

## CHRONOLOGY OF TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



This is the official logo of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. It was created in 1981 by Lisa Manley and is on the cover of the Adopted Master Plan. Note: It is protected by copyright.

### EARLY HISTORY UP UNTIL THE 1950s

Sources for this portion of Tecolote Canyon's history are varied. Some information came to the author by word of mouth, her own recollections, some from a short history written in 1985 by a middle school student, Rusty Kosits, from two old articles from local newspapers (one, probably a column by Bill Wright, undated, in *The San Diego Union*, a second by John Davidson, "Tecolote, Large Horned Owl", *The San Diego Tribune*, Jan 24, 1936) and of course the internet.

The first known residents of Tecolote Canyon were a group identified as La Jolla Indians, who predated the Kumeyaay. Their archeological site's location is undisclosed to reduce the threat of looting. There are undeniable indications that the Kumeyaay also inhabited sites in Tecolote Canyon near Mission Bay, as early as 2,500 years ago. Kumeyaay Elder Jane Dumas found a broken grinding stone near the Tecolote Nature Center in 1995.

Tecolote Canyon was identified, as a cartographic feature on the first map of the San Diego pueblo, created in 1845 by Henry D. Fitch. One source claims it was named after "ground owls", aka Burrowing Owls, another claims it was named after "large horned owls, aka Great Horned Owl and a third suggestion is that it was named after a vine with the Aztec name "tecolil" that "was abundant through out the canyon". The author has no idea what this vine might be and Google doesn't have a clue.

The first farm, of several, was established in Tecolote Canyon by Judge Hyde in 1872. It is believed his farm was located just east of a line of huge eucalyptus trees that cross the canyon about a mile from the Nature Center and that they acted as a windbreak. He dug a shallow well that produced abundant water and his farm flourished. Before long others were drawn to the area and more farmsteads were established. By 1930 the lower and westerly portion of Tecolote Canyon had become a small farming community. The farms produced lima beans, tomatoes, cattle and pigs. A Mr. Ambort operated a dairy farm near the canyon rim in what is now called

Clairemont. Bay Park Village was established in 1936 along Morena Blvd and Milton St. In his paper, Rusty Kostis mentioned that at one time there was a proposal to build Mercy Hospital at the end of Gardena Ave. He doesn't signify his source or date. In 1925 as the farms began to give way to home development, Dr Isham bought 100 acres of farmland at the end of Gardena Ave. and raised three children there. The farm is gone now, much it part of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, but the small house at the end of Gardena Ave is one of Isham's original farm buildings converted into a home. The final farm belonged to the Romo family. They were located near the area where the SDG&E high power lines cross the canyon, close to the site of Judge Hyde's original farm. They had a truck farm and ran cattle as far north as Miramar into the 1950's.

In 1930 the meat packing giant, Cudahy, ran out of capacity at its Los Angeles plant and constructed a meat packing plant at the mouth of Tecolote Canyon near Mission Bay. It operated for several years and the area was called the Cudahy Slough. One street in the area retains the name as the only reminder of its existence today. The plant closed in the 1950s and the empty building later burned down. Maria Roma worked there for a time.

A Mr. Brown constructed the first tract of homes in the 5000 block of Gardena Ave sometime in the 1940s and planted a gallery of cottonwood trees along the street..

### **1950s**

The San Diego City Council proposed construction of a sanitary landfill near the present USD campus. Community protest from the Linda Vista and Clairemont communities caused the proposal to be withdrawn.

A city operations yard was proposed at the site of a large borrow pit (an area where soil has been removed to be used as fill at another location) that had been excavated for the construction of I-5 and again the nearby residents rose in vigorous protest. Tecolote Park and Recreation Center was later constructed on this site.

In 1952 homes along Gardena Ave, parallel to Tecolote Creek, flooded. Four years later there was more flooding. At that time Tecolote Creek ran past Gardena Ave then turned northwest and crossed Knoxville St. The bridge there was washed out in both flood events. As a result the Army Corps of Engineers was commissioned to redirect the creek, deepen and construct a concrete lined flood channel to protect the houses. During a heavy storm the water is about a foot from the rim and moves with great force. So far the channel has not overflowed. Plants that have begun to grow in cracks and encroach may be starting to impede flow.

