



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: LEE PRICE, MMC
CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO
NAME A NEW PARK

DATE: October 28, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

As recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission, name a new park located at 1501 Almaden Road, Roberto Antonio Balermino Park.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Council Policy 7-5 the City Clerk receives nominations for naming of public facilities, which are forwarded to the appropriate Commission(s) for review and recommendation. The process calls for the Commission(s) to hold a public hearing on nominations prior to forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

ANALYSIS

On October 7, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing to consider nominations for the naming of a new park in Council District 7 located at 1501 Almaden Road. At this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the park be named Roberto Antonio Balermino Park.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Parks and Recreation Commission held the Public Hearing on October 7, 2009.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department.

LEE PRICE, MMC
CITY CLERK

October 22, 2009

Lee Price, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Lee Price:

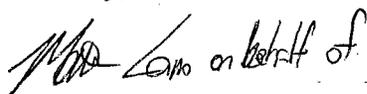
Re: Recommendation to the City Council to name a new park, located at 1501 Almaden Road, Roberto Antonio Balermino Park.

On October 7, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission (hereafter, Commission) held a public hearing to consider the nominations for the naming of a new park in Council District 7 located at 1501 Almaden Road. At this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the park be named Roberto Antonio Balermino Park.

Therefore, I am requesting that this item be agendized for the November 10, 2009 City Council meeting.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please call Evelyn Velez-Rosario at 793-5552.

Sincerely,



Mike Flaughner, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

c: Councilmember Nguyen, Council District 7
Albert Balagso, PRNS
Art Rosales, PRNS



on behalf of the Alma Neighborhood
Action Committee and the
Muwekma Tribe

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
Naming of City-Owned Facilities
NOMINATION FORM

Person Submitting Nomination: Evelyn Velez-Rosario
Address: City Hall, PRNS T-9 Daytime Phone: 793-5552

Name Proposed for Facility: Roberto Antonio Balermio Park
Location of Facility: 1501 Almaden Road future park
(Include street address, cross street)

Nature of Facility to be Named: (Describe use, clientele and any special geographic or historic characteristics)
1.8 acre future park

Is this site/structure of potential historic significance? Yes No

If yes, please submit parcel number and a summary of bibliographical resources.

Appropriateness of Name to Facility: (Briefly characterize the nominated individual, group, event or feature. Describe why naming would be appropriate. If the facility is proposed to be named after an individual, attach no more than one page outlining a brief biography and significant contributions to the community.) see attached

Submit Nomination to: City Clerk, San José City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

FOR CITY CLERK'S USE ONLY

Referred to the following Commission or Committee:

Airport Arts Child Care Disability Advisory Historic Landmarks
Library Parking Advisory Parks & Recreation Senior Citizens Youth
Other

**Naming of Park at 1501 Almaden Road:
Roberto Antonio Balermimo Park**

The City of San Jose and the local community at 1501 Almaden Rd. are desirous to name the small park facing Almaden Road after the Ohlone Tribe. After some preliminary research it appears that this park falls within the ethnohistoric village/tribal territory of the Tamien Ohlone-speaking San Juan Bautista tribal group. The San Juan Bautista Tribal group was one of the first of the Tamien tribal groups to be missionized into Mission Santa Clara.

Based upon mission record research conducted by Chester King in 1974 and Winter 1978, they place at least six tribal village communities under the Guadalupe division or Tamien Ohlone-speaking tribal groups that once surrounded the newly established Mission Santa Clara (January 12, 1777). The first Mission Santa Clara was located on the banks of the Guadalupe River on or near where the San Jose Airport now stands.

**Family Reconstruction and Historical Information about
Clareño Ohlone Indian Roberto Antonio Balermimo and Rancho De Los Coches**

Introduction

In 1844, just two years prior to the American conquest of California, Governor Manuel Micheltorena formally granted Rancho de los Coches (the Pigs), to a Mission Santa Clara Clareño (Costanoan/Ohlone) Indian named Roberto Antonio. Roberto, whose historic surname was Balermimo (of unknown origin), had occupied this land west/southwest of confluence point (the meeting of Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek) in downtown San Jose since 1836.

Rancho de los Coches land grant is most probably located within the aboriginal territory of Roberto's direct ancestors that included the district that the Spanish Priests identified as Rancheria San Juan Bautista (not to be confused with the Mission San Juan Bautista located south near Hollister).

Roberto's marriage (ca. 1801) to his first wife, Maria Estefana, connected him to the Rancheria San Francisco Solano district located to the north that included the present-day towns of Alviso and Milpitas.

