

Early Southern California History (1769-1800)

by John P. Schmal (2019)

This presentation explores the original Spanish settlement of Southern California in the late 18th Century, as well as the large number of indigenous communities that existed in the area. Of special interest will be the Expedition of 1781 from Álamos, Sonora, which led to the establishment of Los Angeles, San Buenaventura and Santa Barbara.

Background

- Sebastián Vizcaíno (1548 – 1624) explored the California coast in 1602-1603. However, after this Spain lost interest in California and did not send any expeditions to California for over a century-and-a-half.
- Fearing that the Russians were moving down from Alaska to California, Spain regained interest in California and decided to establish some settlements in the area in the 1760s and beyond.
- **José de Gálvez (1720 – 1787)**, Inspector General for the King of Spain was given permission by King Carlos III to explore Alta California and establish the first permanent Spanish presence there. Gálvez was supported in the planning of an expedition by **Carlos Francisco de Croix (1699 – 1786)**, Viceroy of New Spain, and **Father Junípero Serra (1713 – 1784)**, the head of the Franciscan mission to the Californias (Baja and Alta California).
- The expedition was planned in 1768. Gálvez placed **Gaspar de Portolá (1723-1786)**, recently appointed governor of Las Californias, in overall command of the expedition. Second in command was Captain **Fernando Rivera y Moncada (1725 – 1781)**, commander of the Presidio at Loreto.

The San Diego Expeditions of 1769

Four expeditions were organized. In Jan. and Feb. 1769, two separate expeditions left by ship. One land expedition led by Capt. Rivera and Father Juan Crespi left New Spain on March 24, 1769. A second land expedition led by Capt. Portola and Father Sierra left Baja on May 15, 1769. The land expeditions brought 200 cattle, 163 mules and some horses

All four expeditions were united in San Diego by July 1, 1769. On July 16, the **Mission San Diego de Alcalá** was founded, to be followed in the next **54 years by a chain of twenty more missions** stretching northward through Alta California to present-day Sonoma.



MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ

San Diego de Alcalá: The First Mission Built

**Founded: July 16,
1769.**

This was the first California mission, founded by Father Serra on his expedition to Alta California with Gaspar de Portola.



The Discovery of Los Angeles (1769)

On July 14, 1769, Portola left San Diego to go north with a force of sixty-four men, including twenty-seven **soldados de cuera (leather-jacket soldiers)** under Captain Fernando Rivera. On August 2, 1769, they camped alongside a river which they named ***Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles de Porciúncula*** (Our Lady of the Angels of the Porciúncula), now called the **Los Angeles River**.

Over the next two decades, a series of small self-reliant religious missions were established. Each was a day's travel apart and they were linked by **El Camino Real (The King's Highway)**, which eventually linked 21 missions, pueblos and four presidios from San Diego to Sonoma.



Father Serra's Time in California (1769-1784)

While Portola returned to New Spain after one year, Father Serra stayed in California for the remainder of his life. He became the President of the California Missions and **founded eight of the twenty-one Spanish Missions in California.**

Serra's first mission was San Diego in 1769. His last mission was San Buenaventura established in 1782.

Serra's favorite mission, the Carmel Mission — founded in 1770 — became the headquarters of the California Missions.

Father Serra died in his room at the San Carlos Borromeo de Carmel Mission on August 28, 1784 at the age of 70. **He had traveled over 24,000 miles in his life.** He was buried there under the sanctuary floor.

The Early Years in San Diego

San Diego became the **first permanent European settlement on the Pacific Coast of the present-day U.S.** From the presidio, the Spaniards had a commanding view of the Pacific Ocean, permitting them to spot potential intruders. The region was then inhabited by the Kumeyaay people. Beginning in 1771 the Spanish priests intensified their conversion efforts of the local natives.

In August 1774, the San Diego Mission was moved across and up the valley six miles inland to a better location in Mission Valley. However, the San Diego Presidio, with a military force of thirty men, remained on the commanding hillside. But **this move put the Spanish mission closer to native rancherías, no doubt raising native anxiety over the Spanish proselytizing efforts.**

By December 31, 1774, the San Diego Mission and Presidio had nineteen families with a total of ninety-seven persons. During these early years, relations with the local Indians remained very poor. **With hostile Indians on the outside, and a scarcity of supplies arriving from San Blas, life was difficult.** The soldiers and settlers mostly lived on corn and beans, supplemented by a small amount of fish or meat to supplement their meager diet.

Source: Bill Mason, "The Garrisons of San Diego Presidio: 1770-1794," *The Journal of San Diego History*, Vol. XXIV, No. 4 (Fall, 1978).

Native Groups of Southern California

When the Spaniards first came to Southern California, they found several coastal indigenous groups, whose territories are shown in the following map:

Map of the Territories of the Original Tribal Groups in Southern California



Map Sources: Los Angeles Almanac, 2019; William C. Sturtevant & Robert F. Heizer (editors), *Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California* (1978: Smithsonian Institute) and Dr. E. Gary Stickel, Ph.D. (UCLA), Tribal Archeologist.

The Kumeyaay (Kumiai) of San Diego

The Kumeyaay (or Kumiai) Indians were also known as **Diegueño** by the early Spanish settlers. They lived in the greater San Diego and northern Baja California regions when the Spaniards arrived (as indicated by the map) and have inhabited the area for thousands of years.

The Kumeyaay spoke a native Yuman (Hokan) language. The Bureau of Indian Affairs recorded 1,322 Kumeyaay in 1968, with 435 living on reservations. By 1990, an estimated 1,200 lived on reservation lands, while 2,000 lived elsewhere.

The Kumeyaay Territory of 1769



Map Source: Mike Connolly, "Kumeyaay Map" (1769). Online: http://www.kumeyaay.info/kumeyaay_maps/kumeyaay_map.html.

The Kumeyaay Indians Attack

By 1774, the priests at San Diego had converted less than 100 Indians. But between July and late September 1775, **almost 400 natives were baptized**. This success most likely made the indigenous leadership feel threatened by the intruders.

Believing the priests to be potentially dangerous shamans, on the night of Nov. 4-5, 1775, **approximately six hundred Indians from at least fifteen villages attacked and burned the San Diego Mission** to the ground. The entire Spanish force at the mission was only 11 men at the time. Father Luís Jayme was among the three killed.

The survivors fought off the attackers. Fearing reprisals from the soldiers at the nearby presidio, **the Indians did not press their advantage** and instead fled into the interior. After this, most indigenous rebellions in the area were localized as the Indians recognized the **Spaniards' superior weaponry**. Kumeyaay resistance more often took the form of non-cooperation (in forced labor), return to their homelands (desertion or forced relocation), and raids on mission livestock.

Source: Richard L. Carrico, "Sociopolitical Aspects of the 1775 Revolt at Mission San Diego de Alcalá, The Journal of San Diego History, San Diego Historical Society Quarterly, Summer 1997, Volume 43, Number 3.

The Luiseño

The Luiseño inhabited coastal southern California from 50 miles from the present-day southern part of Los Angeles County to the northern part of San Diego County, and inland 30 miles.

Like the Gabrielino to the northwest, the Luiseño spoke a language within the Uto-Aztecan family. In the Luiseño language, the people call themselves **Payómkawichum**, meaning “**People of the West.**” The Luiseños were given their name by the Spanish missionaries after the **San Luis Rey mission** was established in their territory (1798). In 1770, they probably numbered 4,000-5,000, but their estimated population by 1910 was 500.

Luiseño Territory



Map Source: Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, “Territories of Southern California Indians.” Online: https://www.pechanga-nsn.gov/images/traditionalSites/southern_californiaR.jpg.

The Juaneño

The Juaneño lived along the coast in what is now Orange and San Diego counties. They called themselves Acjachemen and were referred to as Juaneño by Spanish colonizers when **the San Juan Capistrano Mission was established (1775) in their territory.**

Their traditional language was closely related to the Luiseño language of their southern neighbors, the Luiseño. In the 20th century, the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, was organized and recognized by the State of California, although has not yet been federally recognized. The Juaneño Band headquarters is now in San Juan Capistrano. There are more than 2,800 enrolled members

Juaneño Territory



Source: Wikipedia, "Southern California Indian Linguistic Groups - Juaneño.png."

The Cahuilla

The Cahuilla and Their Neighbors

The Cahuilla Indians ranged over the entire San Bernardino basin, the San Jacinto Mountains, the Coachella Valley, and portions of the southern Mojave. Their northern neighbors were the Serrano, and their western neighbors were the Luiseño and Gabrielino.

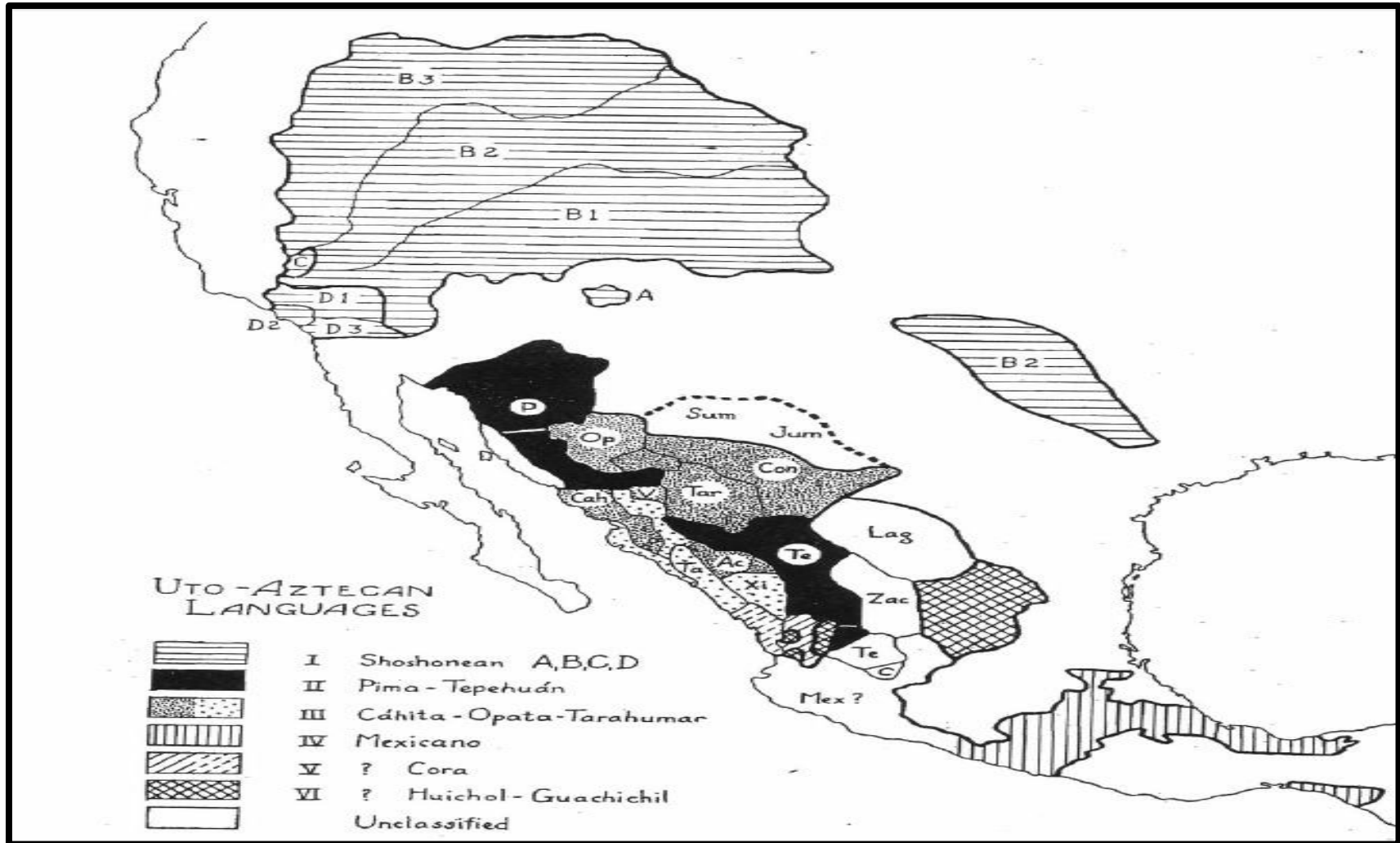


The Cahuilla are Uto-Aztecan peoples who probably arrived in southern California about 2,000-2,500 years ago. They were peaceful hunter/gatherers who lived in both mountain and desert regions. They lived in independent clans of approximately 600-800 people controlling their own separate territories. Their original territory included an area of about 2,400 square miles. As of 1990, out of an ethnic population of 800, only 35 spoke the Cahuilla language.

Source: Walter Feller, "Digital-Desert : Mojave Desert: Cahuilla Indians." Online:
<http://mojavedesert.net/cahuilla-indians/>.

The Uto-Aztec Language Group at Contact

The Uto-Aztec Group includes a wide range of languages, stretching from Idaho to Central America. The Southern California Indians represent only a small part of this linguistic group.



MISSION SAN GABRIEL ARCÁNGEL

San Gabriel Arcángel: The Fourth Mission Built

**Founded: Sept. 8,
1771.**

The San Gabriel Mission was founded nine miles east of the 1769 landing site which later became Los Angeles. The San Gabriel Mission became known as the "**Queen of the Missions**" and was one of the few mission structures to survive the massive 1812 California earthquake.



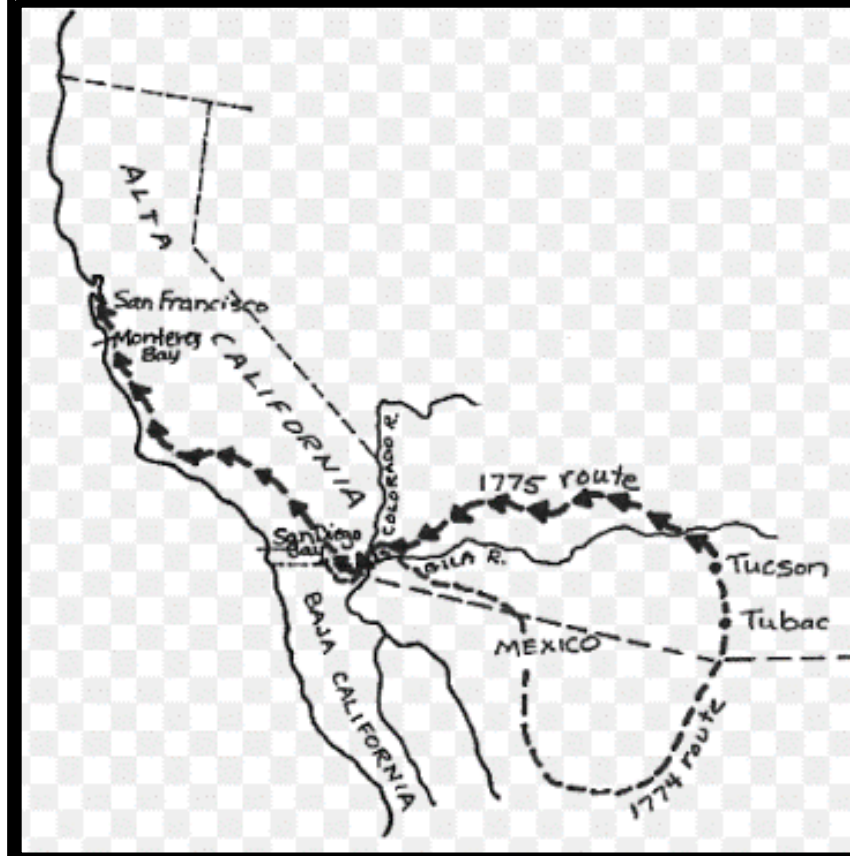
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Other Alta California Expeditions (1774-1777)

In 1774, Juan Bautista de Anza and a group of 34 men left the presidio at Tubac and made their way up the central valley to Monterey.

