Valle Vista

You are standing on a peninsula. If you were to walk to the lower end, you would find Moraga Creek on your left, San Leandro Creek on your right. Both are now flooded by the waters of San Leandro Dam. The former covers the site of land once ranched by James Stewart in the 1850's, and by Within this park former is now flooded up to the 1930's.

You are standing on a peninsula. If you were to walk to the lower end, you would find Moraga Creek on your left, San Leandro Creek on your right. Both are now flooded by the waters of San Leandro Reservoir. Look across Moraga Creek to "Island Mountain," so called because not only could you go by wagon from Moraga to the ranch of William Castro (Rancho San Lorenzo) in Castro Valley along San Leandro Cr., but also through King Canyon on the other side by the main road and meet at the road Valle Vista at the King Ranch.

Look over to your right, across San Leandro Creek (named after the Estudillo Rancho Joaquin on the Oakland side of the hills); there is one of the remains of one of the three groves of redwoods of the East Bay: Peralta (after Luis Peralta, the only Spanish grantee of this side

You are standing on a peninsula. If you were to walk to the lower end, you would see Moraga Creek at your left, San Leandro Creek on your right. Both are now flooded by thw waters of San Leandro Dam. Across Moraga Creek is "Island Mountain," so called because a wagon could be driven around it: along Moraga Creek by Canyon Road and private lanes as far as the King Ranch at the lower end of Island Mountain where one met the main road from Moraga to Castro Valley.

Across San Leandro Creek are the Moraga Redwoods which stretch up the southern side of the creek as far as the hamlet of Canyon. They form the easternmost of three redwood forests in the East Bay: the Middle and the Peralta being the other two. Five Hundred of the Moraga Redwoods were sold to Elam Brown, the founder of Lafayette, in 1852.

If you are still not far from Canyon Road, the site of your entry to the park, look across that thoroughfare and into Indian Valley. At your left is Pine Ridge, and at your right Adobe Ridge.* so called because of the forest of native knobcone ( ) pines

*probably Cudde Ridge - Don F. 8/15/90

As the visitor to the park stands on the eres eastern edge/of the hills between parcels
Moraga and San Leandro Creeks he is looking in the Sobrante between two pieces/
of the Moraga Ranch.

Only two or three of the eight hundred ranchos in the State of California were allowed to draw their boundary lines around separated areas; this was an exemption from the land law as well as Mexican and the American Laws which followed continued it in the adjudication of the rancho grants. The story of this corner of Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados illustrates it.

The Moragas came to California in the De Anza colonizing expedition of 1775. Juan Bautista de Anza/who had led his 240 colonists from Sonora to Monterey was not permitted to bring his 240 followers to San Francisco but had to return to Mexico and leave them to the site of San Francisco but had to return to Mexico and leave this privilege to his second in command Joseph Joachin Moraga. The latter founded the Presidio and Mission of St. Francis as well as the Pueblo of San Jose and its nearby Mission, Santa Clara. His is one of three gravestones in Mission Dolores. His son, Gabriel, became the great explorer and Indian fighter of during the colonial period under Spain. The larger rivers were named by him. He died during the first year of Mexican rule, that of his first cousin, Governor Luis Arguello.

The grandson of the first Moraga was named for the latter but with a spelling of a later period, José Joaquín. Born in 1793, "Joaquin" Moraga was a soldier both under Spain and Mexico. He was rewarded by the Department of California for his services by a ~~grant of~~ half-interest in three leagues which he, with his co-grantee, and cousin, Juan Bernal, was to locate somewhere between any the summits of the Oakland Hills and that of Las Trampas Ridge, the darker of the two on the eastern skyline. Their northern boundary ran along ~~from a sp~~ San Pablo Creek ~~at Orinda to the~~ its juncture with the south fork at Orinda Crossroads and from there to springs at the upper end of Happy Valley Road in Lafayette. Its southern boundary, which ran from Rocky Ridge, across the portezuelo from the Picacho de Las Trampas, to the Sierra de los Palos Colorados, right across San Leandro Creek from us, was bounded by the "lands of Mission San Jose." After Joaquin and his cousin selected a compact area containing three leagues (12,666 acres), the remainder was to be public land called a "sobrante;" the left-over."

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Joaquin applied for rancho grant in 1828 and again in 1834/5. He received it under homestead ng conditions: building of a house, planting of trees, cultivating, stocking with cattle. All these he did, and in 1841 received ~~the fina~~ his deed from Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado.

Following the conquest of California and the Treaty ofe Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States set up a Land Commission to determine if the claimants to the rancho lands of California had obtained their titles from the Department of Spain, Mexico, or California legally.

Moraga proved his title with the help of the law firm of William Carey Jones, son-in-law of Senator Benton of Missouri. A map of the 3-leagues was drawn, but it included far as Canyon. From there the line ran ~~to~~ to the Mt. Diablo Meridian (mid-point in Lafayette Reservoir) along Gabrietta Blvd. Horace Walpole Carpentier, the first mayor of Oakland, persuaded Moraga's son, Jose de Jesus, to protest this following the latter's death, map and ask for the Orinda Crossroads ~~area~~ and the Burton Valley areas and to reject the hill country to the west and south.

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However, since the redwoods were already ~~forest~~ cut, the gobvernment insisted that 500 acres of the ruined land be retained as part of the 3 leagues, but permitted the canyon and the ~~upper-sid~~ facing side of the northern ridge to be excluded. Hence, Moraga and Carpentier ~~obtai~~ retained arable Indian Valley (across Canyon Road from us), this valley to the East of us, and to btain the other two areas ~~re~~ above listed. As a result the new western boundary rang along the top of redwood ridge and san leandro creek
moraga
of the central portion