,  
Constantine Papazacharioudakis  
Santa Barbara lifetime resident

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** David Brandt <davidbrandt1968@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:52 PM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob  
**Subject:** Designate Rocky Nook Landmark

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

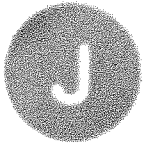
Dear Board of Supervisors,

There is some concern in the community that HLAC's excellent, well thought through resolution designating Rocky Nook Park a historic landmark may be weakened at your meeting Tuesday to exclude area in Rocky Nook Park adjacent to Mission Canyon Road from historic review. This would be a mistake. HLAC should review plans for significant changes in all of Rocky Nook Park before they were implemented.

There are practical, inexpensive solutions that members of the Rocky Nook landmark committee have worked on to improve safety on Mission Canyon Road. Please see the postings below from NextDoor Mission Canyon that were posted after the new solar, pedestrian activated pedestrian crossing lights were installed. Members of the committee met with county staff a number of times on-site to determine the best locations for the pedestrian lights. Members of the committee have also worked on signage, plantings, and improved ADA and bike access.

Please keep the HLAC in the process from the start in any major changes to Rocky Nook, including near Mission Canyon Road. Rocky Nook Park is too important for anything less. HLAC should be consulted before major proposals are developed and go to the Board of Supervisors for funding. In addition, deed restrictions may prevent the taking of land from Rocky Nook Park for roadway purposes.

David Brandt  
Santa Barbara



**Joanne Bromwell**

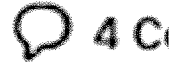
San Roque • 15 hr ago • 🌐

To whomever is responsible for establishing the flashing light Mission Canyon and Puesta del Sol - THANK YOU!!! You have been much appreciated.

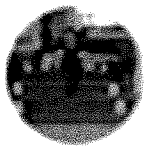
📍 650-660 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA



13



See 2 previous comments



**Jama Scarlett Lancaster** • Upper East

I used to walk three large dogs across the street every day and people would stop for me. I do believe this is a game changer for locals as well as people who frequent the museum and Nook. Thank you.

44 min ago

Like

Reply

Share

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Joel Fithian <joelfithian@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:06 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** ROCKNOOK PARK

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of The Board:

I feel that this much loved beautiful old park definitely deserves to be designated as a historic landmark.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Joel Fithian



## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** mike kerrigan <mck1sb@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:09 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** In favor of Rocky nook as a county landmark

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to write that I am in support of saving Rocky nook park as a county historic landmark.

I believe this is the right choice in knowing the history of the park and makes perfect sense.

Please add me as a vote in favor.

Thank you

Mike kerrigan of Santa Barbara

Sent from my iPhone

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** michele lee <mleebyrd@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:01 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to ask you to please vote to designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark, following the unanimous recommendation of the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. Rocky Nook Park is one of the most historic, scenic, and important places in Santa Barbara County.

It features all of the elements of Santa Barbara County's natural and human-made environment and history. The Park's boulders are the largest remaining geological site of the debris flow that resulted in so much sandstone being located in Santa Barbara. The Chumash lived here. The water of Mission Creek and surrounding sandstone provided material for the Santa Barbara Mission and therefore is an important part of its history. The stonework in the park dates to the Spanish and Mexican periods. It is the first county park on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. During the New Deal, rock fireplaces were built in the park by the WPA that remain to this day and they should be protected.

I took my children there when they were young and it was a fantastic place for them to explore and play in the outdoors and see some of that history, and it is a treasure that should be saved for future generations. In an era where it seems that nothing is sacred and it seems that anything goes as long as there is money to be made, please protect it officially! I want it to be there for my grandchildren and their grandchildren to enjoy.

With gratitude,

Michele Lee

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Tuck Donnelly <tuckdonnelly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 7:24 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please preserve Rocky Nook Park. It is a Santa Barbara treasure!

Tuck Donnelly  
Cielito

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Langhorne, Pam <LanghorneP@CTT.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 9:07 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Save Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

This message was sent securely using Zix®

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Pam Langhorne and I was born at St Francis Hospital in 1959.

My family and I still enjoy working and living in Santa Barbara.

As a native of Santa Barbara I ask you to please vote to designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark, following the unanimous recommendation of the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. Rocky Nook Park is one of the most historic, scenic, and important places in Santa Barbara County.

