

Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society

P.O. Box 1

Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

March 19, 2012

Osuna Adobe Committee

Rancho Santa Fe Association

Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Dear Osuna Committee Members:

Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society's Mission Statement,

"to collect, preserve, research and interpret the documents, photos, and artifacts that connect us and Rancho Santa Fe to its past. The opportunity to learn more about the history of this special village is offered through exhibitions, historic sites, the archives, special events, educational programs and publications."

In this spirit, this letter conveys and represents the position of the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society regarding the proposed rehabilitation/restoration of the Osuna 1 Adobe. The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society through a board action felt compelled to comment on this issue since it will affect the entire community.

The Osuna 1 Adobe represents the essence of the historic evolution and development of the Rancho Santa Fe Community, *"layers of California history, from Spanish pueblo, to Mexican rancho, to an ambitious horticultural experiment gone awry and finally to an inspired planned community. The very name Rancho Santa Fe (the namesake of the Santa Fe Railway) is a result of the marriage of these historical eras testifying to life in southern California during the 19th and 20th centuries. This extraordinary tract of land continues to convey its history even today."*
Images of America: Rancho Santa Fe, Arcadia Publishing, 2010

The ca. 1831 Silvas Family adobe was expanded during the Osuna Family ownership, adding a living room and sleeping porch between 1865 and 1906. When the Santa Fe Railway purchased Rancho San Dieguito, the condition of Osuna 1 was near collapse, abandoned and neglected for several decades. This photograph shows the original porch, which extended the entire rear elevation – Ramada style- with a raised wood deck. A wood-framed water tower with a tank was the sole source of water. (Exhibit 1)

In 1923, in her first project during the Santa Fe period, architect Lilian J. Rice made changes to the floor plan to render the Adobe livable. She added a new tile roof, improved structural integrity, applied new plaster inside and out, installed new windows and doors (with shutters), created an indoor bathroom and designed a sizable fireplace in the living room. She tiled a new