In a second expedition from Horcasistas (Sonora) in October 1775, **Anza led an expedition of 240 people (soldiers and their families) on a 165-day journey of 1,500 miles to their settlement at Monterey**, where they established a new presidio. This would establish a Spanish presence in the San Francisco Bay area.

In November 1777, an expedition from San Francisco with fourteen settlers and their families established the **first Spanish civil settlement in San Jose** (Los Angeles would become the second settlement in 1781).



Map Source: FactCards California: Explorers: Juan Bautista de Anza. Online: <https://factcards.califa.org/exp/anza.html>.

Felipe de Neve: The Decision Maker



When Felipe de Neve (1727-1784) became the Governor of the Californias in 1777, he moved his capital from Loreto, Baja California, to Monterey, **symbolizing the new importance of the northern province**. By this time, eight of the 21 missions had already been established.

After a tour of California, Governor de Neve proposed to the colonial administrators that, in order to further secure Alta California as a Spanish possession, it would be necessary to **import settlers and create agricultural sites** to help relieve California's dependence on ship-borne imports of foodstuffs from San Blas. He thus decided to establish a new pueblo in the southern part of Alta California between San Diego and San José. And soldiers would be stationed in the area of protect them.

The Search for Recruits

In December 1779, Governor de Neve sent an expedition under the command of **Captain Fernando Rivera** into Sinaloa and Sonora to **recruit 59 soldiers and 24 families of *pobladores* (settlers)**. Of the fifty-nine recruits, thirty-four soldiers were to go to California, while the other twenty-five would fill the places of those soldiers taken from the presidios in Mexico. Governor de Neve's instructions included the following requirements and allowances for the settlers and soldiers:

- All recruits were required to bind themselves to ten years' service.
- The soldiers and settlers should be healthy, robust and possess "greater strength and endurance for the hardships of frontier service."
- The soldiers and settlers should be married men with families.
- The settlers should include a mason, a carpenter, and a blacksmith.
- Colonists would receive daily rations and a monthly salary of 10 pesos for the next three years, as well as "an allowance in clothing and supplies."
- The settlers would be granted the use of government land as common pasture and would also be granted an exemption from taxes for five years.

Source: Marion Parks, "Instructions for the Recruitment of Soldiers and Settlers for California – Expedition of 1781," *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part II (1931), pp. 189-203.

The Recruitment Moves Slowly

Captain Fernando Rivera was originally asked to find 24 farmers and their families to settle the new pueblo of Los Angeles. He began his search in February 1780. But it was difficult to enlist people for a ten-year commitment to a remote and desolate outpost surrounded by thousands of potentially hostile Indians. Most people realized that getting to California from Sonora and Sinaloa was a long, arduous and dangerous journey. Additionally, rumors were circulating in Sonora that soldiers serving in California were not getting paid their due.

He did not enlist his first settler until three months later (May). Rivera recruited in both Sinaloa (Villa de Sinaloa, Culiacán, Mazatlán and Rosario) and in Sonora (Horcasitas and Alamo) during a **nine-month period.**

Upon completion of his recruitment task, **Rivera would assemble the whole company of recruits at Álamos in Sonora.** From Álamos, the recruits and their families would move on by sea or land. In addition to recruiting soldiers and settlers, Rivera had to purchase equipment and supplies, as well as 961 horses, mules, and donkeys. The animals would be sent north by way of the Gila and Colorado Rivers.

Source: Marion Parks, "Instructions for the Recruit of Soldiers and Settlers for California – Expedition of 1781," *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part II (1931), pp. 189-203.

The Expedition of 1781 – First Part

By August 1, 1780, Rivera had recruited only 45 soldiers and seven settlers from Sinaloa and Culiacán. But, by August 25, he was able to recruit eleven farm families (numbering 44 people in all) and 59 soldiers. By November 1780, he had enlisted 14 families of settlers (but three families deserted before reaching California). However, Rivera did recruit all the soldiers he was required to get.

Rivera's entire expedition of settlers, soldiers, and livestock were assembled at Álamos in January 1781. At this point, he decided to split the expedition into two groups. First, he assigned seventeen of his soldiers under the command of **Lieutenant José de Zuñiga to accompany the eleven settlers' families in their march up the Baja Peninsula.** This party left Álamos on February 2, 1781, started northward, and eventually crossed the Gulf of California from Guaymas to Loreto, Baja California. An outbreak of smallpox among the settlers delayed the journey. **The settlers arrived at the San Gabriel Mission on August 18, 1781 after a journey of 950 miles.** At that point, the settlers were only nine miles from their destination (Los Angeles), but had to be quarantined for 17 days at a short distance from the mission because of exposure to smallpox.

Sources: Marion Parks, "Instructions for the Recruitment of Soldiers and Settlers for California – Expedition of 1781," *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part II (1931), pp. 189-203; Thomas Workman Temple II, "Se Fundaron un Púeblo de Españoles, The Founding of Los Angeles," *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part 1 (November 1931), pp. 78-79.

The Expedition of 1781 – Second Part

The second part of the expedition under Rivera left Álamos in April 1781 with 42 soldiers and 30 families. The soldiers and their families — with livestock in tow — **traveled the long, arduous overland route through desert brush and hostile Indian territory.** Progress was quite slow, in accordance with their directive, to avoid needless fatigue and hardship to the families, and to keep the livestock in good condition.

As noted in the map, the red line shows the first expedition under Zuñiga with the settlers. The second expedition under Rivera is shown in green and included soldiers, their families and livestock.



Map Source: Phil Townsend Hanna, "Schwald Family Genealogy," "Ruiz Genealogy." Online: <https://schwalfamily.org/features/ruiztocha.php>.

The Rivera Massacre

Captain Rivera and his troops arrived in July at the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. At that point, **Rivera sent the troops and their families ahead to the San Gabriel Mission.** With several men still under his command, Rivera camped on the eastern (Arizona) bank of the Colorado on the night of July 17, 1781 in order to rest and feed his livestock before crossing the Colorado Desert.

However, Rivera's large herd of cattle and horses caused a great deal of damage to the Indians' mesquite trees and melon patches. Enraged, **the Yuma Indians (now known as Quechan) attacked and massacred Rivera and several of his soldiers.** At the same time, the Indians also attacked two nearby pueblos and missions, killing a total of 46 people. A total of 74 people were held captive until ransomed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages in 1782.

This massacre caused a great deal of trepidation to the Spanish frontier zone. As a result, **the inland route from Sonora to California was virtually closed for several years.**

El Pueblo de Nuestro Señora la Reina de Los Angeles

The name of California's second pueblo was **El Pueblo de Nuestro Señora la Reina de Los Angeles del Río de Porciúncula** or **The Town of Our Lady the Queen of Angeles by the River of Porciúncula**.

Later, the name was shortened to Los Angeles. When the 44 settlers arrived in Los Angeles on September 4, 1781, they and their families settled on the land picked out by Neve for the pueblo. The land had water and good soil for farming. It was also **near a Tongva village called Yang-na — now near the intersection of Alameda and Commercial Streets** (south of the 101) — where 300 natives lived. (The name Tongva was adopted by some members in 1994, but **the tribal members now call themselves “Kizh Nation,” which is their historically recognized name**).

The new pueblo was six miles square with a plaza near its center. Each family was given a small piece of land, in addition to receiving two mares, two cows, one calf, two sheep, two goats, two mules, and two oxen, as well as implements with which to work the land. They had five years to pay for these items.

