

**OLD TOWN LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Old Town Local Advisory Committee
FROM: Matt Peters, Director of Community Development
DATE: March 27, 2025
SUBJECT: Vine Creek Project Update

PREPARED BY: Eric Jones, Associate Planner II

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee receive a status update regarding the Vine Creek affordable housing project.

BACKGROUND: The Vine Creek Affordable Housing project was heard by the Old Town Local Review Board at the regularly scheduled October 29, 2018, meeting. The Board recommended approval of the project with a 5-0 vote at the conclusion of the meeting. On February 20, 2019, the project was heard before the Planning Commission and approved. The project consists of 60 affordable units and is currently under construction.

An item of interest unique to this project is its close proximity to the Butterfield Stage Overland Trail. The project will feature a commemorative sign to educate visitors on the history of the trail. The verbiage on the sign was created in collaboration with the Temecula Historical Society. The sign reads as follows:

The National Butterfield Overland Trail through Temecula began as Native footpaths to water. As others entered the Valley by foot and on horseback, use of the trail greatly increased. By the 1840s, the extensive trail from the east, soon dubbed The Southern Emigrant Trail, became a major wagon road. The busy road was an expressway for passage from the east during the Mexican-American War and was the only year-round route to the 1849 gold fields in Northern California.

In 1858, the enterprising John Butterfield applied for a permit to carry US mail by stagecoach between California and the East. Tracing much of the Southern Emigrant Trail, Butterfield established outposts where mail was exchanged, fresh horses were secured, and meals and lodging could be obtained.

The 2,800-mile Butterfield Overland Trail between Tipton, Missouri, and San Francisco crossed Temecula Creek at the location of the present-day Vail Headquarters, where a portion of the trail has been preserved. The first Temecula Post Office was established on the trail at the south side of Temecula Creek. Roughly following today's Santiago Road, the trail crossed into what is now Old Town Temecula, sometimes staying along the eastern ridge to avoid low-lying wet areas. The Butterfield stage stop just north of Temecula was

near today's intersection of Washington Avenue and Lemon Street. The nearest stage station east of Temecula was along the Temecula Creek near Aguanga.

Mail was delivered along the Butterfield Overland Route from September 1858 to 1861 when the Civil War broke out and Butterfield's line was discontinued.

The City of Temecula celebrates the colorful history of the Butterfield Overland Trail coming through town.

Staff is currently working with the applicant on the final design aesthetic and location of the sign along the recently completed Temecula Creek Trail.

The project features a host of amenities for residents. These amenities include a community room with exercise equipment, open space with turf, tot lot, and swimming pool with pool house. The pool house will include two unisex restrooms as well as a shower facility. Project construction is estimated to be completed near the end of September 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.