Rocky Nook Park is a scenic, historic, and environmental treasure that should be saved for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Respectfully,  
Pam Langhorne

### **Pam Langhorne**

3129 Foothill Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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NOTICE: The information contained in this message is proprietary and/or confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified to: (i) delete the message and all copies; (ii) do not disclose, distribute or use the message in any manner; and (iii) notify the sender immediately.

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This message was secured by Zix®.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Laura Capps  
**Cc:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park  
**Attachments:** Attachment 4.pdf

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Monday, January 23, 2023

Dear County Supervisors:

Regarding D-4

I am writing to express my support for the recommendation of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission to declare Rocky Nook Park a county historic landmark.

Rocky Nook Park is a beloved spot for the community. It is a place for families to enjoy nature, and create lasting memories. It is also a place where people come to relax and unwind. In addition to its recreational value, the park has great historic significance. It is the site of a former Chumash village and was dedicated to the memory of the Chumash people in 1934.

The designation of Rocky Nook Park as a county historic landmark will recognize its importance to the history and culture of Santa Barbara County. It will also provide an opportunity to educate the community about the area's past and help to preserve its natural beauty. In addition to that, declaring Rocky Nook Park a county historic landmark will provide protection from development, which is important in light of increasing development pressure in the area.

Finally, this protection will ensure that the park will remain a treasured part of the community for generations to come. For these reasons, I urge you to support the recommendation of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and declare Rocky Nook Park a county historic landmark.

Sincerely,

Joe Armendariz

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION THAT 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 ROCKY NOOK PARK AS COUNTY LANDMARK # 54 PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT.

RESOLUTION No. 2022-1

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (hereinafter "Commission") has considered the Historical significance of the property located at 610 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, (hereinafter "ROCKY NOOK PARK") on Assessor's Parcel Nos. 023-240-001 and 023-280-007 and as shown on the map 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 Commission 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.

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

1. ROCKY NOOK PARK 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 Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission 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.
  - 1) 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.
  - 2) 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.
  - 3) 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.

3. This designation shall expire after a period of ninety days, unless prior to the expiration of ninety days the Board of Supervisors shall have confirmed the action of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission pursuant to County Code, Chapter 18A, Section 18A-2.

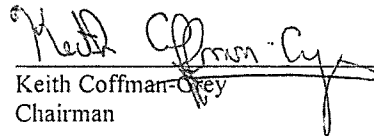
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, Santa Barbara, California, this Monday day of November 14, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Ronald Nye, Sheila Snow, Keith Coffman-Grey, Darian Bleacher, Lansing Duncan, Rob Knight, Randy Melcombe, Howard Wittausch

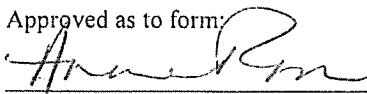
NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

  
Keith Coffman-Grey  
Chairman

Approved as to form:

  
Anne Rierson  
Senior Deputy County Counsel



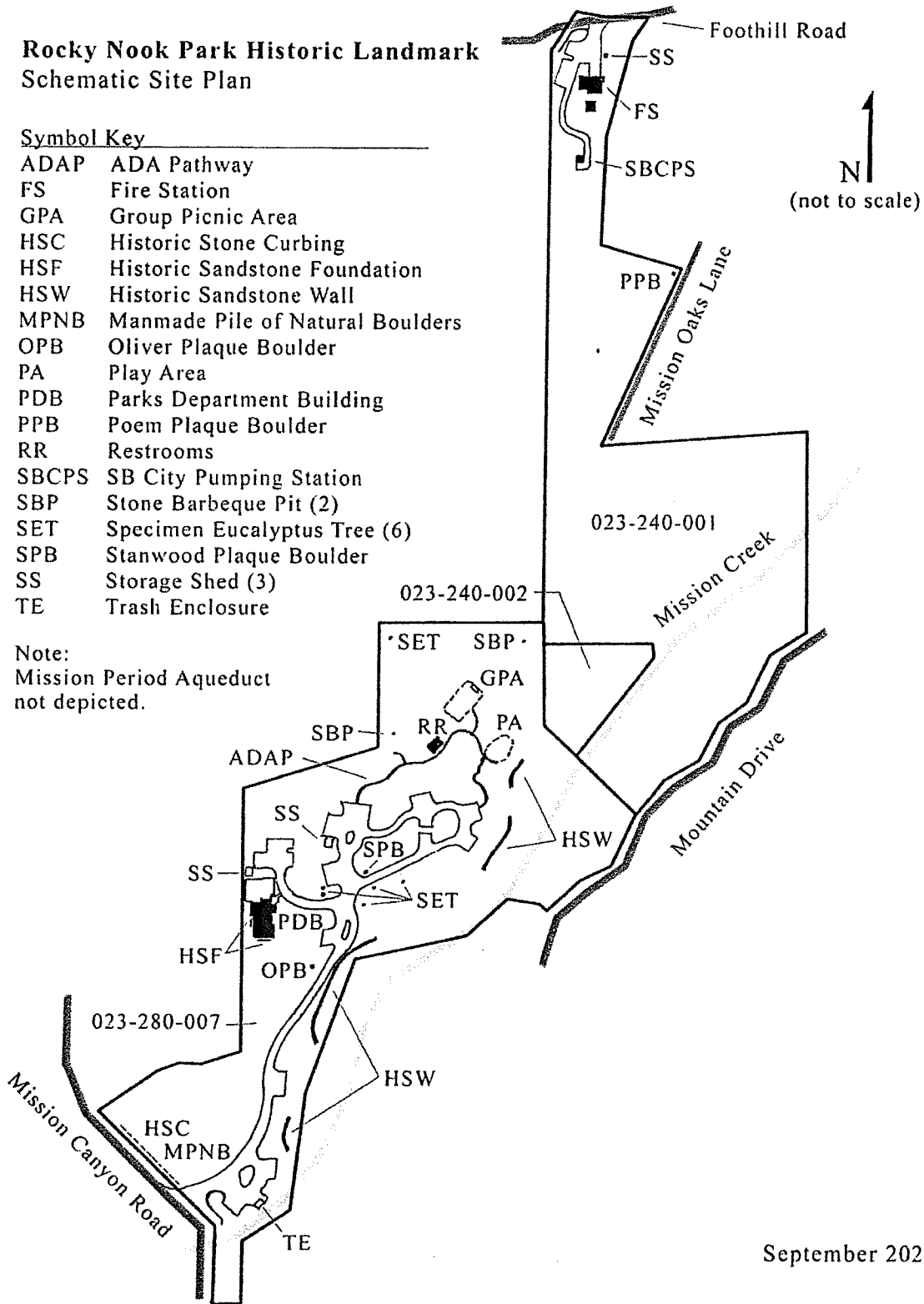
# Exhibit A

## Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark Schematic Site Plan

### Symbol Key

ADAP	ADA Pathway
FS	Fire Station
GPA	Group Picnic Area
HSC	Historic Stone Curbing
HSF	Historic Sandstone Foundation
HSW	Historic Sandstone Wall
MPNB	Manmade Pile of Natural Boulders
OPB	Oliver Plaque Boulder
PA	Play Area
PDB	Parks Department Building
PPB	Poem Plaque Boulder
RR	Restrooms
SBCPS	SB City Pumping Station
SBP	Stone Barbeque Pit (2)
SET	Specimen Eucalyptus Tree (6)
SPB	Stanwood Plaque Boulder
SS	Storage Shed (3)
TE	Trash Enclosure

Note:  
Mission Period Aqueduct  
not depicted.



September 2022

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Ariana Kramer <arianakramer@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 10:42 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Please protect Rocky Nook

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to ask you to please protect Rocky Nook Park for future generations by designating it as a County Historic Landmark. My grandparents, Henry and Frances Kramer, moved to Mission Canyon in the 1950s. They raised their family there. I lived in their house as a child and for periods throughout my life. My extended family still lives in the house and I love to visit Santa Barbara and Rocky Nook. I have significant memories of the park. One summer, I worked for the Rocky Nook Park as a receptionist. My father, artist Henry Kramer, has painted in the park. One of his paintings of the trees hangs in my home in New Mexico. Another one was gifted to Rocky Nook Park after I stopped working there.