By 1836 at the time of Secularization of the Franciscan Missions, a period of time when Indian neophytes (baptized Indians) were to receive at least half of Mission owned lands, Roberto and his family had been living on a fairly large land base that was to be formally issued to him as the Rancho de los Coches land grant in 1844. By 1839 Roberto had built his adobe house which is still standing at 770 Lincoln Avenue near Willow Glen.

Roberto's adobe was built approximately 4 miles south/southeast from the location of the first Mission Santa Clara. This residence was also located approximately 1¼ miles to the

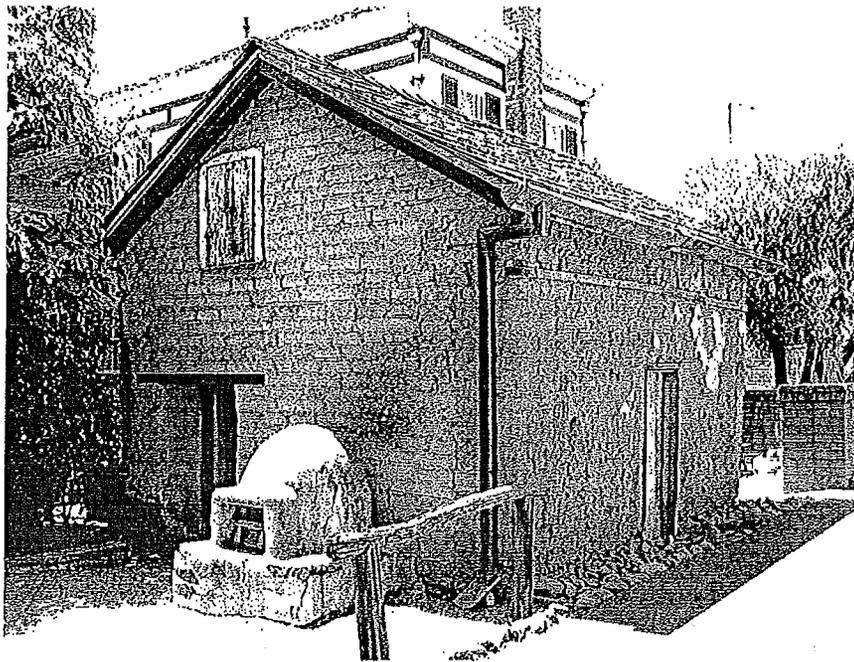
southwest of confluence point, and approximately 1¼ miles from the Tamien Station Site (CA-SCL-690) and approximately 1½ miles from the Park that has yet to be named.

By 1847, Roberto, apparently in debt to Californio Don Antonio Sunol, sold the parcel to him. Sunol permitted Roberto and his family to continue to live on the land until he and his family passed away. Roberto died on October 26, 1847, his second wife Manuela died on February 17, 1849, and their daughter Maria Regina and son Juan Crisostomo, were both reported to have died sometime around 1851.

Several years later, in 1857, the United States Land Commission recognized Sunol's claim and title to the land and formally patented the 2219.341 acre Rancho to him. After taken full possession of the land, Sunol sub-divided the rancho into three parcels. Sunol kept one parcel for himself, gave a parcel to his daughter and her husband (Paula and Pedro Sainsevain), and sold the other to Henry Morris Naglee. Since, the mid-19th century the parcels have been continuously sub-divided, and the name Roberto, has since disappeared from most local history books.

The historic plaque below provides the only public information on Roberto Antonio





Genealogical Background Information on Roberto Antonio the Clareño Tamien Ohlone Indian

Although it is not clear how Roberto obtained the surname Balermino, what was useful in reconstructing Roberto's genealogy and family history was the approximate dates of Roberto, his unnamed wife and his son, Juan Balermino's, deaths from historical sources. By employing Randall Milliken's 1995 publication of the Mission Santa Clara Baptismal database published in *Indians Listed in Mission Santa Clara Baptismal Register 1777 to 1849* and the on-line Huntington Library Mission Records Database, we were successful at the task of tracking down Roberto Antonio's baptismal information and identifying his immediate ancestors as well as members of his 1st and 2nd families (wives and children).

The following information about Roberto Antonio and his family were derived from Milliken's Mission Santa Clara database and independently verified by the online Huntington Library Mission Records Database:

Roberto was baptized **Roberto Antonlo** on September 26, 1785 at the age of 3½ years old (Mission Santa Clara (MSC) Bapt # 0791). He was therefore born ca. 1782. He was identified as being from the **San Juan Bautista (Rancheria/District) Tamien Ohlone**-speaking tribal group. Roberto was listed in the Mission Death Register as dying on October 26, 1847 (MSC Death Register #8053).

Notes: Milliken has tentatively defined The San Juan Bautista district as including the "upper drainage of the Guadalupe River and central portion of Coyote Creek in the Santa Clara Valley, from downtown San Jose south to New Almaden, was held by an unnamed (Tamien Ohlone) tribe. The village (rancheria) designated "San Juan Bautista" in the

Mission Santa Clara vital records was probably the northernmost village of the tribe (1995:252).”