Sources: Marion Parks, “Instructions for the Recruitment of Soldiers and Settlers for California – Expedition of 1781,” *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part II (1931), pp. 189-203; Thomas Workman Temple II, “Se Fundaron un Púeblo de Españoles, The Founding of Los Angeles,” *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. XV, Part 1 (November 1931), pp. 78-79.

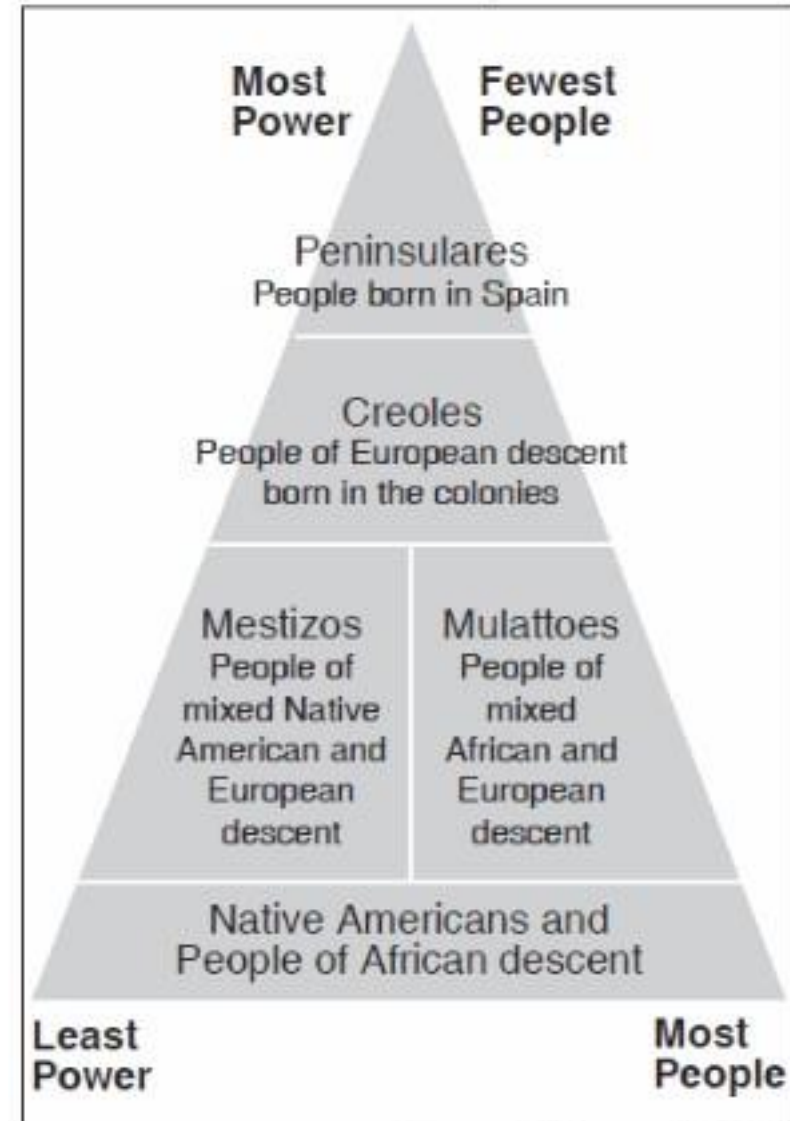
A Layered Society with Distinct Social Classes

At the top of the Spanish colonial society in Mexico were the **PENINSULARES**, people born in Spain. Peninsulares filled many of the highest positions in both colonial governments and the Catholic Church hierarchy. Next came **CRIOLLOS (CREOLES)**, American-born descendants of Spanish settlers. Creoles owned many of the plantations, ranches, and mines.

Lower social groups included: **MESTIZOS**, people of Native American and European descent; **MULATTOES**, people of African and European descent; **INDIOS**; and **NEGROS**, many of whom were **ESCLAVOS (SLAVES)**.

Many Indians and mixed race Indians who became Spanish soldiers saw themselves elevated in their status by their service.

Social Structure of the Spanish Colonies



Source: Goldberg and DuPré,
Brief Review in Global History and Geography,
Prentice Hall, 2002 (adapted)

The First Angelinos in 1781

Los Pobladores Plaque: Downtown L.A.

The original party of the new townsfolk consisted of eleven families, or **44 total persons, that is 11 men, 11 women, and 22 children** of various Spanish castas (castes). The castas of the 22 adult pobladores, according to the November 1781 census, were:

- 1 Peninsular (Spaniard born in Spain)
- 1 Criollo (Spaniard born in New Spain)
- 1 Mestizo (mixed Spanish and Indian)
- 2 Negros (blacks of full African ancestry)
- 8 Mulattos (mixed Spanish and black)
- 9 Indios (American Indians)



The First Angelinos in 1781

No.	Settler Head of Household	Age	<i>Casta</i>	Birthplace	Wife and children
1	Manuel Camero	30	Mulatto	Nayarit	Wife
2	Antonio Mesa	38	Black	Sinaloa	Wife and 2 children
3	José Cesario Moreno	22	Mulatto	Sinaloa	Wife
4	José Antonio Navarro	42	Mestizo	Sinaloa	Wife and 3 children
5	Luis Manuel Quintero	55	Black	Jalisco	Wife and 5 children
6	Pablo Rodríguez	25	Indian	Sinaloa	Wife and one child
7	José Alejandro Rojas (son of José Antonio Basilio Rosas)	19	Indian	Sinaloa	Wife
8	José Antonio Basilio Rosas	67	Indian	Durango	Wife and six children
9	Jose María Vanegas	28	Indian	Jalisco	Wife and one child
10	José Fernando de Velasco y Lara	50	Spaniard	Cádiz	Wife and three children
11	Antonio Clemente Félix Villavicencio	30	Spaniard	Chihuahua	Wife and one child

Source: Los Angeles Almanac, "Original Settlers (Pobladores) of El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles, 1781." Online: <http://www.laalmanac.com/history/hi03c.php>.

What Happened to the Original Settlers?

Head of Household	What Happened?
Manuel Camero	Remained in Los Angeles. Served as a Los Angeles regidor (councilman) . Buried at Mission San Gabriel in 1819.
Antonio Mesa	Expelled from the pueblo in 1782 and returned to Sonora.
José Cesario Moreno	Remained in L.A. and served as a Los Angeles regidor . Buried at Mission San Gabriel in 1806.
José Antonio Navarro	Sent to San José in 1790 and later to the Presidio in San Francisco. Died in 1793
Luis Manuel Quintero	Expelled from the pueblo in 1782. He and his family went to Santa Barbara, possibly because his three daughters had married soldiers stationed in Santa Barbara. Died in Santa Barbara in 1810.
Pablo Rodríguez	Moved to San Diego in 1796 to be mayordomo (manager) of Mission San Diego . He died in San Juan Capistrano in 1816.
José Alejandro Rojas	Remained in Los Angeles. He died here only a month after his wife in January 1789.
José Antonio Basilio Rosas	Remained in Los Angeles. Buried at the Mission San Gabriel in 1809.
Jose María Vanegas	Remained in Los Angeles for 20 years and served as its first alcalde (mayor) . He later moved to San Diego and San Luis Rey.
José Fernando de Velasco y Lara	Expelled from the pueblo in 1782. He moved to Santa Barbara and then was forced to return to Nayarit where he died.
Antonio Clemente Félix Villavicencio	Moved to Santa Barbara in 1797. Died there in 1802.

Source: Los Angeles Almanac, "Whatever Happened to the Original Settlers?" Online: <http://www.laalmanac.com/history/hi03c.php>.

The Soldiers of the Escolta

Four soldiers — accompanied by their families — escorted the pobladores to El Pueblo de Los Angeles. Their job was to assist the settlers with certain chores and to guard them against local natives.

