

Ohlone-Portola' Heritage Trail

Midcoast Community Council

August 23, 2017



Map 5



Paul Reimer

Paul Reimer is a retired Civil Engineer, native Californian and a resident of the Bay Area for fifty-eight years. He currently resides in Portola Valley. His firm, Reimer Associates, Consulting Civil Engineers, worked with Spanish land grants from Avila Bay in the south through Fort Ord and its vicinity to San Francisco on the north. It is that experience, as well as his residency, that has heightened his interest in the original Portola Expedition.

Background

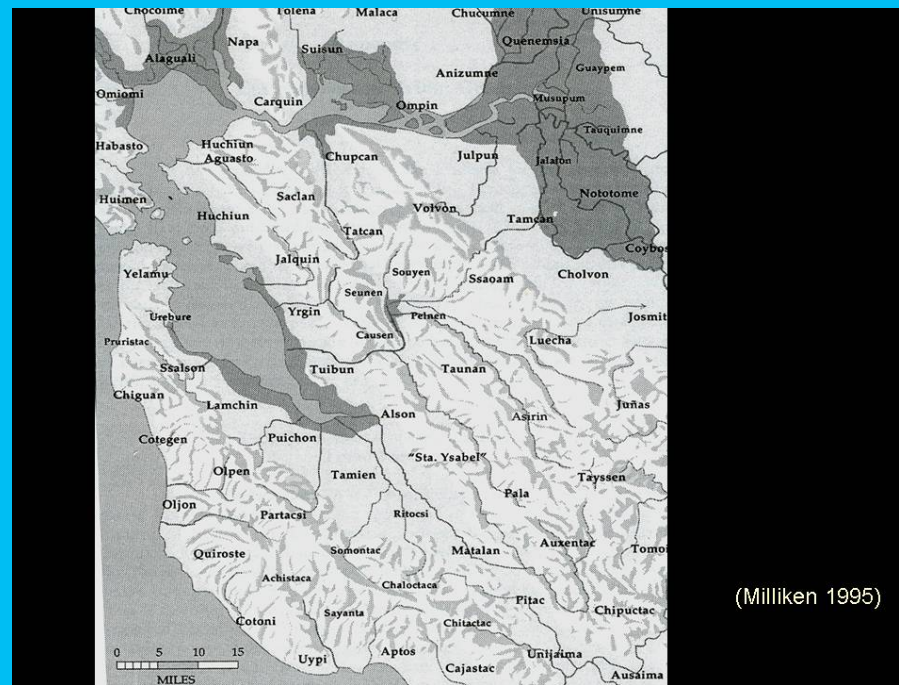
- 2014 Paul Reimer, a retired engineer and former POST Board member, documented the coastal trail alignment in San Mateo County based on the diaries of the Portola' Expedition.
- Reimer requested a national designation, and commemoration by November 2019 of the 250th anniversary of the Portola' Expedition.
- In early 2015 at the recommendation of the Parks Department the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution setting up a Portola' Expedition Trail Committee.

Portola' Expedition

- In 1769 the Expedition travelled 1000 miles from Baja California to San Mateo County and back.
- 250 men, women and children with cattle, horses, and 1,000 mules.



Native American Presence in SF Bay Area at the Time of the Portola' Expedition



Participants on Ohlone-Portola' Heritage Trail Committee

- County Supervisors Groom and Horsley
- Federal and State legislators
- GGNRA, Rivers Trail and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) -National Park Service, Juan Bautista De Anza National Trail
- CA Coastal Commission, CA State Parks, CA Coastal Conservancy
- MROSD, POST, County Parks, County Public Works, County Parks Foundation
- Cities of Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and Palo Alto
- San Mateo County, Half Moon Bay and Pacifica Historical Associations
- Ramaytush Ohlone, Muwekma Ohlone and Amah Mutsun Tribes