Though I live in New Mexico, Santa Barbara is very important to me. I was born there. The mission area is of so much significance to me and my family it is hard to put into words. It would be devastating were the park to disappear. Please consider the emotional and personal connections that the families of Santa Barbara have to Rocky Nook and keep it as it is, in perpetuity.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Ariana Kramer  
Taos, New Mexico

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Bonnie Freeman <bonniegoleta@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 11:18 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park - hearing 1/24

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Members,

I have long been a supporter of designating Rocky Nook Park a historic landmark from the time I studied this when I was a County Parks Commissioner, and currently as a Community Activist involved in upgrading a County CSA.3 Open Space, I continue to feel strongly about this particular park with the historic and environmental aspects toward preserving Rocky Nook Park 's historic heritage forever.

Thank you for protecting our Heritage that's tied to this park.

Bonnie Freeman, Community Activist  
5436 Tree Farm Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
805/683-1878

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Bonnie Freeman <bonniegoleta@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Re: Rocky Nook Park - hearing 1/24

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

> On Jan 23, 2023, at 11:18 AM, Bonnie Freeman <bonniegoleta@aol.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Board Members,

>

> I have long been a supporter of designating Rocky Nook Park a historic landmark from the time I studied this when I was a County Parks Commissioner, and currently as a Community Activist involved in upgrading a County CSA.3 Open Space, I continue to feel strongly about this particular park with the historic and environmental aspects toward preserving Rocky Nook Park 's historic heritage forever.

> Thank you for protecting our Heritage that's tied to this park.

>

> Bonnie Freeman, Community Activist

> 5436 Tree Farm Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

> 805/683-1878

>

>

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Robyne Dy <robynedy12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky nook

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

haku haku,

As a Chumash woman I strongly urge for Rocky nook to be declared a land mark. There is plenty of evidence that the aqueduct was built by Chumash. Spanish colonizers would not have known the land and connecting water sources to create such a thing. In order to provide solidarity with the Chumash it is on the county to help preserve and recognize places such as Rocky nook and recognize the original people of this land in meaningful ways such as declaring Rocky nook a historical landmark. Without action behind the county's words of wanting to recognize and uplift Chumash, there is no solidarity only further erasure of the Chumash. We took care of this land and kept it beautiful and is the land you now know. It's unacceptable it has not already been declared a landmark, as the county is very quick to recognize and declare landmarks with the mission. I hope that Rocky nook is recognized as a historical landmark and we can use this space to educate and uplift the community as a whole.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Michele <mpete50780@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:39 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Your Rocky Nook Park vote

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I'm writing this letter in support of Rocky Nook Park being given the formal designation of a County historic landmark. Its history alone supports the need to preserve and safeguard the Park as it is, but the setting, as it illustrates that history, is what calls out to me loudest for protected status. There's no other place on the South Coast I have visited that simultaneously provides the beauty this park provides along with so many embedded relics of Santa Barbara's story. My children, now grown, spent many happy occasions picnicking, hiking and playing at the Park with friends and family. Now, my grandsons have the same privilege. Please vote to ensure Rocky Nook Park's future as the historic landmark it is.

Sincerely,

Michèle Peterson  
2791 Painted Cave Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Grace Willson <sbpoppy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:38 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I have been a resident of Mission Canyon for fifty years and live within a block of Rocky Nook Park. I have been proud to have such an historic site within walking distance and have enjoyed its beauty and history with my family and friends. I am hoping you will support its preservation so future generations can enjoy it as well. It is truly a Santa Barbara treasure.

Sincerely,  
Grace Corselius-Willson

Sent from my iPhone

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Elizabeth Bustamante <lizzybusta1957@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob  
**Subject:** Save Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Supervisors,

Please vote to declare Rocky Nook Park a historic landmark at your meeting tomorrow. This land is important to many Chumash. A village was located here and members of the Chumash lived here for many hundreds, even thousands of years.

Rocky Nook was also in the vicinity of the largest center of Chumash post contact, at the Mission.

Please give this very special place the protection it deserves.

Thanks for listening,  
Liz Bustamante



## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Francesca Galt <frangalt@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 12:20 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Hartmann, Joan; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Nelson, Bob  
**Cc:** sbcob; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Santa Barbara County Historic Landmark designation for Rocky Nook Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I hope you've all had a chance to experience Rocky Nook Park. The beauty and sounds of the rushing water in the creek are especially lovely now.

The first settlers knew its value from the beginning. There would be no city without its bounty of supplies. This is where the fresh water and rocks and timber for construction came from.

