The Power of Partnerships on the Anza Trail

By David Smith
Interpretive Specialist

To reach San Francisco in 1776, Anza relied on the efforts of close to 300 colonists, soldiers, and vaqueños working together toward a common goal. Along the way, he built relationships with indigenous communities and the missions, and offered his help to the Spanish already in California.

Today, as work continues on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, we have adopted Anza’s example of partnership as the means to make the route a reality. Today, the trail administration has 30 formal partnerships with landowners, site managers, and tribes, each contributing in some fashion to telling the Anza story.

A variety of partnership opportunities have helped the trail progress. Working with other federal and state agencies, American Indian tribes, and communities in Arizona, California, and Mexico has established close to 300 miles of hiking trail. It has also created a growing recognition of the role Anza played in the history of the west. Today, the trail administration is continuing to look for new partners, sometimes in unlikely places, and strengthen the ties with existing ones in an effort to reach out to a greater trail audience. This article features two of our partnerships.

The South Coast Railroad Museum may at first seem an odd partnership for the Anza Trail. The museum helps tell the story of the history, technology, and adventure of railroading, while helping to preserve the historic depot in Goleta, California. The museum offers docent-led tours aboard the Amtrak Coast Starlight from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo for much of the last decade. The docents tell about the history of train travel in this area, as well as the local and natural history along the way.

This year, we signed a partnership agreement between the trail and museum that provides benefits to both parties. Much of the train trip follows the historic route of the Anza Trail through areas that are off limits to most travelers. As the trail winds westward through the Gaviota Coast, it enters private property at the Hollister and Bixby Ranches. Farther west and north, the trail moves through Vandenberg Air Force Base—another area that is closed to tourists. Riding the route once daily with access to hundreds of Amtrak travelers, docents from the museum offer information about the trail and Anza to the passengers aboard the train. Through access to the National Park Service Trails and Rails Program, the Anza Trail can provide the docents with funds to help offset the program as well as maps and brochures offering additional interpretation to rail passengers.

In Los Angeles, North East Trees is an important partner in helping to tell the story of the Anza Trail. At first glance, it also seems like an unlikely partnership. North East Trees is a nonprofit organization improving communities by planting an urban forest and helping to build parks along the Los Angeles River to protect and restore its natural and historic heritage. Since the Anza Trail tells the story of California’s first non-indigenous settlers who crossed through LA on the very corridor North East Trees is trying to protect, a partnership was negotiated in 1998 that helps both the Anza Trail and North East Trees.

Over the last five years, through the Challenge Cost Share Program, North East Trees has planted hundreds of trees along the trail, providing shade and beauty to the landscape. The docents from the museum distribute brochures and maps describing the trail and offer the opportunity to participate in trail-related activities.

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Californio Searches for Old Sounds

Los Californianos member Greg P. Smestad, Ph.D. has been awarded a National Park Service Fiscal Year 2002 Challenge Cost Share Program grant to develop a Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Guide. Greg is the author of over a dozen scholarly publications, a tutorial book and an educational kit, and he has been involved in the development of educational materials for many years. His proposal will produce an audio compact disk (CD) and a trail guide. His interest in Anza stems from the fact that he is an eighth generation descendant of several members of the 1775-76 Anza expedition, including Apolinario Bernal y Soto, Luis María Peralta, and Juan Salvo Pacheco. Like many Californios, he also traces his roots to several Native American ancestors. Here is what he writes about the project:

Imagine hearing sounds that Anza expedition members would have heard in the places they traveled — starting your morning at an expedition campsite with sounds of the Alabado, hearing the sound of a psalterio as played by Father Font at a morning mass, listening to the sounds of a fandango, hearing the voices of Indians speaking their own languages and singing their own songs, or hearing the sounds of wildlife such as bears, ducks, cranes, antelope, elk, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other birds. Music and sounds were an important aspect of the expedition that can inspire people today.

Through the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program, I am developing an Anza Trail Guide. The project will acknowledge the contributions and heritage of Indians and Californios alike. The basic concept of the project is the combination of a trail guide booklet and an audio CD providing the listener a sense of what our ancestors could have heard. The intent of the Trail Guide and CD is to provide portable interpretation of the trail that can be used in a variety of ways to raise awareness of how this trail affected the early Spanish colonization of the west.