Ohlone-Portola' Trail Sub-Committees

- Vision Committee (County Supervisors and staff, County Park staff, RTCA staff)
- Core Planning Committee (Working Committee of agencies and interest groups)
- Interpretive Committee (Focused on interpretive opportunities)

Selection of a Trail Name

- 6 Trail Committee meetings have been held since 2015 and there is consensus for the trail to be named the Ohlone-Portola' Heritage Trail in recognition of:
 - 10,000 years of Ohlone presence on the Peninsula
 - Importance of the Portola' Expedition in European colonization of the San Francisco Bay Area.
 - We've learned initial contacts were friendly, and the Ohlone fed, healed and housed the Expedition and led them on their trade routes from village to village from southern San Mateo County line to Sweeney Ridge (Discovery Site) to Palo Alto and back.
 - Expedition returned by foot to San Diego, and Portola' returned to Spain to report on the Expedition's findings.

Ohlone-Portola' Heritage Trail Committee Progress & Tasks

- Secured Rivers Trail and Conservation Assistance for 2016-17
- Drafted Feasibility Study outline
- Identified interpretive opportunities and preparation for 11/2019 anniversary
- Developed a Statement of Historical Significance
- POST assisted in mapping:
 - Coastside potential historic, recreational and auto trail routes, including overlap with CA Coastal Trail and Ohlone villages and expedition camps.
 - Mapping entire trail through County including bayside - 90 miles.
 - Bayside more detailed maps





- - - Draft Trail Alignment
- Portolá Historic Route
- Camps (1/4 Mile Diameter)
- Tribal Villages (1/2 Mile Diameter)

- Points of Interest
- Major Roads
- - - - County Line

Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail Overview

Scale: 1:300,000 Date: 7/24/17
 Sources: ESRI, CNO, POST
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0 2.5 5 10 Miles

N POST

Visited GGNRA's Sweeney Ridge to see where Portola' Expedition first viewed the SF Bay



Sweeney Ridge View of SF Bay and Ocean



County Park Projects that Complement this Trail Planning

- Development of Green Valley CA Coastal Trail
- Future acquisition of Pedro Point headlands and future design and construction of CA Coastal Trail
- Completion of trail over Crystal Springs Dam
- Completion of “Connect the Gap” between Crystal Springs Dam and recently completed South of Dam Trail section

Other Initiatives that Complement this Effort

- City of Pacifica strengthening Sister City relationship with Balaguer Spain, birthplace of Portola'
- SFPUC completion of Sneath Lane to San Bruno Avenue (1st Bay to Ocean Trail in County).
- San Bruno developing a trail connection between Bay Trail and San Andreas Trail
- GGNRA considering trail and hut improvement on Corral de Tierra and redoing Sweeney Ridge
- State Parks is considering a hike in campsite at Green Valley Trail
- Peninsula Working Group on Regional Trails is discussing Trail and relationship with CalTrans Regional Bike Plan
- San Mateo County and City Historical Associations, County Parks, and GGNRA considering plans for 250th anniversary of Portola Expedition 11/2019
- MROSD will consider trail improvements to Toto Ranch
- POST and MROSD will work on Cloverdale Ranch land transfer and trail improvements

Next Steps

- Reception August 2, 2017, to thank Ohlone-Portola' Heritage Trail Committee members for their efforts
- County has requested a second year of RTCA assistance
- Supervisor Horsley allocated \$75,000 to prepare a Feasibility Study
- Request for a Proposal (RFP) for a Feasibility Study to create a logo and be prepared to assess potential development and interpretive opportunities at specific sections of trail – August 2017
 - Final Review by Trail Committee – September 2017
 - RFP to be distributed to consultants – September/October 2017
 - Consultant selected October/November 2017
 - Feasibility Study initiated November/December 2017

Long Term Objective

- Build support for a National Historic Trail with other CA coastal counties
- Secure funding for a Feasibility Study for a National Historic Trail from San Diego to San Mateo County
 - Incorporate CA Coastal Trail where feasible
- Ask Congress to designate National Historic Trail (final name to be determined)