Roberto's father was named by the mission priests Juan Jose, and he was baptized on December 4, 1802 at the age of 40 years (MSC Bapt. # 4384). He also was identified as being from the from the Rancheria San Juan Bautista (district) tribal group. His Indian name was Guascal and he died twenty-two years later on February 7, 1825 (MSC death register #5808). Juan Jose (Guascai) in his own right must have been one of the headmen or *Capitans* of the San Juan Bautista Rancheria, based upon the fact that he was married to at least four different wives: Sulum, Tuson, Ginsequis and a fourth unnamed wife. Roberto's mother's name was identified as Sulum (however it appears that she was never baptized as was listed as a "gentile").

Roberto's Marriage to Maria Estefana and Background Information on Her Family

As a young man age the age of approximately 19 years old, Roberto had married his first wife Maria Estefana sometime around or before 1801 (this date is based upon the birth of one of their children). Maria Estefana was baptized on August 8, 1785 (5 days old) and she was identified as coming from the Rancheria Santa Ysabel (tribal district) Tamien Ohlone speaking tribal group (MSC Bapt. # 0773). In the baptismal register, Maria's father was identified under MSC Bapt. # 0347 and her mother under MSC Bapt. # 0181. Both of her parents were also identified in Milliken's published database. Approximately ten years later, Maria apparently died at the young age of 26, on April 29, 1811 (MSC Death Register #4215).

Based upon the on line Huntington Library Mission Records Database Maria Estefana's father was named Francisco Gil by the Spanish priests and was baptized on April 21, 1782 at the age of 20 years (MSC Bapt. # 0347). His Indian name was Gilan. Francisco was identified as coming from the Rancheria Santa Ysabel (district) Tamien tribal group. His father was identified as Teuzq (abbreviated?) and his mother was named Solue (abbreviated?) both of whom were probably not baptized. Francisco died after four years at the mission on November 15, 1786 (MSC Death Register # 0370).

Notes: The Rancheria Santa Ysabel (district/tribal group "held both the eastern Santa Clara Valley and part of the upper Calaveras Creek drainage in the hills to the east between the Taumans on the north and the Paleños on the south. The central part of their area was Penitencia Creek where Alum Rock Park is today. ... The Mission Santa Clara district name Santa Ysabel initially referred to a single large village on that section of Coyote Creek, a village alternately known to the Spaniards as "the village of Coyote. Two specific village names were mentioned in the Mission Santa Clara registers, Ottasimin (MSC-B 1608) and Socotach (MSC-B 3290). The Santa Ysabel people were absorbed into the Mission Santa Clara over a very long period of time, from 1777 to 1808 (Milliken 1995:253).”

Maria Estefana's mother was named Micaellna Antonia who was baptized on June 18, 1780 at the age of 18 years. She was identified as coming from the Rancheria San

Francisco Solano district/tribal group (MSC Bapt. # 0181). Micaelina's father was identified under MSC Bapt. # 2867 and her mother's name was identified as Passe (abbreviated?). Micaelina died on March 28, 1788 (MSC Death Register # 0463).

The Huntington Library Database produced information that Micaelina's father was named Gaudencio, whose Indian name was Chlgesl. Gaudencio was baptized on December 22, 1794 and he also came from the Rancharia San Francisco Solano district/tribal group (MSC Bapt. #2867). Gaudencio died four years later on June 8, 1798 (MSC Death Register #2115).

Notes: The Rancharia San Francisco Solano (district/tribal group) was part of the larger network of Tamien (Santa Clara Valley) tribal groups. Milliken suggests that the "Tamien tribe held the central Santa Clara Valley along the Guadalupe River from Agnews to the present area of downtown San Jose, and the flat lands westward from the Guadalupe to the present town of Cupertino on upper Stevens Creek. Fathers Murguia and Peña of Mission Santa Clara noted in the title page of their Libro de Bautimos, and again in a letter of 1777, that the mission was built in an area known as Tamlen. ... Three of the twelve villages and village/regions designated with Spanish names in the Santa Clara Mission vital registers probably made up the Tamien tribe: Our Mother Santa Clara, Our Patron San Francisco, and San Jose Cupertino. Those towns were empty by the end of 1795." (Milliken 1995b:256).

The Children of Roberto Antonio and Maria Estefana

Roberto Antonio and Maria Estefana at least four children together before Maria passed away. They had their first(?) child, a son named Roberto (Jr.), on March 4, 1802. Roberto (Jr.) was baptized on March 12, 1802 and his parents were identified by their baptismal numbers: father MSC Bapt. #0791 and mother MSC Bapt. # 0773. Roberto (Jr.) died almost two months later on May 1, 1802 (MSC Death Register # 2748).

