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#### **Authors**

O'Neil, Stephen

Evans, Nancy H

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# Notes on Historical Juaneño Villages and Geographical Features

STEPHEN O'NEIL  
NANCY H. EVANS

The founding of Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776 was responsible for deriving the term Juaneño for the Takic speakers associated with that mission (Bean and Shipek 1978: 550). Although White's (1963:91) study indicated that the Juaneño and Luiseño Indians were ethnologically and linguistically one ethnic nationality, the Juaneño portion of their territory is traditionally described separately. Juaneño territory, which extended from the Pacific Ocean inland to encompass the eastern slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains in southern California, contained a wide range of ecological zones and resource features. Boscana (Harrington 1934:62) noted for the Juaneño that ". . . these Indians never lived fixed in a single place, but moved from time to time from one place to another depending on the seeds . . ." He was referring to his observation that ". . . there were always some unoccupied rancherías". Nevertheless, delineated hunting, collecting, and fishing areas in various ecological zones belonged to sedentary and autonomous village groups (Bean and Shipek 1978:551).

Since 1925 when Kroeber placed the names of a few Juaneño settlements on his map entitled "Native Sites in Part of Southern

California" (Kroeber 1925:Pl. 57), more information describing the location of Juaneño villages and named geographical features has become available (cf. Boscana 1933; Crespi 1927; Geiger 1967; Harrington 1934). Cross-checking Kroeber's (1908, 1925, 1959) Juaneño placenames with these additional sources and others, and also with recent site reports from archaeological survey and excavation in Orange and San Diego counties, adds tentative support for locating some of these villages and features more accurately.

The following notes and map (Fig. 1) bring together these references describing the named locations of twelve historical Juaneño villages and nineteen geographical features. Eight springs are discussed in a separate section because Harrington's (1933*b*) detailed descriptions allowed us to verify several of their locations<sup>1</sup> despite the modified surroundings. These springs are potential indicators of as yet unlocated historical villages.<sup>2</sup> In a few cases, named geographical features and locales figured prominently in historical or mythological events having a religious or sacred context.

We have limited the notes primarily to the area delineated by Kroeber (1925:636) between Aliso Creek to the northwest and Las Flores Creek (Las Pulgas Canyon) to the southeast.<sup>3</sup> However, we included two villages, *Uxme* and

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Stephen O'Neil, Dept. of Anthropology, California State University, Long Beach, CA 90801. Nancy H. Evans, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521.