The Indigenous Native American Chumash living here did all the hard work of building and shared their knowledge of the land with its landforms and riparian woodland. They used the native plants for all their needs and enjoyment. They gathered food and fished and hunted here.

It's important to keep this valuable heritage that was acquired over centuries.

The land looks this way because it's supposed too! It has been formed by nature over centuries.

Acorns may not be gathered now except occasionally for food, but they are gobbled up by critters and the native Oak trees provide cooling and shade from the heat. The colorful CA Sycamores in the vicinity have a history of their own as well as being valued by the Chumash. Their deep roots help absorb water during storms. The forest of trees in lower Mission Canyon were seen and noted by the earliest explorers.

If we're lucky and careful, southern steelhead may run again in the stream.

It's been said that the landscape shapes us. Letters from people with fond memories of Rocky Nook Park attest to its historic and cultural value.

I've seen and heard the joyful affect this particular Park has on all people. Rocky Nook Park is a site on its own worthy of this historic designation. It's been there for the benefit of every period of development in Santa Barbara.

I've seen the positive effect it has whether they've walked there all their loves or passing through on a visit. Stories and writings about this Park will continue to be uncovered into the future, for me, it has never stopped.

Please vote in favor of County Historic Landmark for Rocky Nook Park.

Thank you

Best,  
Fran

980 Andante Rd  
SB 93105

**Brianda Negrete**

---

**From:** mofurner@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 12:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** mofurner@aol.com  
**Subject:** Supervisors re Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Supervisors,

Many thanks in advance for all you can do to ensure that this vitally important park is preserved for any all future threats to its continuation as a vital community landmark.

Here is the text of a previous letter I wrote regarding the need to obtain permanent protected status for our park:

Dear leaders,

I live near Rocky Nook Park and easily observe how essential this beloved space is to the remembrance of this region's history and to the protection of sites that are dedicated to preserving our natural environment. Please protect and preserve this historic treasure.

Mary O. Furner, retired professor UCSB Department of History

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** James Yee <jiminyokohama@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 12:23 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** RE: ROCKY NOOK PARK AS A COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Every place on this land has a story and is special to us. *'alpinč'e'* and *mismatuk'*, *mispu* and *sqonon* and *syuxtun*, and the names of a hundred other village and place names in the Santa Barbara area are mostly forgotten now, paved over and built upon. But still the Chumash people of this area remember. We remember because for untold generations in an unbroken line stretching far back into the mists of time, our Chumash ancestors were born, lived out their lives and died on this land. We were taken into the Santa Barbara Mission and that place too became part of our story. Rocky Nook Park occupies a setting opposite to the Mission in terms of physical location. The location of the Park links us to the Mission period when our ancestors walked through the area daily in the construction of the Mission. But it also transcends the Mission period and reminds us of a time when Chumash ancestors at the village of *xana'yan* (in the environs of the Park today) and other villages in the area, lived in close proximity and connection to the natural world. In that sense, the Park serves as a place of remembrance and of healing, and in its present mostly natural state, is one of the few places in the immediate area that can occupy that spiritual role to the larger community.

The sweep of time is long and we do not know the demands that will be placed on Rocky Nook Park in the future. I ask that you act with courage and conviction this week, and vote to designate Rocky Nook Park as a County Historical Landmark. In that way, your protective actions will also become part of the story of this land.

Signed,

James Yee

Great-great-great grandson of Maria Ygnacia

Member of the Barbareño Chumash community

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Lorna Moore <lornamoore@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 12:34 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Item 4, Hearing Tomorrow, Rocky Nook Park

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Re: Hearing on January 24, 2023  
Item #4: Rocky Nook Park

Dear Supervisors,

Walking along Mission Creek in Rocky Nook Park, one can almost see the Chumash of long ago living among the trees, rocks, and boulders. One can still see, touch, hear, and smell all of the same natural elements that the Chumash enjoyed when it was their home for millennia. We imagine them living and working there as they built the aqueducts, the mission waterworks, and the Santa Barbara Mission during the Spanish and Mexican periods. Rocky Nook Park is not only a very peaceful, scenic, place to enjoy, but it is a place to see and feel Santa Barbara's history from the Chumash era through the founding of Santa Barbara...all of those period elements are there.

It deserves to be a historic landmark. Please vote in favor of designating Rocky Nook Park as a historic landmark.