Name	Age (Place of Birth)	Items of Importance
Corporal José Vicente Feliz	About 40 (Álamos, Sonora)	Was a member of the 1775-76 Anza expedition, took on a leadership role in the founding and governance of that pueblo, in essence becoming the city's first mayor, and was rewarded for his efforts with a Spanish land grant in the hills above Los Angeles, in the area of what today still bears his name: Los Feliz . He died in 1822 in Santa Barbara.
Private Roque Jacinto de Cota	About 57 (El Fuerte, Sinaloa)	He died in 1798 in San Fernando. He is the founder of the Cota family in Alta California.
Private Antonio de Cota	About 50 (El Fuerte, Sinaloa)	Younger Brother of Roque Cota. Became a soldier about 1750 and was posted in various parts of California. Died in LA and was buried in San Gabriel in 1815.
Private Francisco Salvador de Lugo	About 41 (Villa de Sinaloa, Sinaloa)	Recruited by Captain Rivera in 1774; served at the San Gabriel Mission in 1775. Served at Los Angeles and several presidios. He died in 1805 at Santa Barbara. In 1810, his son Antonio Maria Lugo — after 17 years of military service — was discharged and granted the Spanish grant of San Antonio , which included a large area of Los Angeles.

The Gabrielinos (now known as the Kizh Nation)

The **Gabrielinos** — formerly known as Tongva by some but presently and historically known as “**Kizh Nation**” — lived in the L.A. area and are believed to be distantly related to the Comanche and the Hopi indigenous populations. Their name means “People of the Earth.”

The Kizh Nation inhabited the Greater Los Angeles area as far east as the base of Mount Wilson, 40 miles inland. Their territory was bounded by Malibu to the north and Laguna Beach to the south (Orange County).

The Gabrielino (Kizh Nation) and their Neighbors



The Gabrielino were surrounded by the Chumash on the west, the Tativiam on the north, the Serrano and Cahuilla in the east and the Luiseño in the south.

The Tataviam and the Kitanemuk

The **Fernandeño Tataviam** inhabited northern **Los Angeles County** and southern **Ventura County**. The Tataviam had villages in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Eastern Simi and Antelope Valleys. Like their southern neighbors, the Kizh Nation, they spoke a language in the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family.

The Tataviam were called the Alliklik by their neighbors, the Chumash. **The name Tataviam meant “people on the south slope”** in the language of the Kitanemuk, their neighbors to the north. **The Kitanemuk — who also spoke an Uto-Aztecan language — lived in the Tehachapi Mountains and the Antelope Valley** area of the western Mojave Desert of southern California. In 1770, the Serrano, Kitanemuk, and Tataviam numbered about 3,500, but their population declined to about 150 by 1910.

The Tataviam and Their Neighbors



Map Source: Reeves, D, R. Bury and DW Robinson. “Invoking Occam’s Razor: Experimental Pigment Processing and an Hypothesis Concerning Emigdiano Chumash Rock-Art,” *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 29(1):59-67.

The Serrano of the East

The Serrano historically lived in the **San Bernardino Mountains and other Transverse Ranges, and in the southern Mojave Desert.** Serrano means “highlander” or “mountaineer” in Spanish.

The Serrano language is part of the Takic subset of the large Uto-Aztecan languages group of indigenous people of North America. It is believed that they probably arrived in Southern California around 2,500 years ago.

The Serrano and Their Neighbors



Map Source: ResearchGate, “Map of the Approximate Ancestral Territories of Southern California Prior to European: Figure 1.” (Uploaded by Eric M. Riggs).

Languages Families of California

As indicated in the map of the root languages of the California Indians, some of the Indians of the Southern California belonged to the **Hokan Linguistic Family** (Chumash and Kumeyaay). But the majority of the Southern California Indians (including the Kizh Nation and Tataviam) belonged to the **Uto-Aztecan Linguistic Family**. However, some linguists have classified Chumash as a language isolate, not a Hokan language.



Map Sources: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation, "California Indians Language Groups." Online: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23548; Hinton, Leanne. Flutes of Fire: Essays on California Indian Languages. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 1994.

The Next Assignment: Santa Barbara

Most of the **soldados de cuera** from the Expedition of 1781 stayed at San Gabriel to prepare for their next assignment.

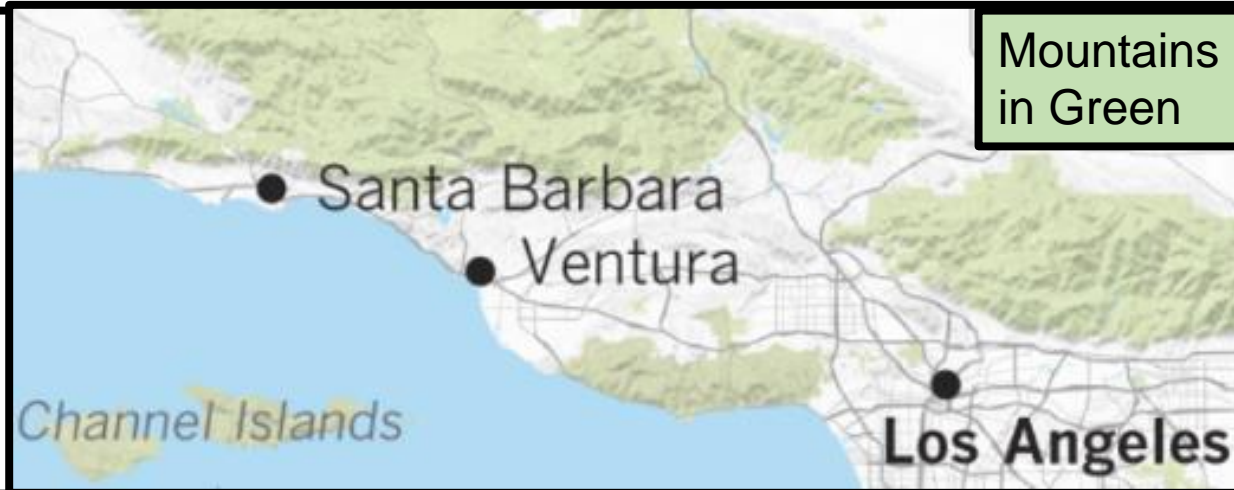
Santa Barbara lies along the Pacific Ocean almost 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles. In those days, the Santa Monica Mountains, Tehachapi Mountains, and **the San Gabriel-San Bernardino Mountain range represented a formidable barrier to north-south travel for Spaniard and Indian alike.**



Southeast of present-day Santa Barbara, the Santa Monica Mountains drop off abruptly into the Pacific Ocean. **Armed expeditions seeking to travel through the area northward to Monterey had to thread their way carefully along the coastal Indian trails in the beach area.** During the winter rainy season, the route was almost impassable for horses and mules

Holding California Together

In his edict of 1774, King Carlos had referred to **the foundation of a Santa Barbara presidio** as an **“indispensable” element for the protection of Alta California.**



According to Monsignor Francis J. Weber in his work, *Queen of the Missions*, the purpose for establishing the Santa Barbara Presidio was to **“hold California together.”** He stated that Felipe de Neve “saw that the Santa Barbara Channel was a danger spot because **the mountains came right down to the sea.** Any road cutting through the area would have to run closer to the shoreline. **And if the large Indian population should rise to revolt, the narrow passage might easily be blocked** and California would be cut in half.” As a result, de Neve planned to establish three missions and one presidio along the Santa Barbara Channel in a very short period of time.

Source: Msgr. Francis J. Weber (ed.), *Queen of the Missions: A Documentary History of Santa Barbara* (Hong Kong: Libra Press, Limited, 1979); Map Source: Los Angeles Times, April 5, 2018.

