



Save Our Heritage Organisation  
Protecting San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage since 1969

Monday, October 4, 2021

Board of Directors  
Rancho Santa Fe Association  
17022 Avenida de Acacias  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92076

Re: Osuna Adobe Cultural Landscape

Rancho Santa Fe Association Directors,

Save Our Heritage Organisation understands the Rancho Santa Fe Association board is considering developing the cultural landscape of the Osuna Adobe #1 and, again, asks you to carefully consider any proposed development that might negatively impact this significant designated historical resource and its 24-acre cultural landscape. SOHO encourages the board to avoid jeopardizing the National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the acreage that is the cultural setting for the Osuna Adobe #1, which is eligible under Criterion A for its association to broad patterns of California history and Criterion D for its likelihood to yield prehistoric information. A highly significant historic site and cultural landscape to California, San Diego, and Rancho Santa Fe history, environmental review and mitigation will be required under the California Environmental Quality Act.

As the countywide historic preservation advocacy nonprofit, SOHO is familiar with the significance of the Osuna Adobe #1 and its surrounding cultural landscape. An intact Mexican Rancho period adobe that continues to retain its original setting is rare and should be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Recognizing the importance of this vernacular setting early on, the landscape was identified as a "garden retreat" and a significant community amenity. Restrictions to protect trees and native shrubs were established by the formative covenant, which specifies the preservation of rare landscape features. This 24-acre cultural landscape includes the Osuna Adobe #1, the c. 1930s horse stable complex, and a second later complex, horse training infrastructure (corrals, paddocks, and arenas), and miscellaneous maintenance buildings. Significant landscape elements include the natural systems and open space, spatial organization and land use pattern of low-density development, pedestrian and automobile circulation, vegetation and landscaping such as the eucalyptus forest and fruit orchards, views and vistas including the scenic and passive open space, and objects such as furnishings. Visible during the developmental years of the community, the continued presence of these distinctive cultural landscape elements is essential to the character and sense of place that is Rancho Santa Fe.

Due to the level of state, regional, and local significance, the high integrity and rarity of this Mexican Rancho period adobe in its original historic setting, SOHO opposes any development that negatively impacts this important cultural landscape and urges the board to review and abide by the formative covenants that saw the value in preserving the cultural landscape of Rancho Santa Fe.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



Bruce Coons  
Executive Director  
Save Our Heritage Organisation



Amie Hayes  
Senior Historic Resources Specialist

Cc John Vreeburg, Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society  
Cc Cindy Heitzman, California Preservation Foundation