

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

April 2016



[You Can Help ...](#)

[What's Happening With Potential Development?](#)

We are working closely with the County Planning Department and have heard nothing in the past month.

[Ask The President](#)

Q: Recent news has been full of the disastrous four-month gas leak that occurred at Aliso Canyon in the San Fernando Valley. Could anything like that happen here?

A: PUC says NO!

You may remember that we discussed the natural gas aquifer under More Mesa in our [May 2015 issue](#) of this update. This aquifer is officially known, and aptly named, the "La Goleta storage field" ... in honor of the La Goleta Rancho owned by Daniel Hill, one of our [early Yankee pioneers](#). We are happy to report the results of a recent survey of natural gas storage fields conducted by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Specifically, they report that the La Goleta storage field has experienced 17 leaks. All of these were above ground, all non-hazardous and all have been repaired.



Pipes that service the La Goleta storage field

Because at some point we will need to make the case that More Mesa is used by the public in many ways, it would be great if we had more good photos of all the different ways our community enjoys More Mesa. Some examples would be things like children on a school science trip, people on horseback, folks on bikes, kids flying kites, hikers etc. Being able to have a really wide range of these photos would be terrific.

Thanks so much!

*Valerie Olson
President, MMPC*



[This Month 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 2001.

Recent rains have made our favorite place even lovelier than it was last month!



Coastal Flower Show

The Past - Sound Familiar?

In our lives, and past newsletters, we have all been acutely conscious of our current record-breaking drought. And this one is by no means the only severe drought we have experienced. In our [April 2014 issue](#) we talked about the truly disastrous drought of 1863-1864, the second part of a drought-flood combination that permanently changed the face of our lovely valley from one of large, sprawling ranchcos to one of significantly smaller agricultural parcels. Indeed history shows us repeatedly that drought cycles are part of our climate regime and should never be a surprise.

For example, in early 1877, just 13 years after the previous devastating drought, the Goleta Valley experienced another severe drought. Great numbers of cattle and sheep died for lack of adequate feed. However many were saved by relocating stock to distant places. Our shrewd T. Wallace Moore chose to drive 10,000 head of his stock over the mountains to the area of Lake Elizabeth, on the edge of what is now the Los Padres National Forest.

Our area's last modern drought occurred in the early 1990s and one before that in the mid 1970s. Doesn't it all sound very familiar? Droughts are a way of life in California and they will only get worse with climate change. We all need to treasure our water and use it wisely.

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