The Santa Barbara Expedition

Heavy rains during the Autumn and Winter of 1781/1782 delayed the Santa Barbara expedition until the spring of 1782. As a result, the soldiers and their families stayed in their forty small palisade huts at the San Gabriel Mission.

Lieutenant José Francisco Ortega (1734-1798), Commander of the San Diego Presidio since 1773, was appointed commander of the Santa Barbara Company. By this time, seven privates and a corporal had been withdrawn from each of the companies of the Monterey and San Diego presidios as a cadre to help train the recruits. By February 1782, the hostilities that took place on the Colorado River the previous summer had subsided, and **Governor de Neve made the decision to proceed with the next expedition.** Father Serra traveled from Monterey to San Gabriel to be a part of this event, arriving at the Mission on March 19, 1782.

On March 26, 1782, the Santa Barbara Company consisting of fifty-seven officers and men under the command of Lieutenant Ortega finally left San Gabriel. The entire expedition numbered some 200 people, including muleteers with trains of utensils and food supplies, Indian auxiliaries, wives and children, as well as 200 horses and mules.

Source: Robert S. Whitehead, *Citadel on the Channel: The Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara: Its Founding and Construction, 1782-1798* (Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation, 1996).

San Buenaventura Mission

On March 29, 1782, the Santa Barbara Company reached San Buenaventura where the ninth Alta California mission was founded by Father Serra. On Eastern Sunday, March 31, Father Serra performed his first Mass at this site. “Immediately after the founding ceremonies,” writes Robert Whitehead, “the soldiers, with the help of the Indians from the adjacent village of *Shisholop*, began constructing the palisade-type mission.”

The entire expedition became involved in the construction of the chapel and dwelling places during the next two weeks. **On April 24, 1782, Governor de Neve was able to report to his superior officer that the Mission of San Buenaventura had been completed,** indicating that the natives of the region were pleased with the presence of the settlement.

Source: Robert S. Whitehead, *Citadel on the Channel: The Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara: Its Founding and Construction, 1782-1798* (Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation, 1996).

MISSION SAN BUENAVENTURA

San Buenaventura: The Ninth Mission Built

**Founded: March 31,
1782**

San Buenaventura is now located in the City of Ventura. Located halfway between San Diego and Carmel, San Buenaventura was originally planned to be California's third mission, but was actually the last one built during Padre Serra's lifetime after a 12-year postponement.



Moving on to Santa Barbara

On April 15, 1782, Governor de Neve assembled forty-two soldiers to resume the expedition toward Santa Barbara. Sergeant Pablo Antonio Cota and fourteen soldiers were left in San Buenaventura to protect the mission and to continue with the building. **The expedition marched twenty-seven miles along the coast** between the Pacific Ocean and the high cliffs flanking the shoreline. For much of the first ten miles, **the soldiers had to walk through the surf at the base of the cliffs.** They found several Indian villages along the way.



On April 21, Governor de Neve and Lieutenant Ortega found a good site for the new presidio near an Indian village. The site was elevated above the surrounding area and could thus provide a view of incoming ships and possible attack by hostile Indians. The site also had good drainage and was close enough to shore for transporting supplies that would deliver supplies. At the same time, the presidio was far enough from the shore to be out of cannon-reach of any enemy ships (possibly the English fleet).

Sources: Owen H. O'Neill (ed.), *History of Santa Barbara County: Its People and Resources* (Santa Barbara: Harold MacLean Meier, 1939); Msgr. Francis J. Weber (ed.), *Queen of the Missions: A Documentary History of Santa Barbara* (Hong Kong: Libra Press, Limited, 1979).

Santa Barbara is Established

Governor de Neve and Father Serra presided over the Santa Barbara ceremonies on Sunday, April 21, 1782. As forty-two soldados stood by, Governor Neve took possession of the site in the name of King Carlos III of Spain. In the days and weeks to follow, the soldiers set about their task of building the presidio by cutting down nearby oak trees in order to **build the 165-foot square enclosure.** The first structure to be erected was the exterior wall. Once that was completed they built the storehouses, living quarters and the chapel. The whole construction process would take four years.

To the dismay of Father Serra, **Governor de Neve refused permission for the building of the mission until the construction of the presidio could be finished.** **Feeling uneasy about the large Indian population in the area,** de Neve felt that the fortifications should be built and the security of the presidio guaranteed before any construction began on the Mission. Regrettably, Father Serra died on August 28, 1784 in Monterey before the Santa Barbara Mission was established.

Sources: Owen H. O'Neill (ed.), *History of Santa Barbara County: Its People and Resources* (Santa Barbara: Harold MacLean Meier, 1939); Msgr. Francis J. Weber (ed.), *Queen of the Missions: A Documentary History of Santa Barbara* (Hong Kong: Libra Press, Limited, 1979).

The Santa Barbara Presidio

At the end of 1782, Lieutenant Ortega's year-end strength report listed six officers and fifty soldiers as stationed at the Santa Barbara Presidio. However, of the fifty soldiers officially serving at the presidio, fifteen were in the *escorta* (soldier escort) at San Buenaventura, seven at San Luis Obispo on temporary assignment, and two were in Los Angeles. This left a force of thirty-two men at the presidio, ostensibly to defend a two hundred mile coastline between Los Angeles and Morro Bay from attack by hostile Indians or foreign invaders. By December 1783, the garrison at the presidio had increased only slightly to 58 men. By the end of 1785, the total population of the presidio had increased to 203, of which forty-seven were women.

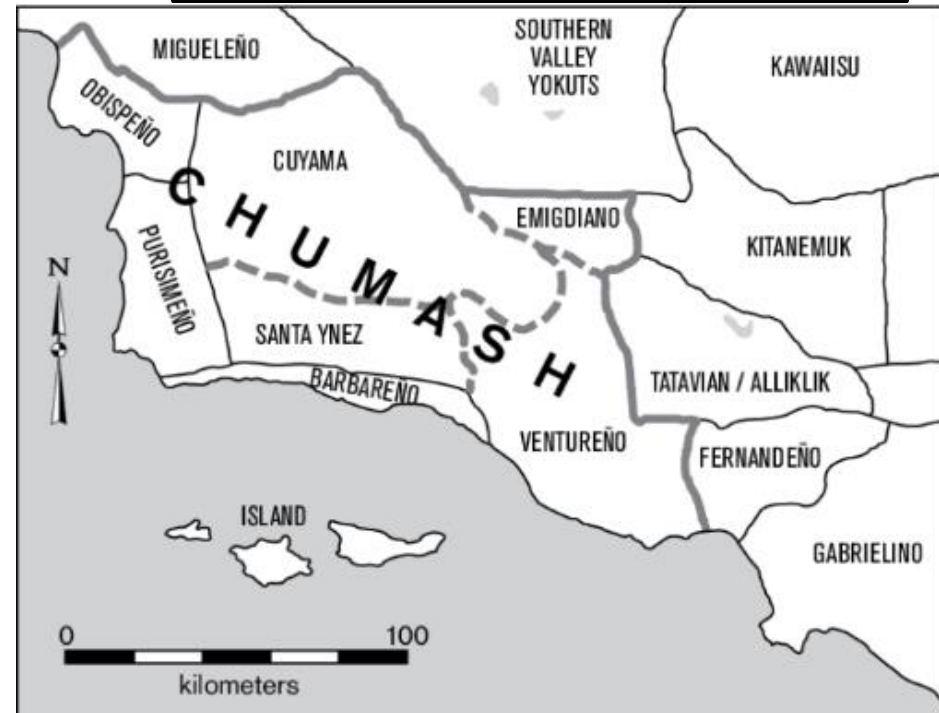
In 1786, the Spaniards established a "Royal Rancho" to raise beef. So in addition to manning the presidio and the four missions [Santa Barbara, San Buenaventura, La Purísima Concepción, and San Luis Obispo], **the soldiers were also the vaqueros who manned the rancho, tended livestock and mended fences, etc.** The presidio provided guards for the little farming community of Los Angeles as well. Other duties of the soldiers included carrying mail and escorting pack trains sent to Los Angeles for provisions. Soldiers also served as escorts for any sort of official entourage.

