

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

May 2014

You Can Help ...

Visit More Mesa during this lovely time of year. Take pictures and send us the ones that are your favorites. For scientific and illustrative purposes, we value images of More Mesa's vistas, plants, trees, animals and birds. But most of all we love shots of people recreating on More Mesa and enjoying it's many treasures.

Thanks so much!

Valerie Olson

What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

As of this writing, no development plans have been discussed with, or submitted to, County Planning. Basically, all is quiet.

Ask the President

Q. Is all of More Mesa private property?

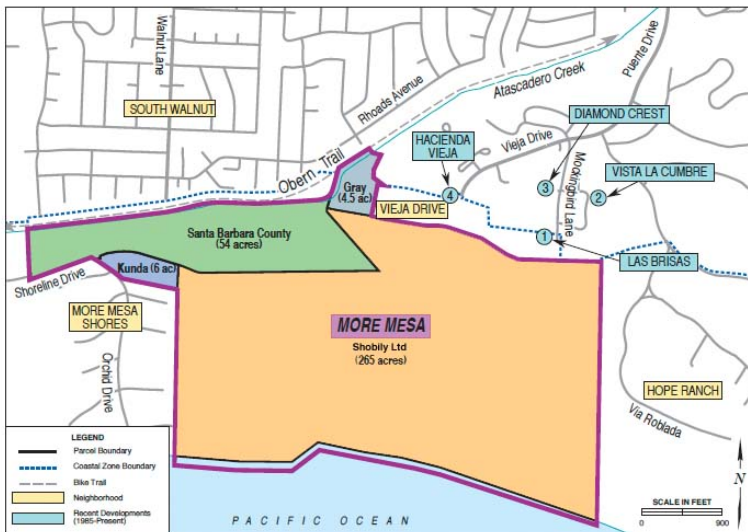
A. **Most of it is.** The privately owned part of More Mesa consists of six parcels totaling 265 acres owned by Sheik Khalid S. Shobily of Saudi Arabia. However, an additional 54 acres of More Mesa in the northwest corner adjoining Atascadero Creek are owned by Santa Barbara County. Of this county owned land, the westernmost 19 acres are under the purview of Flood Control and the adjoining 35 acres, know as More Mesa County Open Space are under County Parks. See map below.

President, MMPC



Blue-eyed Grass

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



Major Portion of More Mesa is Privately Owned.

This Month on More Mesa: The "Ghost of Spring" reported in our last issue became a solid body of delightful vistas and colorful flowers in late April. The very short grasses grew two or three times taller and the whole of More Mesa changed to vibrant greens. Very unexpectedly there were many large fields of Blue-eyed Grass prominently displayed, and in close proximity to major trails. Also in evidence were Redmaids, a native we rarely find! However, the recent heat wave has put a "golden glow" on several of the green areas.



Redmaids

To view images of all the flowers on More Mesa, visit plant listings on our [MMPC web site](#).

The Past: T. Wallace and the Road Fiasco

In the 1850s the roads in and out of our fair city were truly terrible. For example, the only road from San Buenaventura to Santa Barbara was right along the beach. The unstable cliffs (sometimes as high as 400 feet) and the propensity of high tides to wash debris on shore, made this route worthless for transporting goods. The route over Gaviota Pass was equally unsuitable. As a result, Santa Barbara was missing out on a lot of business opportunities.

T. Wallace More, who by 1860 was one of the largest landowners in the county, stood to have his property values soar if there were roads to the outside world. So, T. Wallace bid on, and was awarded, a contract for \$15,000. With this contract, he committed to building a road from the Los Angeles County line to the San Luis Obispo County line. Soon, it became very clear that while More was good at ranching and acquiring land and money, he knew absolutely nothing about building roads. Not a single bridge or roadway was built. Ten thousand of the fifteen thousand dollars was advanced to More and was never seen again. Thus, Santa Barbara's first attempt at road building ended in disaster, with the county investing three years, a considerable amount of money, and nothing to show for it. The local press blamed the entire fiasco on More's lack of technical knowledge and unpardonable laxity in business transactions. Fortunately, though, he left a wonderful legacy in

More Mesa.

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