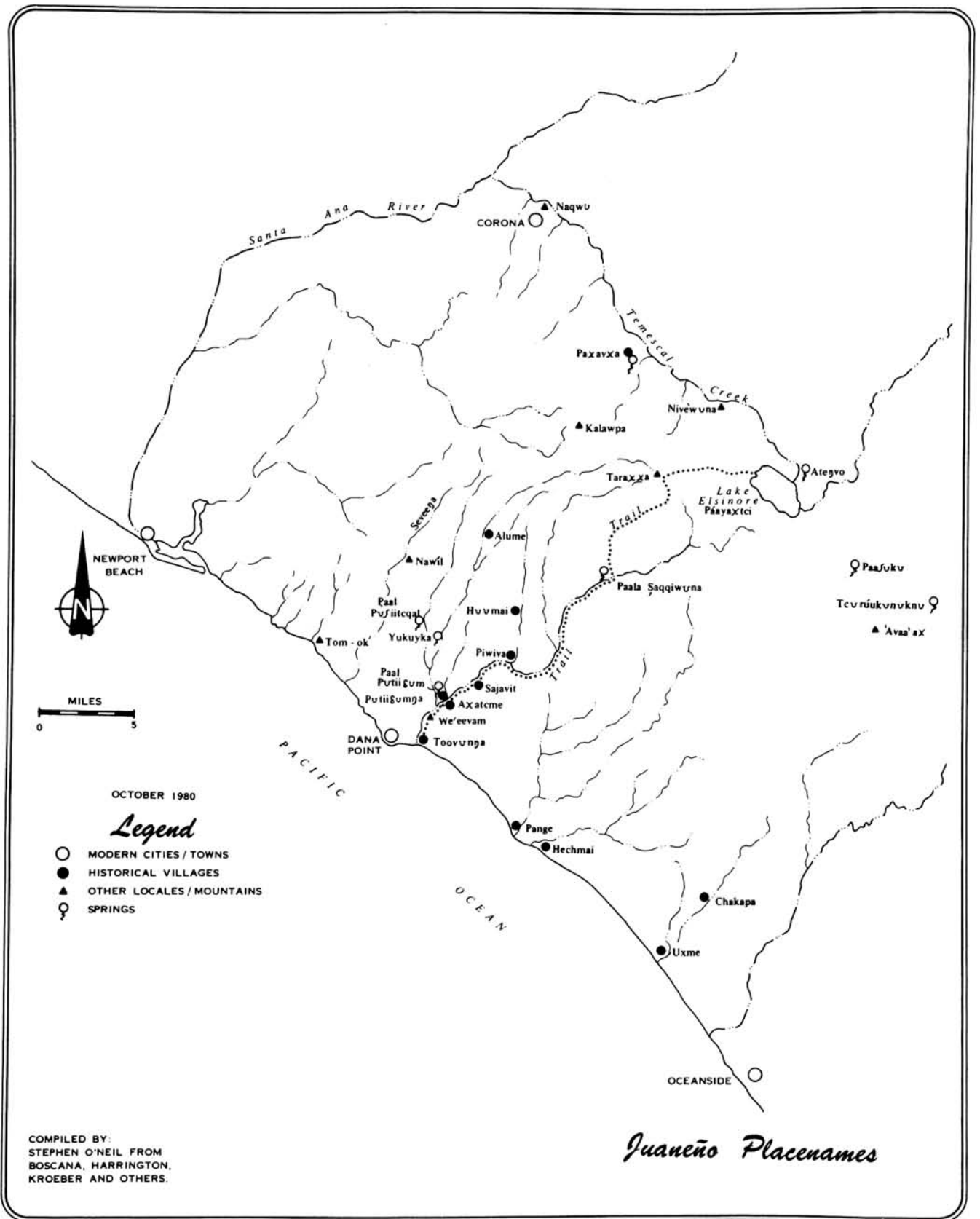


Fig. 1. Juaneño village sites and other geographical features of Juaneño territory.

*Chakapa*, whose locations are still approximate and whose names are to be found in the mission records of both San Juan Capistrano and San Luis Rey (White 1963:109).

Further research using both the mission records of San Juan Capistrano, and the unpublished notes of J. P. Harrington should provide a richer and more accurate picture of Juaneño occupation and territorial use.

### JUANEÑO VILLAGES

#### Τόονηηα

Serra. Harrington (1933b:148) described it as "Serra, the nearest point on the beach from San Juan Capistrano Mission." Corresponds to Boscana (1933:60) who listed *Tebone*, "... which signifies an herb which grows in the seashore lagoon at the mouth of the creek estuary at the beach at the port of this Mission, and the Indians used it among their foods." Archaeological site CA-Ora-28, at the town of Serra, is described in the site report as a "large camp."

#### Ρυτιίδωμ

El Aguagito (see *Paal Ρυτιίδωμ* under Springs). Harrington (1933b:219-220) tentatively places it at El Aguagito after a consideration of other local springs. Corresponds to Boscana (1933:57) who says,

They came to a place about a quarter of a league before reaching this Mission . . . where there is a spring of water . . . to this place they gave the name of *Putuidem*, which means navel sticking out, because the said Coronne had a lump at her navel.

It was said to be founded by Chief Oyaison and his daughter Coronne, or *Putuidem*, as the first ranchería in the cañada of San Juan Capistrano and was later ruled by a relative called Choqual who also ruled *Atoum-pumcaxque* (Boscana 1933:60). Kroeber (1925:636) mentions *Pu-tuid-em* at *Niwiti* with no further explanation. Site CA-Ora-855, a large and "late village site" (Drover and Koerper 1980:1-2) adds support to this location.

#### 'Αγατμε

San Juan Capistrano. Harrington's (1933b:223) informants knew it as the Indian equivalent of the Spanish name San Juan Capistrano; which referred to the town or "el pueblo." Boscana (1933:84) says,

. . . the Indians, on returning home, arrived and put up for the night at a place called *Acagchemen*, distant from where the mission now stands only about sixty yards. From this time, the new colony assumed the name corresponding to the place. *Acagchemen* signifies a pyramidal form of anything that moves, such as an anthill or place of resort for other insects.

Kroeber (1908:150) equates both *Aghashmai* and *Akhachmai* to San Juan Capistrano. At CA-Ora-600, on the school grounds of the elementary school at San Juan Capistrano, Native Americans recently located a fire pit or ring, some stone artifacts, and a quantity of shell, indicating a need for further archaeological investigation.

#### Sajivit

Original mission site, located approximately two miles northeast of present mission, on a bluff (Geiger 1967:37-45; Meadows 1967:337-343). Mission San Juan Capistrano de Quanis-savit was founded by Fr. Junipero Serra on November 1, 1776. Mission records were later corrected to read "Q. Sajivit" when referring to the site. *Kwanisa-vit* was given for an alternate name to both *Ahachmai* and *Akagchemem* by Kroeber (1925:636) who said they were either dialects or sites. CA-Ora-243, located on the above mentioned bluff, has suffered heavy disturbance but was recorded as a village site.

