



Sorrento Valley Town Council

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Sorrento Valley History

1800's - 2021

Mira Mesa Community is made up of three distinct neighborhoods – Mira Mesa, Miramar, and Sorrento Valley. Sorrento Valley, located roughly west of Camino Santa Fe, incorporates both business and residential areas and is known as San Diego's high-technology jobs center, with over 46,000 jobs.

The Ystagua (pronounced *istawa*) people - who today call themselves Kumeyaay – were California Indians who occupied this area for several thousand years. Sorrento Valley was originally known as *Canada de la Soledad* (Solitary Valley or Mountain). The area was later christened Sorrento Valley in the 1800's by a European expedition who were inspired by the gorgeous landscape, reminiscent of Sorrento, Italy.

The rustic ambiance of that time remained generally unchanged, even after rail expansion and the introduction of the automobile, until the establishment of a major interstate corridor. In the 1960s, Sorrento Valley began to transform into the technology, life science and pharmaceutical hub it is today. In 1970 a company named Linkabit moved here from Los Angeles and over the next twenty-five years helped to spawn many other high-tech companies. One of the owners, Irwin Jacobs, later founded Qualcomm, which has undergone tremendous growth over the years.

The multitude of high-tech, scientific, and healthcare companies here today includes General Atomics, Hologic, Google, and Illumina. San Diego is now the third largest Life Sciences center in the country.

In the early 1990's, builders saw an opportunity to build single family housing along Sorrento Valley Blvd. and in the Wateridge area along Lusk Blvd. To date, there are approximately 1,950 homes in the neighborhood.

With the proximity of UCSD, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Salk Institute, and the lush canyon views, Sorrento Valley attracts scientists, researchers, and investors to the area. Another big draw may be the fact that Sorrento Valley is also known for its stellar craft beer breweries, including Karl Strauss, New English, Green Flash, and Longship.