### **1960s**

Several subdivisions were submitted within Tecolote Canyon by the property owners: Valle Vista (1963), Tecolote Canyon (450 units with convenience store), Tecolote Heights, Mission Bay Heights (in Goldboro Canyon). They were all denied.

Engineering studies were completed for a four lane arterial highway extending from I-5 to Genesee Ave.

The Community Planning Committees were organized in the mid-60s pursuant to the newly created federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) requirements. The San Diego City Council recognized Planning Groups who advised the City Council on proposed development and Community Plans. The Clairemont Mesa Development Committee and the Linda Vista Planning Committee agreed that the preservation of Tecolote Canyon was of great importance. Representatives from both planning committees formed the Joint Advisory Board for

Open Space. Members of that board included George A. Scott (Honorary Chairman), Robert Fowble (Chair), Grace "Peter" Sargent, Marian Bear, Mary Chipps, Woodrow W. Twyman and Ruby Zellman. A community wide petition drive was mounted, house to house and through the local shopping centers. Petitions, with 8,520 signatures, were filed by the Joint Advisory Board for Open Space with the city council August 8, 1969, requesting that Tecolote Canyon be preserved as an open space park.

There was no city legislative framework for the purchase and dedication of open space parks. The Park Procedural Ordinance, amending the municipal code, was written and adopted in 1969 in response to the campaign for Tecolote Canyon as an open space park, and since has been used city wide numerous times. At that time the Council expressed concern about funding open space acquisition.

Developer Charlie Fireside applied for and was granted a subdivision map for around 600 houses and a 14' wide and 12' deep concrete lined flood channel between Mt. Acadia Blvd. and Balboa Ave.

### **1970s**

The Environmental Growth Fund legislation was enacted by the city council. A small surcharge on the SDG&E utility bills was to be and still is being collected creating a fund to retire bonds issued for the acquisition of open space for parks.

TC Park District was initiated Mar. 1971 by the San Diego City Council. Which means the city staff was directed to draw tentative boundaries and calculate assessments for property owners on and near the rim of Tecolote Canyon.

Bulldozers rolled in the middle of our proposed park district in August. The community was outraged, one finger canyon in the Fireside map had been deleted from the park district in a City Council meeting that was not open to the public and borrow pit permits signed the previous November were honored. This act galvanized community support for the preservation of Tecolote Canyon. The remainder of Fireside's subdivision was later sold to the city at an inflated price.

A grassroots organization called Citizens to Save Open Space (Citizens SOS) was formed. It's focus was the preservation of Tecolote Canyon. M. Eloise Battle was president. Sherlie Miller became her indispensable right hand person. Councilman Floyd Morrow was Tecolote Canyon's dedicated champion, whose leadership was invaluable at city hall.

A.J. Hall, another developer, applied for permits to build Acadia Village, 450 units surrounding TC Golf Course. In early 1974 things looked really grim; protests were brushed aside so an attorney was hired by the local citizens groups... his name was Roger Hedgecock. He did a great job and the subdivision map was denied.

The first Open Space Bond Issues was on the ballot (Prop B ) in 1973. Citizens SOS worked vigorously in support of the bond issue, wrote copy for a flyer and gained permission to use Dr. Seuss' drawing "Leave Something Green". The bond issue received a majority vote but not the two-thirds vote required for passage.

Finally the park district boundaries were drawn and the assessments calculated. For those living on the rim of the canyon adjacent to the proposed park the cost would be \$750, those across the street \$175. This would cover about 25% of the acquisition costs, the remaining expenses would be covered by the Environmental Growth Fund and by the donation of city owned land within the park boundaries. Petitions, in support of the assessment district, were circulated by volunteers.

Approximately 2,000 households were contacted. 67% of those contacted indicated a willingness to pay the assessment in order to preserve Tecolote Canyon. A series of community meetings were held throughout Clairemont and Linda Vista, with city staff explaining the proposed park district and answering questions. The community support was found to be extensive.

The Tecolote Canyon Park Assessment District was formed in July 1974 by a unanimous vote of the city council. The council chambers were packed and another room downstairs with loud speakers was overflowing. If owners of more than 50% of the property within the proposed district had filed written protests to the district, the city council would have been required to dissolve the district. However, owners of only 16.17% of the property filed written protests and amongst great jubilation the Tecolote Canyon Park District became a reality. Now all that remained was the acquisition of the land and its dedication.