The result of the work will resemble a tourist travel book focused on the use of the Anza Trail, and it will contain several examples of clearly defined educational activities that meet fourth grade California educational standards for history. It will serve both students in the classroom and children and adults on family vacations. It will include a trail guide booklet of over 100 pages, student and teacher resources, a trail map, and an audio CD that contains wildlife sounds, interviews, and music and sounds relevant to the trail. The Trail Guide will be a resource for information on attractions along the trail. It will serve as the central connection between learning and recreation, in school and during travel in California. What is produced from the work will be in the public domain and freely available to anyone.

Here is where you can participate. If you know of songs, sounds or stories that would help to describe what the Anza expedition members could have heard, please let me know how we might incorporate them into the CD and guide. I would like to achieve the goals of the project through song, music, interviews and stories, since these are things that people today (and tomorrow) can relate to no matter what their heritage may be. Through the project, I wish to express joy in our common heritage and hope for the future caring of this land, the environment, and one another. A rough demonstration and sample clips of some of the proposed audio can be found in MP3 format at my web site.

I have already established a working relationship with several groups including Los Californianos, Los Fundadores, the tribal group Esselen Nation, Monterey State Historic Park, musical groups such as Calicanto Associates, Heartstrings, New World Baroque Orchestra, and Ryusona/Conjunto Californio. In addition, I will be working with individuals representing Anza expedition descendants and historians, teachers, a graphic artist named Lucian Myron, and Audio Autographs, a recording studio. The songs and sounds that I have collected, and am researching, include the Alabado, Te Deum, Cántico del Alba, La Marcha Real (the Spanish Anthem), animal sounds, an interview with, and songs from, Anza historian Don Garate and recordings of California Indians made by researchers such as Kroeber and Harrington. All those who have sounds, songs, stories or ideas for the project are invited to participate in this CD-Trail Guide.

For more information, see the web URL: http://www.solideas.com/DeAnzaProject.html, or contact: Greg P. Smestad, Ph.D., P.O. Box 51038, Pacific Grove, California 93950, USA, Telephone (415)979-8730, E-mail: info@solideas.com.

Noticias de Anza
From the Superintendent

By Meredith Kaplan

Over the past ten years I have experienced some part of the Anza Trail almost daily either here in Oakland or on visits along the route. As I drive or walk, I try to imagine what the natural environment looked like in Anza’s day, establish where the trail was actually located, understand the management of a particular landscape by the various American Indian groups, or realize the changes wrought by the Spanish settlers.

Walking to work in downtown Oakland, surrounded by concrete, asphalt, and high-rise buildings, I am hard-pressed to picture the mudflat that probably once was, the oak groves for which the city was named, and the pathway that Anza followed through Ohlone communities. Yet, having that picture is important to our interpretation of the Anza expedition. Trail visitors want to understand the changes wrought on the landscape over the last 228 years.

Fortunately, a reconstruction of the landscape that Anza encountered in the San Francisco Bay Area is emerging. A local non-profit, the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) includes a Historical Ecology Program that studies how the Bay Area landscape has changed since native times. A multidisciplinary team integrates a myriad of historical data into carefully documented maps and timelines that allow visualization and analysis of earlier landscapes and land management practices.

At www.sfei.org/HEP/overview.html, projects and maps depict the San Francisco Bay Area in about the year 1800. With that information we can better visualize and understand the landscape Anza encountered, the most likely route he followed, and the location of the Ohlone communities.

To increase our understanding of these landscapes and especially the location of the Anza route, in a partnership with SFEI, the University of Santa Clara Environmental Studies Institute, and the San Mateo History Museum, we are bringing Alan K. Brown to the Bay Area. Dr. Brown, a pioneering researcher in the study of the historical landscapes of the San Francisco Bay Area, has spent decades studying the Spanish period in the Bay Area. Using Spanish diaries, letters, diseños, and other documents; surveyors’ field notes; U.S. Coast and Geodetic Surveys; aerial photos; and many other sources, he reconstructs landscapes and trail locations to specific periods of time.

An early publication of Dr. Brown’s, Who Discovered the Golden Gate? The Explorers’ Own Accounts (with F. M. Stanger; San Mateo, 1969), describes the Anza route. In 1998, he completed a report for us, “The Anza Expedition in Eastern Contra Costa and Eastern Alameda Counties, California,” resolving an issue of trail location that had arisen during the management plan process (copies are available from this office by request). His most recent publication is A Description of Distant Roads: Original Journals of the First Expedition into California, by Juan Crespi (San Diego State University Press, 2001) provides information on the diary Anza and Font used as a guide in the Bay Area.

