

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

October 2013

You Can Help ...

When community members who care about More Mesa request to be on our supporter list, we ask that they supply at least one other form of contact, in addition to their e-mail address. We do this so that in the event someone changes servers, we don't "lose" them. A phone number is preferred because it is a faster checking mechanism than mail. With this in mind, if you have signed up with only an e-mail contact, we encourage you to either let us know when you change servers, or send us a phone number for inclusion in our data base.

Thanks so much!



What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

There is no news this month.

Ask the President ... continuing on the issue of whether the development area for More Mesa can be changed

Q. What happened with regard to the recent Updated Biological Resources Study?

A. It was conducted, but a final report has never been issued.

Last month we discussed the first step in the process to change the development envelope on More Mesa, the requirement for an Updated Biological Resources Study. Rincon Consulting completed this study and concluded that More Mesa is just as environmentally sensitive as it was three decades ago. They offered two preliminary recommendations, one for 20 acres of developable area and one for 40 acres. However the locations for both recommendations were shifted around from the current allowable area. Upon receipt of the draft study and the two recommendations, the previous owner terminated the study ... before it was finalized.

A draft of the report was eventually published by the County in December 2010. This 430 page document can be found [here](#)

When the report was released, the Planning Department stated: "This study is a DRAFT. Any recommendations in the document are strictly recommendations and carry no force of law. At this time there is no plan for public workshops or to take it to the decision makers for their review and approval." (The statement with regard to public workshops and review and approval of decision makers, are the next two steps in any process to change the More Mesa development envelope.)

This is where we stand today: three years later. However, some may remember a development proposal that surfaced in spring of 2012. It tried to exploit one of the recommendations of the draft



Cottonwood Leaves in
Autumn

as legally binding, when it obviously was not. **The approved development area remains as per the map below.**

[This Month on More Mesa ... it's fall](#)

Those who don't live in our beautiful Santa Barbara area often make a big issue of the fact that they love the changing seasons, and note that we don't have them here. We all know we do, but the changes are subtle and you have to look more closely to be aware of them. For example, one of the family of our native trees, one less represented on More Mesa, is the Black Cottonwood. There are three very large, visible and spectacular examples of these deciduous trees on the eastern side of More Mesa, just south of the Cyprus grove. And if you look at the area surrounding these three giants you will see that there are also a sizeable number of younger Cottonwoods, creating a small, delightful Cottonwood grove. Now, in Autumn, the round distinctive leaves of the Cottonwoods are turning yellow and beginning to fall. The trees will be bare throughout Winter, with leaves reappearing again in late February or early March ... our Spring. There are indeed seasons on More Mesa!

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all times. We've been at it since 2000.



Cottonwood Grove

The Past ... enter the enterprising More family

Peter Alexander More, the patriarch of the More family was born in Scotland and immigrated to central Ohio in the early 1800s. His sprawling family included six sons and six daughters. The sons, lured by the potential for lateral exploitation of the Gold Rush, all eventually settled in California. Three of the brothers formed a company that amassed fabulous fortunes by acquiring cheap cattle in the south and driving them north to sell at the gold fields. These sizable profits they invested in real estate, much of it on the Central and South Coast. Counted among their investments were Santa Rosa Island, the Lompoc and Santa Clara River Valleys and sections of the Goleta Valley.



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