Source: Robert S. Whitehead, *Citadel on the Channel: The Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara: Its Founding and Construction, 1782-1798* (Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation, 1996).

The Chumash Region of Santa Barbara

Chumash and its Subgroups

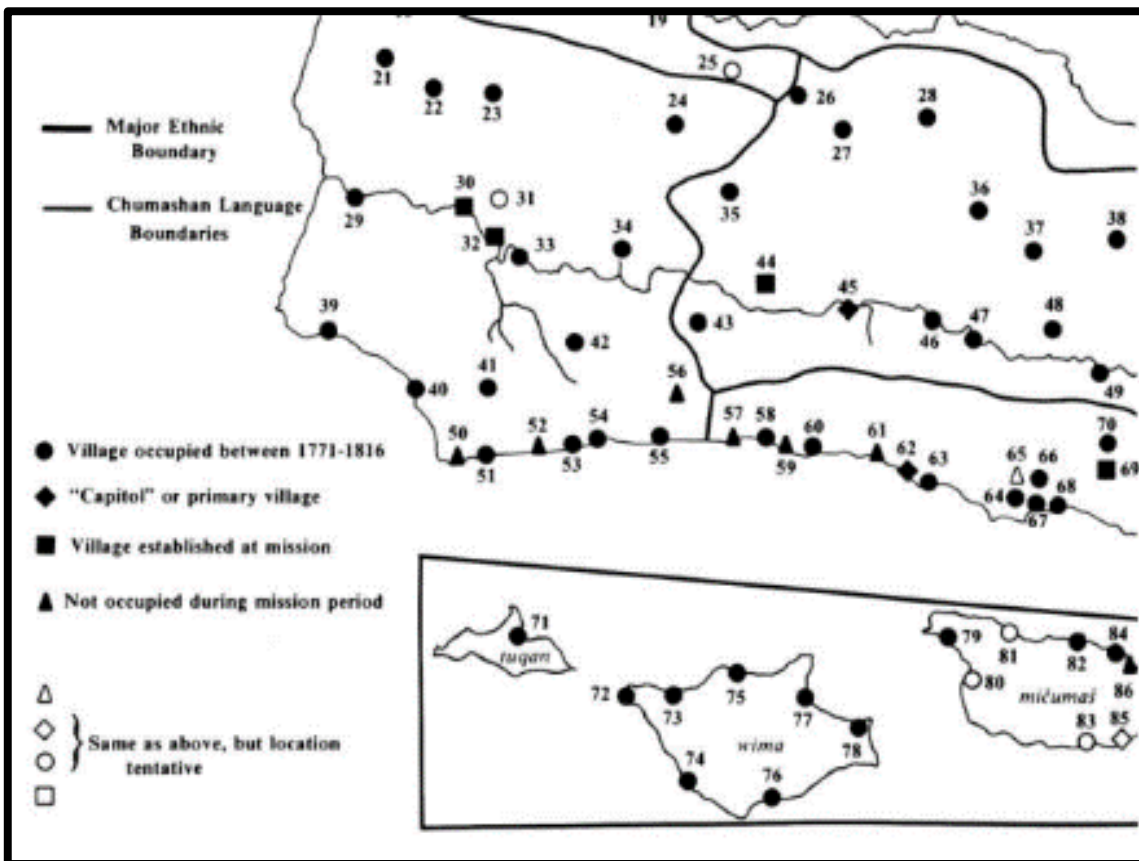
The Chumash region at the time of contact began at modern day Malibu and stretched up to San Luis Obispo and included extensive land in the backcountry and the Northern Channel Islands. The land area occupied by the Chumash totaled over 25,000 square kilometers. Of the 20,000 Chumash individuals, two-thirds of them living in in the coastal and island villages (Johnson 1999).



There were eight Chumash subgroups, each speaking mutually unintelligible languages that collectively formed the Chumashan language family, which some believe is a **language isolate** (Arnold 2001; Golla 2011). These eight groups consisted of the Barbareño, Ventureño, Purisimeño, Obispeño, Ineseño, Cruzeño, Emigdiano, and the Cuyama Chumash. The first five sub-groups were named due to their affiliation with missions that were erected within their territory during the Spanish period in California.

The Neighboring Chumash Indians

The Chumash Indians who inhabited the area around the Santa Barbara Presidio were very numerous. Along the coastline they had some forty-one villages between the San Buenaventura and Point Concepción. Fifteen more villages were on the Channel Islands off the coast. The Chumash sustained themselves by hunting, fishing and seed-gathering. They were described by the Spaniards as gentle, hospitable to strangers, lively, industrious, skillful and clever. Because of their friendly and helpful nature, the Chumash became active participants in the construction of the presidio.



However, the **Chumash revolt of 1824** was a **coordinated uprising** at the three missions and became **the largest organized resistance movement to occur** during the Spanish and Mexican periods in California.

The Lives and Duties of the Soldados

The California presidio soldiers had a wide range of duties. While some soldiers tracked down horse thieves, others escorted priests to and from the missions. Many of them tilled the soil and cared for livestock. A look at the July 1, 1784 “Disbursement of Presidio,” as compiled by Captain Goycoechea, the new Commander, showed the activities of the sixty officers and men who were stationed at the Santa Barbara presidio on that day:

Soldado Duties	1784 Duties
On guard in the presidio	10
Guarding the horses	5
On duty in San Buenaventura	15
Watchman for the town of Los Angeles	1
On the frontier of the Californias	1
With the mail service to San Diego	4
Cutting timber in Monterey	1
With the mule train to the town of Los Angeles	5
Available for duty	18
Total Residents	60

Source: Leon G. Campbell, “The First Californios: Presidial Society in Spanish California, 1769-1822.”

Santa Barbara Mission Established

When the **Santa Barbara Mission was finally founded on December 4, 1786**, Father Fermin Francisco Lasuén presided over the dedication ceremonies. On December 8, 1787, the **Mission La Purísima Concepción was founded half-way between Mission Santa Barbara and Mission San Luis Obispo (which had been founded in 1772)**. Las Purísima Concepción was the eleventh mission built along the *El Camino Real* in Alta California. By this time, the Presidio of Santa Barbara was charged with protection of four missions: San Luis Obispo, San Buenaventura, Santa Barbara, and Purísima Concepción.

According to a census taken in August 1790, the total population of the Santa Barbara Presidio was 230. Of these, 132 were men and 98 were women. **Sixty-one men served the presidio as soldiers.** The ethnic composition of the presidio inhabitants was as follows: 124 Spaniards (Creoles of unmixed Spanish descent); 52 mestizos (Spanish and Indian mixture), 35 mulattos (Spanish and African descent); 17 Christian Indians from Mexico; and 19 others with other or no classifications.

Sources: Owen H. O'Neill (ed.), *History of Santa Barbara County: Its People and Resources* (Santa Barbara: Harold MacLean Meier, 1939); Msgr. Francis J. Weber (ed.), *Queen of the Missions: A Documentary History of Santa Barbara* (Hong Kong: Libra Press, Limited, 1979).

MISSION SANTA BARBARÁ

Santa Barbara: The Tenth Mission Built

**Founded:
December 4, 1786**



Santa Barbara was the first mission founded by Padre Serra's successor, Padre Fermin Francisco de Lasuén. La Purisima Concepción Mission was the eleventh mission built a year later (on December 8, 1787) at present-day Lompoc, over 50 miles northwest.

The 1790 Census: Racial Classifications

At the time of the 1790 census, 463 adults were listed with the following caste designations.