Through our partnerships, we are now able to offer two public educational sessions by Dr. Brown that will shed light on the pre-modern landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area. (See Anuncios.) Anza Trail staff will also have a day with Dr. Brown along with our partners, in a workshop setting to map the Anza route with more accuracy.

Co-sponsoring the appearance of Dr. Brown in the Bay Area is a step toward meeting our goals to broaden our partnerships, introduce new audiences to the Anza Trail and the National Park Service, and respond to the Long Range Interpretive Plan suggestion that we promote cultural events related to the trail. We are exploring possibilities to sponsor similar events in other urban areas along the trail. If you have suggestions for possible events, please call me at 510-817-1438 or e-mail at meredith_kaplan@nps.gov.

Anza Trail Advisory Commission Set to Meet

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Advisory Commission will convene for the first time at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, March 31 and April 1, 2003. The meeting will be held at the offices of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department, 3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona, 85741.

The Advisory Commission was established in accordance with the National Trails System Act (15 U.S.C. 1241 et seq), as amended by Public Law 191-365 to consult with the Secretary of the Interior on planning and other matters relating to the trail.

The agenda for the meeting includes: welcome and introductions, review of commission purpose and responsibilities, background of accomplishments since 1990 trail authorization, overview, discussion, and recommendations for the Long Range Interpretive Plan, and development of a strategic plan.

This meeting is open to the public and an opportunity will be provided for public comments at specific times during the meeting and prior to closing the meeting. A field trip to trail sites along the Santa Cruz River in Tucson, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, and Tumacacori National Historical Park is scheduled for the afternoon of March 31. The public is welcome, but transportation will only be provided to commission members.
The Anza expedition was different from other Spanish treks to Alta California at that time because of the children. Either on foot or horseback, many of the children traveled 1800-miles from their homes in Sinaloa to their new home at the San Francisco Presidio. Along the way, they helped feed and corral the livestock, gather firewood, and care for their siblings. Once in the Bay Area, they settled, grew up, and helped establish the Spanish presence in California that created the state as it exists today.

Two centuries ago, Anza knew that a young generation of settlers would be crucial in helping to build a society that would colonize California. Children continue to be a central focus of education efforts by trail staff in helping to develop the trail.

National Parks are directed by their management to make a special effort to act as educators. In a broad sense, parks and trails are always educating their visitors to some degree about the natural world around them, the special history of that location, and about ways that visitors can help protect these significant resources. Whether it is with a wayside, an interpretive talk, or a park newspaper, education is taking place.

During the process of creating a long-range interpretive plan for the trail, stakeholders in Mexico, California, and Arizona felt very strongly about the role of education in reaching out to children. Here is a summary of some of the ongoing youth education related projects.

Living history has always been a tool for reaching students. In the early days of the national trail, whether as a first person actor or simply in period costume, actors and clothing help bring history alive. Tumacacori has had an active living history program for years, bringing Anza as well as campesinos and monks to life for children. For years, soldados de cuera from Amigos de Anza have brought costumed volunteers into the classroom. The equestrian unit of Amigos involves local kids in period costumes on horseback. In the last year and a half, the trail staff has visited classrooms in Arizona and California to give children an appreciation for the people they are reading about in their lessons.

The trail staff will continue to look for additional partners that can help provide living history in the classroom. In reaching the

Game cards depicting the lives of the different people on the Anza expedition are part of the role playing game devised by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Images by David Rickman
Generation of Children Exploring the Anza Trail

needs of the hundreds of schools along the 1200-mile trail, volunteers will be very important in achieving this goal.

In 1998, the Anza Trail partnered with educators at the University of Oregon to create the Web de Anza - a tool that could provide resources to educators about Anza and the trail.

The site continues to evolve. Teachers from around the United States and Mexico submitted lesson plans and curriculum they were using in their classrooms to help tell the story about Anza. Each year, new teachers download this information and use it in creating lesson plans. Although primarily used by fourth grade teachers as part of the state history section of social science requirements, a number of junior and high schools have attempted to incorporate the web site into their classroom.

In Anzar High School in San Juan Bautista, teachers have had students use the extensive database to research the movements of the Anza expedition through their area. With simultaneous translation of the the search function in the Web de Anza on primary source documents makes these documents more accessible to younger children.

As the Web de Anza continues to evolve, there will be increased opportunities for teachers to add additional lesson plans to the site. Designers at the University of Oregon have discussed creating a virtual trail that students can use to navigate the Anza Trail via the web. The Web de Anza will continue to expand to meet the increased educational needs for students along the trail. Visit the website at http://anza.uoregon.edu/ to see the Web de Anza in action.