The City of San Diego received three Quality of Life awards from The Environmental Monthly, a national publication. One was for a pedestrian safety program, another was for the city's noise abatement effort and the third was for creative land use, the preservation of Tecolote Canyon. The citation read "We join in praising both the forward-thinking San Diego City Council and those passionate and patient citizens who made their dreams come true". The awards were presented to Mayor Wilson and the San Diego City Council Aug. 21, 1975. Not one of the residents who sought the preservation of Tecolote Canyon was invited to the ceremony.

Opponents of the park district tested its constitutionality in court. The California Supreme Court declined to hear it; the lower court 's finding supporting the assessment district stood.

The dedication ordinance for Tecolote Canyon Natural Park was approved by the city council Nov. 1977. The ordinance also officially named the park and provided for the formation of an advisory committee.

M. Eloise Battle was appointed to chair Tecolote Canyon Citizen's Advisory Committee (TCCAC) by Mayor Pete Wilson 10-31-77. She stated "I am firmly convinced that without the leadership of Pete Wilson the open space system in the City of San Diego might have died a premature death."

TCCAC was organized pursuant to dedication ordinance and San Diego City Council policy, 600-24, with a modest budget, city staff including Deputy City Manager Johnson and funds for community election by mail, etc.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park dedication ceremony held was at North Clairemont Recreation Center on Apr. 1, 1978. Mayor Curran presided, a ribbon was cut and the first TCCAC members were sworn in by the City Clerk.

There were four conflicting resolutions passed by the city council concerning TCCAC by-laws. Finally M. Eloise Battle, Chair, compiled them and that version was approved by the City Attorney and the City Council.

Prop 13 passed in the 1978 fall election, an initiative, whose passage resulted in a drastic reduction of property taxes for military veterans, commercial property and federally owned land. Significant city budget cuts resulted with its passage. Considered non-essential, TCCAC was left with no budget, no staff, no consultant, and no funds for a mail election for community members. TCCAC was tossed back and forth between the planning department and the park and recreation department and finally landed in the lap of the newly formed Open Space Division with a spending limit of \$2,000. At the time the Open Space Division had a staff of two.

DECISION TIME: TCCAC members could throw in the towel and just quit or could submit an

outline of their ideas for a Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Master Plan that would probably gather dust in a pigeon hole somewhere, but they didn't. They evaluated their members' commitment and talent. They were keeping their own minutes, paying dues, and doing their own mailings. TCCAC voted to create a complete master plan themselves. They began their lengthy task.

Proposition C, which again amended the Municipal Code, was passed by the San Diego voters in 1978. This made the whole city a single park assessment district for open space acquisition and maintenance. The assessments for the Tecolote Canyon Park district were refunded in 1980 and the former assessment district included in the citywide district with all residents paying into the Environmental Growth Fund to support and maintain Open Space Parks. The willingness for the residents around Tecolote Canyon to pay significant assessments in order to preserve the canyon was one of their strongest lobbying points. Many whose assessments were refunded, felt their powerful voice was lost. Over \$4000 of the refunded assessments was pooled and a non-profit organization founded, Friends of Tecolote Canyon. The fund is used for the direct benefit of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. Over the years hundreds of native trees, shrubs and other native plants have been planted throughout the park. Some re-vegetation projects have included removal of a considerable amount of non-native plants. Friends now fund a modest environmental educational program for school children, which often includes planting native plants.

### 1980s

TCCAC members gathered data, found an artist, Lisa Manley, who donated her talent. Lisa created TCNP's logo, which is the Burrowing Owl. A Burrowing Owl in the San Diego Zoo was her model. TCNP's official logo is at the head of this document and on the cover of the adopted Master Plan. In addition, she illustrated the rest of the Master Plan. Lisa also created the logo for Friends of Tecolote Canyon. The Borrowing Owl was selected for the park's logo since claims had been made saying Tecolote Canyon was named after the Burrowing Owl and that species densely populated the canyon in bygone days. Sadly the Burrowing Owl has not been seen in Tecolote for decades, although Barn Owls and Great Horned Owls are frequently seen and heard. We know now there are conflicting stories about the naming of the canyon but TCCAC unanimously choose the Burrowing Owl. One committee member developed preliminary maps; As Chair, M. Eloise Battle wrote and wrote and compiled data collected by committee members! Another member assisted with layout; a volunteer typist did the first three drafts, and then TCCAC offered the first draft of the TCNP Master Plan to the city ready to print (cost of printing \$1,200). The estimated value of the effort was \$120,000.