The 1790 Alta California Census: Adults Classified by Caste

Location	Españoles or Europeos	Mestizos	Mulatos	Indios	Coyotes	Total Persons Categorized by Caste
San Diego	52	2	25	8	7	94
Los Angeles	28	11	7	3	6	55
Santa Barbara	57	27	14	8	3	109
Monterey	33	22	29	11	5	100
San José	16	2	7	4	1	30
San Francisco	36	18	5	4	0	63
Missions	10	1	1	0	0	12
Totals	232	83	88	38	22	463
Percentages	50.1%	17.9%	19.0%	8.2%	4.8%	100%

Source: William Marvin Mason, "The Census of 1790: A Demographic History of Colonial California" (Ballena Press, 1994), pp. 47-50.

The 1790 Census: Place of Birth

The place of birth given for California's adults in the 1790 census revealed that 64% of the adults were from either Sonora or Sinaloa where Captain Rivera had originally recruited in 1780. In fact, 115 of California's adults were born in Villa de Sinaloa (now called Sinaloa de Leyva), representing 24% of all the adults. Other places of origin included Loreto (45), Álamos (35) and Culiacán (18).

Place of Birth	Number of Persons	% of Adult Population
Sinaloa	189	47.8%
Sonora	64	16.2%
Baja California	57	14.4%
Alta California	25	6.3%
Jalisco	23	5.8%
Nayarit	19	4.8%
Chihuahua	14	3.5%
Durango	4	1.0%
Total Adult Population	395	83.5% of Total Population

Source: William Marvin Mason, "The Census of 1790: A Demographic History of Colonial California" (Ballena Press, 1994), p. 65.

The 1790 Census: Age Distribution

In 1790, the colonial population of California was relatively young. In all, 969 persons were recorded in the California census, but the age was given for 942 persons. Children up to six years old represented the largest age group (28.3%). More than half of the population (51%) was 15 years old or younger. But only 10.6% of the residents were 40 or older.

Age of California Resident	Number of Persons	% of Total Population
0-6	267	28.3%
7-15	214	22.7%
16-25	132	14.0%
25-40	230	24.4%
40-49	59	6.3%
50 and over	40	4.3%
Total Population	942	100%

Source: William Marvin Mason, "The Census of 1790: A Demographic History of Colonial California" (Ballena Press, 1994), p. 75.

Note that no age was given for 27 individuals, making the grand total of the 1790 census: 969.

The 1790s in Southern California

The California soldiers were acutely aware of the fact that both France and England yearned for the opportunity to take California into their own empires. But it was not likely that the two hundred and seventy-five soldiers at the four presidios in California could have held off a serious invasion by a foreign power. Nevertheless, the presidio was their home and steps were taken to safeguard the safety of their families and possessions in case of attack. Spain was at war with England several times during its California colonization: 1779-1783, 1796-1802 and 1804-1808.

Over time, **Los Angeles evolved into a sort of retirement community for retired Spanish soldiers.** By 1800, the small pueblo of Los Angeles had seventy families, 315 people, and consisted of 30 small adobe houses.

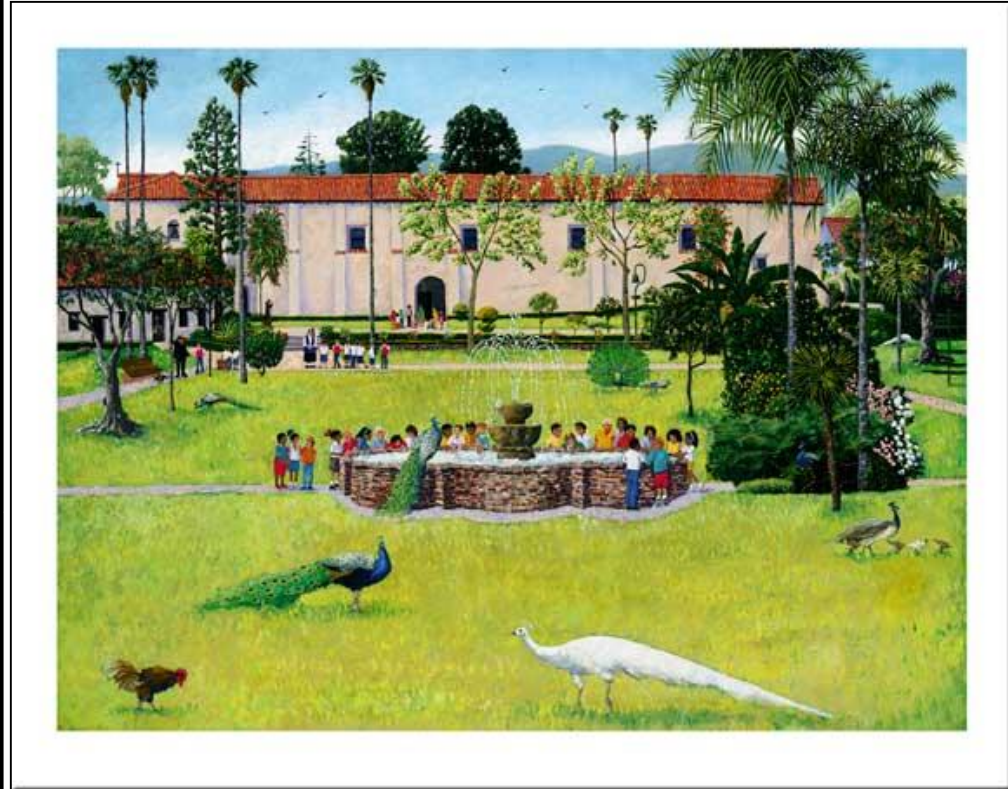
Meanwhile, Santa Barbara to the northwest had become a burgeoning community that included military retirees of the presidio. By the year 1800, the entire population of the Santa Barbara Presidio had grown to 370 people, which represented more than 21 per cent of the total Hispanic population of the state (1,533). By 1810, the population of the Santa Barbara Presidio increased to 460.

MISSION SAN FERNANDO REY DE ESPAÑA

San Fernando: The Seventeenth Mission Built

**Founded:
September 8, 1797**

Founded by Padre Lasuén in 1797, San Fernando was named after St. Ferdinand, King of Spain, the patron of the mission in Mexico City which originally sent missionaries to California.



Los Angeles and Ventura County Ranchos (1784-1810)

From 1784 to 1822, Spanish governors in California had the authority to issue “land grants.” By 1822, about thirty use permits had been given, mainly in the Los Angeles area, recognizing soldiers for their military service. The permits were intended to be for disabled soldiers, but it seems that being a friend or relative of the governor was more important than any disability.

Grant	Year	Grantee (s)	Size	Location	County
San Pedro	1784	Juan Jose Dominguez	48,000 acres	San Pedro	Los Angeles
Los Nietos	1784	Manuel Nieto	167,000 acres	Long Beach, Downey, Whittier	Los Angeles
San Rafael	1784	José María Verdugo	36,403 acres	Glendale	Los Angeles
Los Feliz	1795	Jose Vicente Feliz	6,647 acres	Los Feliz	Los Angeles
Simi	1795	Patricio, Miguel, and Francisco Javier Pico	113,057 acres	Simi Valley, Moorpark	Ventura
Las Virgenes	1802	Miguel Ortega	17,760 acres	Agoura Hills	Los Angeles
El Conejo	1803	Ygnacio Rodríguez and José Polanco	48,672 acres	Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Oak Park	Ventura
Topanga Malibu	1804	José Bartolomé Tapia	13,300 acres	Malibu	Los Angeles
Palos Verdes	1809	José Dolores Sepúlveda	31,629 acres	Palos Verdes	Los Angeles
San Antonio	1810	Antonio María Lugo (the son of Salvador Lugo)	29,513 acres`	Bell, South Gate	Los Angeles

Source: Wikipedia, “List of Ranchos of California.” Online: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ranchos_of_California.