#### Piwiva

Kroeber (1909:150, 1925:Pl. 57) locates it on the west bank of Gobernadora Canyon where it joins San Juan Canyon. Crespi (1927:137) reported that the Portolá Expedition of 1769 visited two friendly villages in

Gobernadora Canyon. Harrington (1933b:114) gives *Pii'iv* as a locational for *piivat*, tobacco (*Nicotiana* sp.), which grows commonly in Orange County. Evelyn Villegas (personal communication) said that her mother used *no-pevit* as a term for "tobacco."

### Huumai

Kroeber (1908:150) located *Huumai* northeast of *Piwiva*, he also placed it on his settlement map (Kroeber 1925:Pl. 57). Tentatively associated with visit of Portolá Expedition (Crespi 1927:127) as second of two villages visited in Gobernadora Canyon.

### Alume

Boscana (Harrington 1934:62) reported this fourteenth ranchería as located at the foot of a very high mountain which was called "El Trabuco" (Santiago Mountain, see *Kalawpa*), and said to signify "to raise the head in looking upward." Crespi (1927:138) wrote:

... we pitched our camp on a very long mesa of earth [Plano Trabuco] which runs to the foot of a high mountain range, from which flows an arroyo of good water. Instantly the Indians from a village in the valley came to visit us.

Kroeber (1908:150) identified *Alona* with Trabuco.

### Panga

Boscana (Harrington 1934:62) stated that the sixth ranchería of *Panga*, signifying "canyada," had been called "San Mateo" since its discovery. Kroeber (1908:150, 1925:Pl. 57, 1959:287) equated *Pankhe* with San Mateo, placed *Panhe* on his map, and said that *Panga* meant "at the water," respectively. Chase (1977:2) reported that the greatest number of baptismal records at San Juan Capistrano Mission were from the village of "*Pange*" or "San Mateo, alias *Pange*," and tentatively identified it with CA-Ora-22.

### Hechmai

Kroeber (1925:Pl. 57) placed the settlement of *Hechmai* at the mouth of the San Onofre Arroyo on the south bank; earlier, he listed it as *Khechmai-San Onofre* (1908:150). White (1963:108) listed *Hechmai* as a village outside his study area of the Luiseño proper.

### Uxme

Kroeber (1908:148, 1959:288) equated *Uxme* with Las Flores, and discussed it as a site called "usmay" which "gave rise to the Spanish Las Flores, a creek and valley at the Juaneño-Luiseño boundary." Boscana (Harrington 1934:62) reported *Uxme*, signifying rose, as the fifteenth ranchería in the Canyada of San Juan Capistrano. According to Meadows (n.d.:2), an asistencia of the Mission San Luis Rey was built called "Las Flores" or "San Pedro." The Las Pulgas Canyon, Calif., Quadrangle, USGS 7.5' (1968), shows the "Asistencia de Las Flores (ruins)" on the north side of the mouth of Las Pulgas Canyon, one-half mile east of the Pacific Ocean. Las Flores is the name of the river which flows through Las Pulgas Canyon.

### Chakapa

Tentatively placed in Las Pulgas Canyon. Kroeber (1908:148) said that *Chakapa* was in Luiseño territory. White (1963:109) listed two village names, *Chacape* and *Chacap* from the San Juan and San Luis mission records, respectively, which he thought were equivalents. During the Portolá expedition, Crespi (1927:133) noted a village in the Valley of Santa Praxedis de los Rosales, now known as Las Pulgas.

### Paɣavɣa

Harrington (1933b:114) equated *Paɣavɣa* with El Temascal, including the hot spring there. Kroeber (1908:143, 1925:Pl. 57) located *Pakhavkha* on Temescal Creek, and placed *Pahav* near Temescal Creek on his map. Heizer (1968:frontispiece) placed Pa au a on the

north bank of Temescal Creek across from modern Corona several miles downstream from El Temascal with no explanation.

### SPRINGS

#### **Paal Pʻtʻiiδʻm**

Tentatively placed at El Aguajito, 0.8 miles north of Highway 101 at a point where an old sycamore stands on one side of the highway (Harrington 1933b:218).

#### **Pall Pʻʻiitcʻqal**

El Aguage del Caute, at the foot of a hill 4.9 miles northwest of San Juan Capistrano Mission by the present Highway 101 where the overhead bridge of the highway goes over the Santa Fe track. Meaning "water trickling out" (Harrington 1933b:218).

