

Native Peoples of the San Diego River valley and the Spanish Mission Period (1769-1833)

The Portola Expedition of 1769 brought Spanish Innovation to this river valley and the Native Peoples like the Inaja Tribe whose numbers once thrived in this river valley are now dwindled to the point of near extinction. The mission period was set into motion by the will of the King of Spain Carlos III and country. The focus was to expel the Jesuits from the Spanish realm, establish the Church by constructing Missions and claim the pacific coast for Spain making way for colonization and trade. Governor Gaspar de Portola was placed in command of this Task.

The First to arrive was the San Antonio making anchor in San Diego Bay on 11, April 1769. Captain Rivera's Colum arrived on May 14, having trekked 300 miles and traveling 50 days by land. Captain Rivera then moved the men inland to a hill at the base of the San Diego River, a place now known as Old Town. Upon arrival of the Commander of Spanish Colonization Gaspar de Portola, also came the first engineer to the San Diego River Valley, Miguel Costano a Catalonian Engineer, Cartographer and Cosmographer.

The way of live for the indigenou peoples would change forever. It was not long before the construction of the first Spanish Mission and Presidio of San Diego. The plain was to construct missions and roads not more than one day's ride apart that would stretch from Baja California to San Francisco. To complete this massive endeavor, Native peoples of the area were drafted, like the Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians, Campo Indian

Reservation, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Jamul Indian Village, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians, Luiseño, Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, Pala Indian Reservation, Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians. These tribes are just the ones from the San Diego river Valley not mentioning those no longer in existence.

Around the year 1810 Mexico began its fight for independence; in 1816 the missionaries petitioned the Mexican rule to allow the Kumeyaay Indian workers to complete construction of a dam and flume begun in 1807. This is the beginning of the San Diego River valley water system for the use of the Mission.

To this day archeological sites from San Diego's past are being preserved and new sites are found within Cleveland National Forest all the time. If you find an Archeological site please do not touch anything and notify a Park Ranger as soon as you can.

San Diego History

<http://www.kumeyaay.info/museums/>

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cleveland/learning/history-culture>