The Master Plan was submitted for departmental review, which included the Park and Recreation Department, Planning Department, Risk Management, and City Operations Department. It received the same critique as any professionally written document. TCCAC did two revisions themselves with the luxury of contract typists

TCNP was granted its first budget ever in 1982 of \$40,000

Revisions completed, the Master Plan was submitted for approval to the Planning Commission. It was passed with conditions concerning development on the rim of Tecolote Canyon, which were carried along with Planning Department staff recommendations and TCCAC's remaining requests to a City Council hearing. The Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Master Plan was adopted unanimously by the San Diego City Council May 24th, 1983. TCNP was the first open space park in the City of San Diego to have an adopted Master Plan. The Mayor was Roger Hedgecock.

The Marian Bear Memorial Grove was planted near Tecolote Creek, overlooked by the University of San Diego. It was dedicated in 1982 in observance of the fifth anniversary of the dedication of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and the significant role Marian Bear played in its creation. Deputy

Mayor Bill Mitchell officiated. There are 47 sycamores and 7 oaks thriving today. A CCC group helped plant them. The use of a water truck was donated by University Canyon developer, John Bogaert

Large redwood signs were erected at the public entrances to Tecolote Canyon Natural Park in early 1983.

The implementation of the Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Master Plan seemed to be at a standstill. Tecolote Canyon Task Force was set up and empaneled to expedite the implementation. It consisted of two City Council members, two appointed members by the two councilmen and two members selected from the TCCAC membership. Councilman Mike Gotch, District 6, was the Chair. Ed Striuksma, District 5, was the other Councilmember. The advantage was having two Councilmen on board with decisions before requests went to the full Council. It served the purpose well for several years. As of 2013, the Task Force has not met in over 15 years but has not been formally dissolved by the San Diego City Council.

A water quality study was funded by the state, sponsored by Assemblywoman Lucy Killea. The study was done by members of the University of San Diego faculty and students. The water quality was found to be fair. This provides a benchmark for later studies.

Access points for TCNP were publicly identified, studied, prioritized, and presented at TCCAC's annual community meeting Feb. 27, 1985. They were approved and the Master Plan was amended shortly thereafter.

An Urban Design District Overlay Zone was drawn by the Planning Department and presented to the public. This would have had regulatory powers over height, grading and type of development on the rim of the canyon. For example, apartment towers such Sorrento Tower at Cowley Way and Mt Acadia would not be permitted to loom over the rim. It was excellent. However, it was widely misunderstood and fierce opposition blocked its approval. After a three year struggle the design district was reduced to Rim Development Guidelines for Tecolote Canyon and adopted by the City Council. The guidelines are also excellent but requirements are less binding than a design district. There is no longer a department to do long range city planning but it has morphed into the Development Services Department which is inclined to ignore "guidelines". They are great if followed! The master plan was once again amended and the same guidelines were considered to be so good, they were adopted for citywide use where development involved significant slopes.

A small population of least Bell's vireos was discovered by wildlife biologists, Jane and John Griffith, near the SDG&E pumping station, about a mile east of the Tecolote Nature Center. The site was officially listed with the California Fish and Game Department. These small birds, which favor the riparian willow thickets, are on the Federal endangered species list.

The Army Corps of Engineers mandated improved erosion control in Tecolote Canyon in order to reduce siltation of Mission Bay. Siltation required dredging in parts of Mission Bay that damaged its endangered eelgrass beds. In 1984, the first proposal was a 20' high earthen dam across the mouth of the canyon near the end of Gardena St. When that was rejected, the Engineering Department proposed the use of concrete revetment bags to line a segment of the creek channel. The results looked good to TCCAC and mostly they were but the 1,700 foot stretch of creek channel that was to be lined with "concrete revetment bags", translated into a concrete channel! Apparently we didn't ask the right questions and perhaps would not have understood the answers. However, we discovered, almost too late, that the concrete revetment bags along the creek would have done in our riparian habitat in the southern portion of the canyon. Woodward-Clyde Consultants were retained by the City of San Diego to conduct an erosion control study and

made recommendations for erosion control in the upstream areas that would curb the siltation in Mission Bay. With the support of Councilman, Mike Gotch, the design was changed to a broader more natural channel, with two check dams made of gabion baskets filled with creek rocks. The erosion control structures were put in place, work very well and the riparian habitat flourishes. Friends of Tecolote Canyon planted native vegetation near the channel and check dams for a two year period and these efforts were the subject of an article in April 1988 Sunset Magazine. Vegetation has just about obscured the gabions but they can be seen in the creek, one at the end of a line of very old eucalyptus trees west of the SDG&E Pumping Station and the second a bit east of the station

