



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
June 21, 2022

TOPIC: Naming of the Empty Lot at 423 South Raitt Street to El Refugio Park

AGENDA TITLE:

Approve Public Facilities Naming No. 2022-01 to Name the Empty Lot at 423 South Raitt Street to El Refugio Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Public Facilities Naming No. 2022-01 to name the empty lot at 423 South Raitt Street to El Refugio Park

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

At its regular meeting on April 25, 2022, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution approving Public Facilities Naming No. 2022-01 for a new City park at 423 South Raitt Street to El Refugio Park, pursuant to Sections 33-5 of the Santa Ana Municipal Code.

DISCUSSION

To coincide with the park groundbreaking and construction at the Raitt/Myrtle site, staff requested from the community assistance in naming the park. The new park will be built on two City-owned parcels at the northeast corner of Raitt and Myrtle streets and will feature a skate park, play equipment, exercise area, drought-tolerant landscaping, drinking water fountains, lighting, a public restroom, and other amenities.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Agency (PRSCA) solicited names through a social media survey, during the period of December 15, 2021 to January 3, 2022. A criterion listed in the Santa Ana Municipal Code, was used as the benchmark for submittals, which include the following requirements for naming a park:

- A name, which serves to identify the location of the subject by reference to distinct geographic, environmental or development features in the immediate area.
- A name, which references the history of the subject site or its immediate area.
- A name, which identifies a person or family, which made an extraordinary donation of land or funds to promote the construction or improvement of the subject public facility.

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- A name which recognizes a person or family who made a distinct, significant contribution to the well-being of the city, including past mayors, council members, board or commission members, officers or employees of the city, but not anyone who currently holds any such position.

Area History of Naming

According to various sources online, Juan Pablo Grijalva, a Spanish soldier who traveled to Alta California with the De Anza expedition, was the original petitioner for the lands that became known as the "Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana". He died before the grant was approved and the lands went to his son-in-law, José Antonio Yorba and his grandson, Juan Pablo Peralta. On July 1, 1810, the land later named Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was granted to José Antonio Yorba and his nephew Pablo Peralta by Governor José Joaquín de Arrillaga on behalf of the Spanish Government. This was the only land grant in present-day Orange County given under Spanish Rule, which were rare during this time, only two and a half months before the start of the war for Mexican Independence (1810–1821). The Mexican government granted the surrounding land grants or ranchos after Mexican independence in 1821.

José Antonio Yorba later built an elaborate adobe hacienda, El Refugio (the Refuge), located near present-day First and Sullivan Streets in western Santa Ana.

With the Mexican Cession of California to the United States following the Mexican–American War, the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo provided that the land grants would be honored. As required by the Land Act of 1851, a claim for Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was filed with the Public Land Commission in 1852, and the grant was patented to Bernardo, Teodoro and Ramón Yorba in 1883. In 1854, the Yorba family sold Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana to José Antonio Andrés Sepúlveda. Sepúlveda later lost the land due to bankruptcy caused by fighting to uphold his land claims in court. In 1869, William Spurgeon and Ward Bradford purchased 74.27 acres of the ranch to form the city of Santa Ana. It became the seat of government for the County in 1889.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Planning Commission Staff Report

Submitted By: Steven A. Mendoza, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager