

Rancho Bernardo Timeline of Historic Events



2000



First RB History Museum



2005
First RB History Museum opened at the Bernardo Winery with "casual" construction.

2007
Tragic Witch Creek Firestorm destroyed 365 homes in RB.

2011
RB celebrates its 50th birthday.



1900



Mirador Sales Office



EXPANDING RB

1982
• Great influx of new buyers — "take a number" and wait!! at a lottery in Mirador.
• Rancho Bernardo Historical Society established.

1972
• First traffic signal installed in RB for Bernardo Oaks Drive in Seven Oaks.
• Symphony on the Green Concert first performed for 5,000 guests.

1990
RB was 100% "built out" with 17,200 homes and neighborhood community centers constructed.

1993
Last Symphony on the Green Concert with Rita Coolidge performing.

1968
• AVCO Development purchased controlling interest in Rancho Bernardo, Inc. which became AVCO Community Developers (ACD).
• National Cash Register became the first to build in industrial park. Westwood Community opened.

1969
Wild Animal Park acquired 1800 acres.

1970
Mercado Shopping Center opened.

1971
Westwood Elementary was the first school in Rancho Bernardo.

1977
• Pomerado Hospital opened.
• RB branch of SD Public Library opened.

1963
• Seven Oaks Community Center had its Grand Opening as did the RB Inn and RB Country Club.
• First couple moved into the Greens.
• The first shopping center was opened and included a Safeway grocery store at Pomerado Road and Rancho Bernardo Road.

1961
Lawrence and Donald Daley partnered with Harry Summers and W.R. "Fritz" Hawn to form Rancho Bernardo Inc., to develop 5,400 acres of the ranch into a new planned community.

1966
Cross erected atop Battle Mountain at Easter service.

1967
• RB blanketed in light snow.
• Interstate 15 reached Rancho Bernardo Road from the south.

1943
George R. Daley purchased 6,000 acres to form Daley Ranch.

1962
• Rancho Bernardo was annexed to the City of San Diego.
• First 18-hole golf course completed.
• Construction began on 500 homes in Seven Oaks and the Greens area anticipating future sales @ \$14K to \$21K each.

MODERN RB

1927
Bernardo Winery purchased by Rizzo family (350 acres).

1919
Bernardo Station Bridge was constructed, carrying Inland Highway over Lake Hodges. Inland Highway was renamed Rt. 395 in 1934.

1916
• Great Flood blamed on "rainmaker," Charles Hatfield, washed out Bernardo Bridge.
• Col. Ed Fletcher and Wm. Henshaw of the San Diego Mutual Water Company purchased Lake Hodges land.

1912
Below freezing in local area for 72 hours.

1918
Lake Hodges Dam completed.

1925
SD County Water Company, later San Diego Water Department, secured valley land and leveled Bernardo.

1882
Author, Helen Hunt Jackson, visited the Bernardo General Store for research for her novel, *Ramona*.

1874
Patrick Graham purchased two acres for a general store. Later came a school, Grange Hall and Bill Ober's blacksmith shop.

1887
Stage coach service began — Valley Center through Bernardo to San Diego — taking eight hours one way.

1878
San Pasqual Band of Indians forcefully evicted from valley.

1870
Sikes Adobe farmstead pioneered by the Sikes Family.

1867-69
• Rancho San Bernardo sold. Six owners to follow.
• Zenas Sikes purchased land from James McCoy.

1858
Maria Antonia Snook was confirmed as the owner of Rancho San Bernardo by U.S.

1848
• California became a US Territory by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
• Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill.
• Don Jose Francisco Snook died.

1846
• A three day Mexican War engagement took place at Mule Hill, part of the Battle of San Pasqual between General Stephen W. Kearney and Captain Andres Pico.
• Sergeant John Cox died and was buried on Mule Hill.

1836
Last mission in California secularized with enormous wealth shifted to private owners. Californios culture began to develop.

1837
• Four killed in Indian attack at San Bernardo ranch house.
• Don Jose Francisco Snook & Doña Maria Antonia Alvarado married.

1822
Hide trade with Americans opened with the arrival of the first trade ship from Boston.

1820s
Yuma to San Diego historic road began to evolve across future RB.

1821
Mexico achieved full independence from Spain and took control of Alta California.

1800
"San Bernardo" first appeared on a map.

1769
Gaspar de Portola and Fr. Junipero Serra established a presidio, mission, and pueblo in San Diego.

1602
Sebastian Vizcaino renamed the area San Diego.

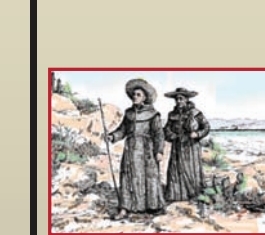
1500s
As many as 3,000 native people, in many villages, were living in the RB area.

2000 BC
Kumeyaay-Ipai (Northern Diegueños) first appeared in the local area.

1000 BC
Native people were living in the Piedras Pintadas (Painted Rocks) area near the waterfall in north Westwood.

1542
The San Salvador under Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo landed at later-named San Diego Bay. He named it San Miguel.

1600
Sebastian Vizcaino



Sebastian Vizcaino



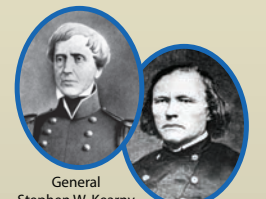
Hide hunters below Mule Hill



Captain Andres Pico



Battle of San Pasqual



General Stephen W. Kearny
Kit Carson



Town of Bernardo



Charles Hatfield



Eliza Sikes



Don Jose Francisco Snook
Doña Maria Antonia Alvarado



Sketch by Joseph E. Lopez



San Salvador Off Point Loma
Painting by Richard DeRosset.



Sketch by Sam Daijogo

NATIVE

SPANISH

MEXICAN

ANGLO TRANSITION PERIOD

MODERN RB

EXPANDING RB

FUTURE