At the end of 1986 and early 1987 Friends of Tecolote Canyon volunteers cleared an approximately 2 acre site of castor bean plants and other invasive non native plants near the least Bell's vireo nesting site. A plant list was compiled with the vireo habitat as the criteria for selection. The entire list was purchased with a generous check donated by University Canyon developer, John Bogaert. Volunteers planted hundreds of native plants, watered and maintained them for two years...the site thrives today.

The San Diego City Council, sponsored by TCCAC and FTC, applied for an Urban Creek Restoration Grant from the CA Department of Water Resources. San Diego was awarded the first grant south of Santa Barbara. The funds were to be used for another gabion check dam near the golf course clubhouse, construction of a palmatier deflector in a major tributary of Tecolote Creek to protect a beautiful oak grove that was being undermined by erosive peak flows and to install water bars in a badly eroded hillside trail. The volunteer effort of the latter two items was completed; the check dam went astray in the Engineering & Development Department, permits were not issued, so a portion of the grant funds were returned unused.

The proposed Regional Bikeway System included a Class I Bikeway through the center of Tecolote Canyon. It was obvious the proponent had never been there, as the route went squarely through the middle of the golf course and over extremely rough terrain. It was to be a 14' wide concrete "mini-road" that would require extensive grading to meet state standards. The regional bikeway system was funded by Caltrans and a four year effort ensued before the bikeway was finally deleted from TCNP.

In 1987 funds became available for the design and construction of the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center and the expansion of the Youth League baseball fields. The funding was due a great deal to the efforts of our Councilman Mike Gotch from state grants, development fees and local funding. An architect was retained and the design completed in 1989.

### **1990s**

The Urban Creek Restoration Grant was reapplied for and once again awarded to San Diego. This time the check dam near the Golf Course Clubhouse was completed and more re-vegetation done.

The Tecolote Canyon Nature Center was constructed and the grand opening was July 23, 1994. Councilmember Valerie Stallings, who succeeded Mike Gotch, kept things moving when it looked like we were going to be bogged down again in red tape and political ploys. The San Diego Museum of Natural History prepared and installed an exhibit that covered the geology, biology and the human elements of the canyon. One of the premier exhibits is a real live active earthquake fault (the Rose Canyon Fault) that crosses Tecolote Canyon through the western ball fields.

At the grand opening the first annual Grace "Peter" Sargent Award was presented for "exceptional service to Tecolote Canyon". The recipients were Jerrold Eggleston, for his beautiful photographs of great horned owl family that still hang in the Nature Center and Dr. Karl Anderson, a geologist who created the earthquake fault display. Grace "Peter" Sargent was possibly the earliest proponent for the preservation of Tecolote Canyon. She had Boy Scout Troops and neighbors cleaning trash out of the canyon in the early 60s and was a vocal member of the Clairemont Development Committee and the Joint Advisory Board for Open Space. Friends of Tecolote Canyon and TCCAC agreed it was appropriate to name our annual award in her honor.

Senior Ranger Tracey Walker began his assignment to Tri-canyon Park with the grand opening of the Tecolote Nature Center. His area of responsibility included Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, Marian Bear Memorial Park, (San Clemente Canyon), and Rose Canyon Open Space Park. Ranger Jeannette De Angelis joined Tri-canyon staff in 1996. Ranger De Angelis formed a group of energetic volunteers called the Weed Warriors. They took aim at the removal of no-native plants and are still on the prowl today.

Unfortunately by 1995 there were extensive repairs required on the leaking roof which led to heavy mold infestation behind the south dry wall and mitigation for drainage problems, eg water coming up through slab into floor electrical outlets. Seems during construction items like a French Drain on the south side of the building and the slab sealant were deleted from the specs!