Although Santa Barbara did not exist during Anza’s visit, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) created a comprehensive five-day unit that teachers can use in the classroom to make the Anza Trail come alive.

Using Challenge Cost Share Program matching funds, the SBTHP designed and is presently testing the curriculum in fourth grade classrooms in the Santa Barbara area. The lesson plans take the entire classroom on a journey along the Anza Trail. Each student assumes the identity of a real person on the expedition. Along the way, they resolve challenges that faced the members of the Anza expedition. In the process, they learn problem solving skills, increase their journal writing abilities, learn geography, and review an important segment of the history of the southwest.

As the lesson plans are tested, more teachers will have the opportunity to use the curriculum in their classroom. This curriculum package will become a key cornerstone to the future of educational outreach along the trail.

As the Anza Trails continues to evolve, education will remain a key component in all aspects of the trail. Finding partners to help reach additional children will define the direction the trail takes in the next decade.

The Web De Anza provides a portal for children and teachers into the world of the 18th century Spanish frontier.
News from Arizona

By G. Donald Kucera
President of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona

On March 8 the Pima County Group of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona will celebrate the tenth Anniversary of involvement with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (JUBA). It was on that day in 1993 that Meredith Kaplan, new superintendent of the trail, arranged for a meeting at the Arizona Historical Society auditorium in Tucson to look for volunteers to assist the National Park Service in establishing and interpreting the JUBA in Arizona. Nancy Kelly, Richard Williams, and I attended that meeting and continue to be active in seeing that the trail is completed.

It is hard to believe that ten years have gone by since then. From the development of the draft management plan and then the final version, working on the proposal for a National Millennium Trail and receiving the classification, attending public events and meetings, and obtaining certified trail, the time has gone by very quickly. With the intense activities of the last two years, we are in a great position to see increased trail certification. Because of master plans being developed and communities looking at the trail as part of their recreational trail system, the next two years should be full of new additions to the Anza Trail.

One thing we did not realize when we started this process was the complexity of obtaining certified trail segments. Laws and regulations, flood control issues, endangered species, landownership, easements and the mechanics of trail building have all taken much more effort than anticipated. Through this experience, we are getting better at looking at issues and knowing how to deal with agencies and people working to get trail on the ground.

As many people do, it is a tradition to reflect on the past year and the accomplishments. The first big plus is having a Superintendent of JUBA that is so devoted to seeing this trail progress completed. Meredith Kaplan’s support for volunteers is outstanding and we all wish to thank her and hope for a Feliz Año Nuevo. We also cannot forget David Smith. He is like the Scarlet Pimpernel, “he is here, he is there, he is everywhere”. I know he has taken a great load off of Meredith, so she can take on the many responsibilities her position requires. David has helped greatly with Noticias de Anza and played an important part in working on the interpretation of the trail. The NPS is fortunate to have them working to see the trail completed as one the important cultural trails in the National Trails System.

In Arizona, Pima County’s greatest accomplishment in 2002 was the approval of the Anza Trail Master Plan by the Pima County Board of Supervisors. McGann and Associates, Inc. in Tucson developed the plan. Mr. Don McGann and his staff did an outstanding job in producing the report of over 115 photomaps that highlights the proposed route of the trail and shows the land ownership. The citizens of Pima County also deserve thanks for voting a recreation bond package paying for the report. Pima County offices of Cultural Resources and Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation were the operational agencies involved in the framework of the plan. Special thanks go to Linda Mayro, Roger Anyon, Steve Anderson and their staff in the development of the plan. We are fortunate to have government employees so devoted to the establishment of the trail. We are waiting for an owl survey to be completed in the Canoa Ranch segment, south of Green Valley, so that trail development can start. Pima County continues to work on easement issues in the Green Valley area. The towns of Marana and Sahuarita are in the planning stage for the trail.

Work continues in Santa Cruz County to develop the trail north of Rio Rico. Unfortunately, the trail segment between Tumacacori National Historical Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park is still not certified, but work continues to reach that goal. Santa Cruz County is also looking at the overall trail system along the Nogales Wash and Santa Cruz River. In Maricopa County, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the planning stage to install interpretive signs at Painted Rock. In Yuma County, the BLM continues to look at developing the trail along the Gila River.