Sincerely,

Lorna L. Moore  
Donald A. McGilvray  
2108 Las Canoas Rd.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** George Bajor <gebajor@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Cc:** George Bajor; Elly Bajor  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park Landmark vote

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please vote to designate Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark.

Yes, we ask you to have vision for the future of SB and the generations to come, but also for the present day use of Rocky Nook Park for people here everyday today. This historic oasis is vitally important and used by so many people, and truly appreciated. Too many treasures in SB have already been lost forever.

Thank you for your favor.

Elly Bajor 805-687-2134  
Santa Barbara

## Brianda Negrete

---

**From:** Jason Jewell <holistic.investor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Bob Nelson; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Park

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To All Honorable Supervisors of the Santa Barbara County of Board of Supervisors,

I am writing as a homeowner in Mission Canyon regarding the resolution to designate Rocky Nook Park as Historical Landmark in SB County.

First of all, I am fully aware of the position and personalities of the Coalition to Preserve Mission Canyon, and I have to opine that this is a classic Santa Barbara case of wanting to do the right thing, but losing the forest through the trees. By this, I mean that an overwhelming majority of Santa Barbara residents wish to preserve the historical, cultural, and environmental aspects of our town. We do not wish to become Orange County. That being said, this spirit can often result in a state of complete paralysis that blocks all change.

To my knowledge, there is no need to designate Rocky Nook as a historical landmark, as the park is already environmentally protected. My main concern is that by designating the park as a landmark, it would block any and all changes to the road and pedestrian routes. And, changes are much needed to the this corridor. Given that the long-term future of this town lies in greatly increased bicycle commuter traffic, Mission Canyon Road simply can't safely accommodate vehicular and bicycle traffic. The road also clearly presents a hazard at the stegosaurus wall, and I am in favor of amending the road to make it safer. Beyond this bottleneck/access issue, it is important to be able to perform maintenance, safety, and beautification measures on this corridor. Blocking the ability to perform these activities is exactly what I mean by missing the forest through the trees. Finally, I wish to state that I found the campaign by the Coalition in the Independent to be misguided, at best, because it pulls on citizen's environmental heart strings while not discussing the negative ramifications of blocking road maintenance and improvements. I hope that the wisdom of this Board will look past this shortcoming.

It is for these reasons that I am strongly against this designation. At the very least, if this designation were to pass, I ask that the Board do not incorporate any restrictions on the road/pathway improvements, safety, maintenance, oversight, etc.

Unrelated questions: Can anyone plant plants in a road right of way without approval for review and is it necessary to ask?

Concerned Citizen,  
Jason Jewell

Jason Jewell  
holistic.investor@gmail.com  
805-689-3490



## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Rosanne Crawford <rosannexoxo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rocky Nook Landmark status will protect Chumash and early California History  
**Attachments:** Historic Sycamore Trees on the West and East Sides of Mission Creek Bridge (2).pdf

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors,  
I encourage you to designate Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark.  
Our children enjoyed this special area growing up and our grandchildren are now enjoying the same special Boulders, Oaks, and Sycamores.

It was important to the generations-long ago and is a very special part of our early California history. Sycamore trees were important to the Chumash. According to Dr. Jan Timbrook, former Curator of Ethnography at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, in Chumash Ethnobotany: Plant Knowledge Among the Chumash People of Southern California (Santa Barbara, CA: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2007), the Chumash "made wooden bowls from the round burl-like growths found on the trunks of some sycamore trees. They also used gnarled branches ... They removed the appropriate portion from the tree and worked it with stone tools ... They hollowed out the inside of the bowl first, then turned it over and shaped the outside ... These wooden bowls were very smooth and round, and the wood grain was mottled in appearance. The Chumash made them in various sizes for different purposes ... The early Spanish explorers noted the Chumash wooden bowls and trays. These sycamore trees are in the vicinity of the Chumash village Xana'yan. They are also near the Santa Barbara Mission, which was a major center of the Chumash population during Santa Barbara's Spanish and Mexican periods. According to the Mission Canyon Community Plan (2014), Mission Canyon is "archaeologically sensitive" (p. 113).