Kumeyaay Elder Jane Dumas visited Tecolote Nature Center 1995 and suggested a partnership with local tribal members. An enthusiastic yes resulted in the beginning of a lasting relationship and the incorporation of a Kumeyaay cultural element into our educational programs.

Large eucalyptus trees were removed from the vireo re-vegetation site in 1997. The largest remains as a dead snag because it would have created too much damage to the rest of the site if it had been brought down. Great horned Owls have nested in its upper branches.

A pilot environmental and Kumeyaay cultural educational program at Bay Park Elementary School was launched in 1996 and continues today. Activities includes nature walks, story telling, planting native plants near the Nature Center, pottery, dissecting owl pellets, learning about local reptiles and meeting living raptors.

The Multiple Species Conservation Program was approved March 18, 1997, by the City Council with Resolution 288455. According to the San Diego City Website site: **The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) was developed to preserve a network of habitat and open space, protecting bio-diversity and enhancing the region's quality of life. The City of San Diego is one of several jurisdictions participating in the MSCP. The MSCP covers 85 species and the core biological resource areas are identified within the City's Multi-Habitat Planning Areas. The City has entered into an Implementing Agreement with the federal and state Wildlife Agencies to ensure implementation of the MSCP.** This provided Open Space Parks with significantly more habitat protection.

In 1997 the first Baskets and Botany event was held and a partnership with San Diego County Kumeyaay tribal members. An article featuring Kumeyaay Elder Sylvia Silva in Sunset Magazine announced the upcoming event. It was estimated about 400 people attended. Elder Jane Dumas led a blessing ceremony for the center. This became an annual event, usually held the second Saturday in October.

Ranger Walker was transferred to Mission Trails Park, in 1998. Senior Ranger Carla Frogner filled the Senior Ranger Position. In January 2001 Ranger Jeannette de Angelis was promoted to Senior Ranger at another Open Space Park, then later in January 2001 took a position in the

Public Works Department as an Environmental Planner. Ranger Jeff Viator became a Tri-canyon park ranger.

### **2000s**

Ranger Janice Lavallee completed the ranger staff.

Ground was broken in 2002 to expand the Tecolote Nature Center. As a result activities at the Center were on hiatus for almost two years or moved to the school sites. Nature walks and outdoor programs continued. More office space and larger kitchen was added plus separate a classroom was constructed. Councilwoman Donna Frye found funds to continue construction when funding was nearly depleted. The Tecolote Nature Center reopened in October of 2004. The enlarged Nature Center footprint covered most of the original native plant garden. A new native plant garden was planted behind the classroom by volunteers. An ewa, the traditional Kumeyaay shelter, was constructed with a permanent rebar frame as its centerpiece.

Marla Gilmore became the Center Director in Sept 2004. Until she joined the staff the Center was operated mostly by volunteers coordinated by M. Eloise Battle. Marla was a most welcome addition to the staff. School programs expanded as a result.

### **2010s**

Senior Ranger Carla Frogner and Ranger Jeff Viator retired. Senior Ranger Tracey Walker returned to Tri-canyon Park. Ranger Andy Quinn replaced Jeff Viator.

M. Eloise Battle resigned as Chair of TCCAC, May 2012, Don Steele become Chair.

Trent Robertson formed the Tecolote Canyon Interpretive Group, 2012. They have joined the schedule of weekend nature oriented walks and give nature presentations to the public. Their goal is to also increase the number of badly needed volunteers as well as public awareness of the canyon and its treasures.

In November, 2012, San Diego Gas and Electric Company awarded a \$5000 Environmental Champions Grant to Friends of Tecolote Canyon to recruit new naturalists (interpretive trail guides) for the Tri-Canyon Parks and to collaborate with Mesa College. Tina Rysedorph was appointed the Grant Coordinator. The grant will provide training for six interpretive volunteers and programs to lead school children from three schools into the canyon's "nature" near their school sites.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the classroom at the Tecolote Nature Center was renamed the "M. Eloise Battle Learning Center". This was an honor initiated by Councilwoman Lorie Zapf and supported by TCCAC, the Park and Recreation Board and the San Diego City Council.

M. Eloise Battle, Chair Emerita  
Tecolote Canyon Advisory Committee  
mebttec1@hotmail.com

March 9, 2013