

Anza Expedition of 1776



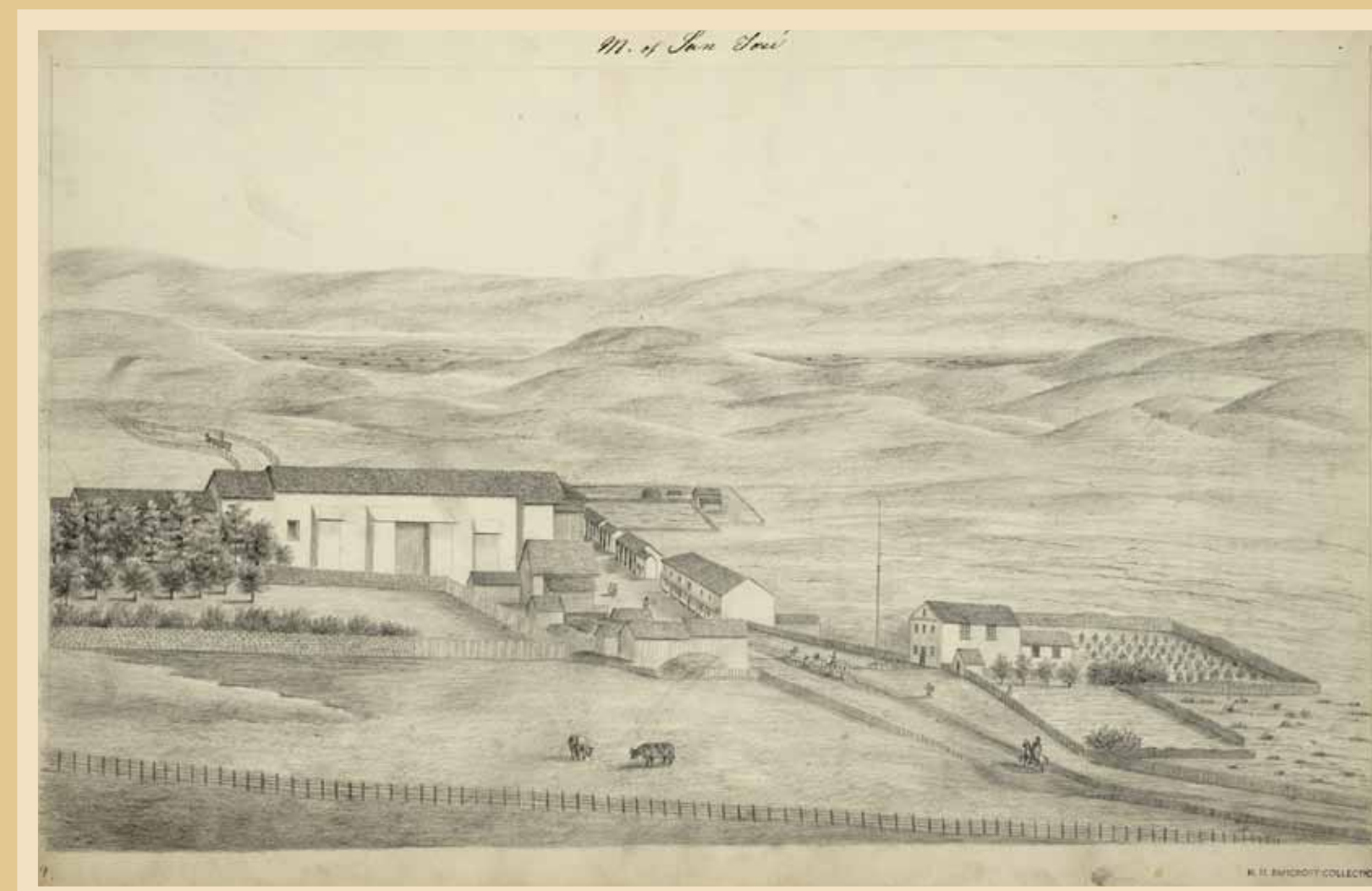
Signs of Change

Íyyanu ja sultáawukma mak innutka (Chocheño, the local Ohlone dialect)

Literal English translation: *There come the white people on our trails.*

Translation by Catherine Callaghan, Ph.D. (linguist)

Near this site on March 31, 1776, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, and a small group of settlers and soldiers passed through on their way to investigate the place now known as the San Francisco Delta. These men had recently left the Presidio in Monterey, California, where Anza brought 240 people 1,800 miles from Sonora, Mexico to colonize the Bay Area. By 1777 the newcomers had helped establish three Spanish-controlled settlements in San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Jose.



Mission San Jose established in 1797, located in present-day Fremont. Drawing from the 1800s.

On March 31, Anza and his men encountered several Indians. Some fled, others waited for them, one offered food. At Alameda Creek, they heard an unfamiliar language. At San Lorenzo Creek, they surprised and terrified a lone man. For local tribal peoples, these encounters led to decades of disruption, dislocation, suffering, and change; first under Spanish rule, then under the Mexican and American governments.



Welcome to the homeland of the Tuibun,
an Ohlone-speaking tribe.



This panel funded in part by the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District.