The Historic Designation is in your hands, please be the stewards that protect this special park for generations to come.  
Thank you for your consideration,

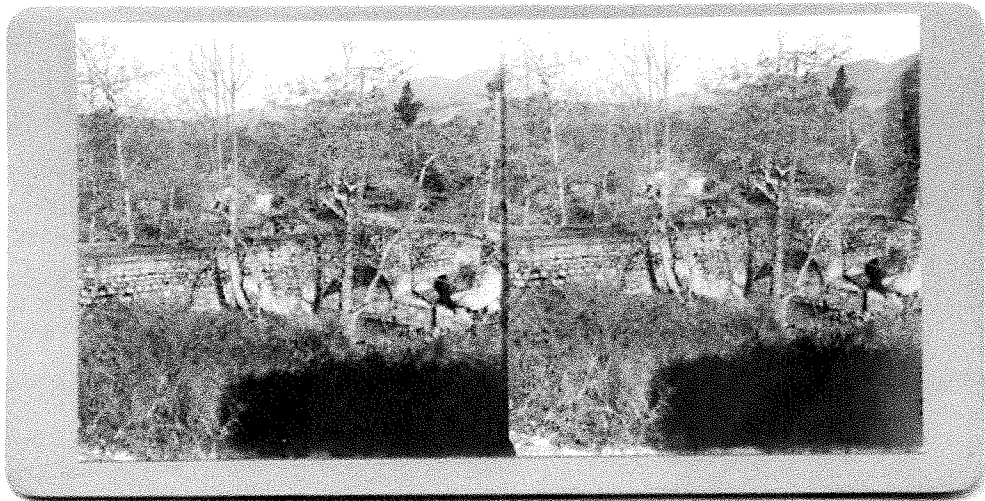
Rosanne Crawford  
Mission Canyon resident

**Historic Photos of Sycamore Trees on West & East Sides of Mission Creek Bridge.**



(Courtesy Neal Graffy)

Sycamore trees on the west side of the Mission Creek Bridge, looking north c. 1909.



(Courtesy John Woodward)

Double Stereoscope view of the Mission Creek Bridge and sycamore trees on both the east side and west side of the bridge, looking northwest prior to 1929.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Regina Gradias <reginagradias@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:13 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Request to Designate Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Haku haku Board of Supervisors,

My family has a deep connection to the land in Santa Barbara and Goleta. I am the great granddaughter of the Chumash ancestors, Maria Ygnacio, Lucrecia Garcia, Mary Yee, and Ernestine Desoto. Rocky Nook Park is a special place, as generations of my family have protected and cherished this land. Even in recent times, the Chumash community gathers at the park (see picture). I am asking you to designate Rocky Nook Park as a historic landmark to continue the protection and preserve it for my family and the community.

I am deeply passionate about preserving the cultural and historical heritage of our county, and I strongly believe that Rocky Nook Park should be protected as a vital part of that heritage.

Rocky Nook Park is a unique blend of history and the environment, representing thousands of years of human history, from the Chumash village site, to the Spanish and Mexican aqueducts, to the arrival of American settlers in the late 1800s. The park also stands as a testament to the natural forces that have shaped our region, with the largest remaining site of the 2018 mudslides that so greatly affected Santa Barbara. The community has played an important role in the preservation of Rocky Nook Park, raising the funds to purchase it and donating it to the County of Santa Barbara to be used as a county park forever.

I understand that there may be plans to develop the land in question, but I urge you to consider the importance of preserving Rocky Nook Park as a historic landmark. Such designation would ensure that this important piece of our county's heritage will be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have faith in your ability to make the correct decision and look forward to hearing it.

Kaqinaš, (Thank you)  
Regina Gradias, Chumash

Picture of Chumash gathering at Rocky Nook Park



## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Villalobos, David  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:05 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** FW: In support for designating Rocky Nook Park as an historic landmark

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Michael Seabaugh <mseabaugh@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:02 PM  
**To:** Villalobos, David <dvillalo@countyofsb.org>  
**Subject:** In support for designating Rocky Nook Park as an historic landmark

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I submit this letter of support as a resident of Mission Canyon and as a health practitioner (Clinical Psychologist) in Santa Barbara. The preservation of our natural landscape has many health benefits, both physical and psychological, as is well established. Walking through this landscape, with its historical significance and natural beauty, is healthy and restorative... and deserves preservation.

Michael O.L. Seabaugh, Ph.D.  
MSeabaugh@mac.com  
940 Andante Rd.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105