Roberto and Maria Estefana had their next child, a daughter named Margarita, on April 27, 1805 (MSC Bapt. # 4726). Margarita was baptized on May 1, 1805 and was listed as being 4 days old. Her parents were again identified by their baptismal numbers. Margarita lived to be about 28 years old and died on February 27, 1833 (MSC Death Register # 6828).

Roberto and Maria Estefana had their next child, a son named Gorgonio. He was baptized on September 2, 1808 (MSC Bapt # 5498). Gorgonio died two months later on November 2, 1808 (MSC Death Register # 3876).

Roberto and Maria had their last (?) child, a son named Saturino in 1810. He was baptized on December 14, 1810 at the age of three days (MSC Bapt. # 5746). Saturino died three months later on March 9, 1811 (MSC Death Register # 4103). As mentioned above Maria Estefana died on April 29, 1811 one month after her son.

Roberto's Second Marriage to Manuela and Information on Their Children

Approximately 4 years after the death of María Estefana, Roberto married a Clareño Ohlone Indian woman named Manuela. Manuela was baptized on November 30, 1804 at the age of 7 years (MSC Bapt. # 4656). Her Indian name was Chebuunot and she was identified as coming from the **Rancheria San Antonio** – Sojue(?) district/tribal group. Forty-four years later, Manuela died on February 17, 1849 (MSC death register # 8207).

Roberto and Manuela were married sometime around or before 1815 and had at least seven children together. Their first (?) child, a daughter named Rosa, on December 11, 1815. Rosa was baptized on December 13, 1815 at the age of 2 days (MSC Bapt. # 6351) and she died on September 22, 1843 at the age of 27 years old (MSC Death Register # 7752).

Roberto and Manuela had their next child, a daughter, named Basilisa on August 16, 1818. She was baptized on August 18, 1818 at two days old (MSC Bapt. # 6716). Basilisa died four years later on October 22, 1822 (MSC Death Register # 5548).

Roberto and Manuela's next child was a daughter named Maria Regina. She was born on May 14, 1821 and was baptized on May 16, 1821 at the age of two days old (MSC Bapt. # 7048). Maria Regina is probably the unidentified sister of Juan Balermimo discussed in Delgado's publication. No date of death was recorded for her in the Mission Records therefore, she might have lived beyond 1849.

Roberto and Manuela had their next child, a daughter, named Gabriela on June 1, 1829. Gabriela was baptized on June 2, 1829 at the age of one day (MSC Bapt. # 8292). Gabriela died a year later on July 16, 1830 (MSC Death Register # 6590).

Roberto and Manuela's next child was a son named Juan Crisostomo. He was born on January 12, 1832 and was baptized on January 13, 1832 at the age of one day. James Delgado in his publication on Antonio Sunol places his death in 1851, which is supported by the fact that no death date was recorded by 1849.

Roberto and Manuela had their next child, a son, named Miguel who was baptized on November 11, 1834 (MSC Bapt. # 8697). Miguel died six days later on November 17, 1834 (MSC Death Register 6976).

Roberto and Manuela had their last(?) child, a daughter, named Maria Cleofas on April 3, 1836. She was baptized on April 4, 1836 at the age of one day (MSC Bapt. # 8865). Maria Cleofas died nine months later on March 11, 1837 (MSC Death Register # 7172).

By the time they had their last child Robert had begun to build the adobe residence on the land that was to become his Rancho de los Coches land grant in 1844.

At present there is not known if any of descendants of Roberto Antonio survived and left children, however, other Clareño Ohlone Indians did survive and married into the Chocheño Ohlone-speaking Indian communities of the East Bay and are presently enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the 1920s when linguist John Peabody Harrington from the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology interviewed two of the Muwekma Elders Maria de los Angeles Colos and Jose Guzman at the Pleasanton, they informed him that "the Clareños were much intermarried with the Chocheños ... the dialects were similar (Harrington October 29, 1929).

Therefore, it is most appropriate to honor **Roberto Antonio Balermino** as one of the historic aboriginal figures in Santa Clara Valley and San Jose History by naming a park after him within his aboriginal homeland and birthplace of his Ohlone ancestors who have resided within this region for more than ten thousand years.

References

Clyde Arbuckle and Ralf Rambo

1968 Santa Clara Ranchos. San Jose, California.

Delgado, James

1977 Witness to Empire: The Life of Antonio Maria Sunol.

Milliken, Randall

1995a *Indians Listed in Mission Santa Clara Baptismal Register 1777 to 1849*. Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency.

1995b *A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area 1769-1810*. Ballena Press