#### **Yukuyka**

North bank of Trabuco Creek, one and one-half miles upstream of the Highway 101 bridge, and about one and one-half miles north of the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Meaning "point of the hill" (Harrington 1933b:218).

#### **Paʻavʻa**

El Temascal, including the hot springs there (Harrington 1933b:114).

#### **Paala Sáqqiwʻna**

Tentatively identified with *Palasakeuna* as San Juan Hot Springs (Kroeber 1908:150, 1925:Pl. 57) although Harrington (1933b:114) gave it as a reference for Murrieta Hot Springs. Meaning "hot water." See *Tcʻrúukʻnʻkʻmʻ*.

#### **'Ateŋvo**

Elsinore Hot Springs. The name is also applied to the locality of the city of Elsinore (Harrington 1933b:114). Meaning "hot springs."

#### **Páaʻʻkʻv**

Spring at Wildemar. Locational term for California Dwarf Wapiti, or Elk (*Cervus nannoides* Merriam) (Harrington 1933b:114).

#### **Tcʻrúukʻnʻkʻnʻ**

Murrieta Hot Springs, with an alternative of *Paala Sáqqiwʻna* (Harrington 1933b:114).

### OTHER FEATURES

#### **Nawil**

Locale. Known to Harrington's (1933b:216) informant, Acu, as the name of two distinct places: 1. the locality where the present Highway 101 crosses Aliso Creek; 2. "Niger" Canyon (Emerald Canyon) downcoast of Abalone Point and upcoast of Laguna Beach. He listed numerous informants who said that *Niguil* Ranch took its name from the former place. Boscana (1933:83) reported that ". . . they arrived at a place called *Niguiti*, which is situated half a league from the mission." Tentatively placed at first location.

#### **We'eevam**

Across San Juan Capistrano Creek and somewhat downstream from San Juan Capistrano town (Harrington 1933b:223).

#### **Naqʻwʻ**

The City of Corona. Meaning "Laurel Sumac" (*Rhus laurina* Nutt.) (Harrington 1933b:114).

#### **ʃeveeŋa**

Aliso Creek. Meaning "at the sycamores" (Harrington 1933b:217).

#### **'Avaa'aʻ**

Town of Murrieta. Locational term for Cottonwood (Harrington 1933b:114).

#### **Tom-ok'**

Locale. Laguna (Evelyn Villegas, personal communication).

#### **Nivé'wʻna**

Alberhill. Harrington (1933b:114) states that it is "short for *Páayaʻtci Nivé'wʻna*, literally down in at Elsinore Lake."

**Páayaχtci**

Lake Elsinore. Harrington (1933b:114) referred to it first as Lake Elsinore and more specifically as the site of the old Machado Ranch house, with Páayaʃnan as Lake Elsinore in the Temescal dialect. This was the place where, "according to the San Juan Indians, man was created out of the mud of the lake" (Harrington 1933a:81). Kroeber's (1908:114, 1925:Pl. 57) terms for Lake Elsinore are *Paiakche* and *Paiahache*, respectively.

**Kalawpa**

Santiago Mountain (Saddleback). Mentioned ceremonially as one of the sacred mountains, and said to mean "place of timber" (Harrington 1933b:114, 115).

**Taraχza**

El Potrero de los Pinos, above San Juan Hot Springs, and may include Los Pinos Peak (Harrington 1933b:115).

**Unnamed Trail**

Those Indians who lived in the Corona-Temescal-Elsinore region used to come to the coast in summer especially by way of El Potrero de los Pinos-San Juan Hot Springs trail. They took three days for the journey on foot, camping the first night at El Potrero de los Pinos, the second night at San Juan Hot Springs, and the third night at San Juan Capistrano or the beach (Harrington 1933b:113-114).

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**NOTES**

1. The senior author was a member of an archaeological team which surveyed the San Joaquin Hills from Corona del Mar south to Laguna. As part of his own investigation, he visited several of the sites under discussion.

2. Nine of the fifteen rancherías mentioned by Boscana (Harrington 1934:61-62) as founded in the "canyada of San Juan Capistrano" have, as yet, not been located. They are: *Ulbe*, *Eñe*, *Souche*, *Tobe*, *Túmune*, *Tepipche*, *Ecjelme*, *Tajé*, and *Uút*.

3. Since Kroeber (1925:620) attributes the northern portion of Orange County to Gabrielino territory, we have omitted the following villages and geographical features from the notes and map: 1. Villages: *Hutukya* (Harrington 1933b:114); *Lukup*, *Moyo* (Kroeber 1925:Pl. 57); and *Policarpio* (Meadows 1966:112). 2. Geographical features: *Katuktu* (hill), *Nawil* (canyon), and *Wanawna* (river) (Harrington 1933b:114, 185, 215).

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