On another note, a Spanish Colonial Living History program started on January 18 in collaboration with the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block and the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona-Pima County Group and spearheaded by the Tucson Presidio Trust for Historic Preservation. The events will be held on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in January, February and March and on April 5 for the Annual Art Market. They begin again in the fall of this year. The activities will be held in the patio of La Casa Cordova next to the Museum in downtown Tucson. The complex is within the confines of what were the walls of La Presidio de Agustín de Tucson. In 1775 the Spanish military command moved from Tubac to present day Tucson where it stayed into the Mexican period. The program will interpret the period from 1775 to 1790. The Trust is looking for volunteers to expand the program and those interested can contact Sybil Needham in Tucson at (520) 297-3384.

To wrap up the year, we must not forget to thank all the volunteers in Arizona that have spent many hours to see the trail a reality in the state. Muchas gracias.

Partners... (from page 1)

East Trees installed waysides and exhibits along the trail that tell the story of the area’s first settlers. Most recently, the trail helped sponsor the 80-yard long mural that graces the concrete channel along the LA River. With local children learning the art of painting from mural artist Frank Romero, a whole new generation of potential trail users discovered the Anza Trail and shared in its story.

We continue to be on the look out for new ways to connect with different groups. Whether it’s a non-profit like North East Trees, or a new and developing relationship with a local museum like the South Coast Railroad Museum, the Anza Trail will continue to search out relationships that help tell the Anza Trail story and help provide a continuous link along Anza’s historic route.
Along the Trail ...

Anza’s California Adventures—Retrace the Explorer’s Route through the Bay Area appears in the February 2002 issue of Sunset magazine, northern California edition.

The Los Angeles County Public Works Department marked six miles of the recreational trail along the Rio Hondo River. This trail connects the Skyline Trail with the Los Angeles River. We are currently working with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department to mark those trails.

G. Donald Kucera has been named for a three year term to the Arizona Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission. The Commission meets four times a year and over sees archaeology issues in the State of Arizona and is advisory to the State Historic Preservation Office. Kucera was also named to chair an International Trails Committee at the recent National Trail Conference.

Paul Modrell of the Clean Water Division of Alameda County Public Works Department is working on restoring a reach of San Lorenzo Creek and a small, corner Anza Park in the City of Hayward. The park commemorates encampment 98, March 31, 1776, on the Anza expedition - which was also the site of one of the stops on the 1976 reenactment.

Day Of the Horse celebrations took place on December 14 throughout the state. Vie and George Obern as well as Jeannie Gillen joined with other riders along the Anza Trail to commemorate the historic and contemporary role of horses in California.

Draft LRIP Update

The draft Long Range Interpretive Plan will be available for review February 14 and can be retrieved from the trail website, www.nps.gov/juba. Please make comments to the trail headquarters by April 1. If you would like to receive a print copy, please contact David Smith at (510) 817-1323.

Stakeholder meetings will be held in San Francisco March 11, Monterey on March 6, San Luis Obispo on March 7, Los Angeles March 27, Tucson on March 20, and Nogales March 21 to help review the draft. If you would be interested in participating in one of these sessions, please contact David at the above number or via email at david_smith@nps.gov.

Calabasas, California
February 22, 2003, Anza Commemoration Ceremony at Juan Bautista de Anza Park in Calabasas.

Santa Clara, California
March 13, 2002, 7:30 p.m. at Santa Clara University Daly Science Building, Room 206. Alan K. Brown speaks on Reconstructing Pre-Modern Landscapes in Northern Santa Clara County. Call Meredith Kaplan at 510-817-1438 for more information or try www.sfei.org.

Redwood City, California
March 15, 2003, 2:30 p.m. at the San Mateo County History Museum, 777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City. Alan K. Brown speaks Along Early San Mateo County Trails. Call Meredith Kaplan at 510-817-1438 for more information or try www.sfei.org.

Arizpe, Sonora, Mexico
1-4 May, 2003: Anza World Conference to be held in Arizpe, Sonora, Mexico. Contact Don Garate at (520) 398-2341 ext 25 or Linda Rushton at (602) 993-1162.

Tumacacori, Arizona
16 February and 18 March, 6-8 p.m. - Full Moon activities.
19 March and April 16, 2003, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided Living History Tours of Tumacacori, Calabazas and Guevavi. There is a fee. Contact Tumacacori at (520) 398-2341 ext 0 (between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.).
Area children joined together to take part in the annual Posada at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. In 1776, Anza passed through Martinez as he searched for the source of the San Francisco Bay. Later, expedition descendant Don Vincente Martinez would build his adobe on the present day site of the park. Today, the John Muir Site celebrates its ties with Spanish colonial history during Posada and through their interpretation of the Martinez adobe.