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**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

2200 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063  
650.299.0104 | [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org)

Attn: Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail Committee Partners

March 13, 2019

I hope that you will consider writing a letter to the California State Office of Historic Preservation to support our 1100 members of the San Mateo County Historical Association efforts to obtain California State Historic Trail Designation status for the projected Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail in San Mateo County. Certainly the 250th anniversary of Gaspar de Portolá's sighting of the San Francisco Bay, on November 4, 1769, makes this a timely initiative. This discovery had tremendous ramifications for the way in which the Spanish colonial system in Alta California was organized. Moreover, from the perspective of the indigenous people of California, and particularly the Ohlone of our area, things would be rapidly changing as well - - sadly in a most detrimental way, as scholarly research has shown that the Ohlone people did not fare well in the Franciscan missions.

While creation of the trail itself is the work of a variety of agencies, it is being led by San Mateo County Parks and Recreation. Because the San Mateo County Historical Association has been helping with the trail effort from the outset, I can testify to the great sensitivity and high historical standards County Parks has maintained in the planning process. They have been mindful that this is really the story of two people who came together in a significant way for the first time with heavy historical impact. Their efforts are to be commended.

Our Historical Association's role is to act as a resource for the overall effort, but we are taking the lead in gaining statewide historical status for the trail. Your letter of support will be greatly appreciated. I have attached the nomination proposal, written by two volunteers. Please email or send your letter to me by March 29 so that we can place it within our package to the state.

Sincerely,

Mitch Postel  
President