



## Harvest Time on the Ranch



Now that the spring rains have eased and summer is here, it's time for the seasonal harvest of lemons, barley – and soon, avocados on Rancho Mission Viejo.

From crops planted on Rancho Mission Viejo more than five years ago come more than sixty four million lemons each year. Picked year-round, the lemons are trucked to the Grimmway Farms packing house near Bakersfield and then sold to local supermarkets, restaurants, and even across the sea in such foreign countries as Japan.

“It's been a bumper crop year for citrus on the Ranch,” said Derek Knobel, Ranch Manager for Rancho Mission Viejo. “To put things in perspective, we harvest enough lemons to fill one semi-truckload each day, every day of the year. We are blessed with rich soil, coastal winds, sunny days, and temperate evenings.”

Knobel noted that nine hundred acres of barley also are harvested on the Ranch and then shipped for feed. In addition, more than five thousand avocado trees have been planted

on Rancho Mission Viejo, with the first-ever harvest planned for this fall.

“We expect a significant harvest of avocados in 2006,” said Knobel. “That translates into lots of guacamole at The El Adobe restaurant in downtown San Juan Capistrano and at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in Mission Viejo!”

## More Ranch Planning Underway

Nearly nine months after the members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors gave it their unanimous approval, The Ranch Plan is still being heralded as a major achievement in responsible and balanced land planning.

Standing well over five feet tall and representing more than twelve years of scientific study, The Ranch Plan is the legally binding blueprint for open space preservation/management and land use on the remaining 23,000 acres of the Rancho Mission Viejo. Its approval by the Board of Supervisors allowed different land uses to be identified for areas on the Ranch – and set in motion the start of an even longer review and approval process now underway.

“When the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved The Ranch Plan, they gave the nod toward a broad land use plan that now requires more detailed study for the different areas on the Ranch,” said Rancho Mission Viejo President and Chief Executive Officer Tony Moiso. “Now, we need to decide what type of services, facilities, homes, and other needs will be met on the Ranch in those areas identified for development.”

Moiso noted that practically all the Ranch property identified for development was considered “disturbed” land after years of mining, farming, commercial nursery use, weapons testing, R&D, and other commercial activity. Currently, there are about twenty active leasees operating businesses on 10,000 acres of Ranch lands.

“The additional review now underway is a long process which involves multiple agencies and much deeper levels of planning,” added Moiso. “Numerous agreements still need to be crafted to ensure sites and funding for new schools, other public facilities, and safety services. This is all part of the responsibilities which come with the blessings of land ownership.”

Provided is a list of the nine major levels of planning that still need to be conducted for The Ranch Plan:

- Master Area Plan
- Sub Area Plan
- Subdivision Maps
- Site Plans
- ROMP (Run Off Management Plan)
- WQMP (Water Quality Master Plan)
- Park Implementation Plan
- Secured Fire Protection Agreement
- Open Space Agreement

### RANCH PLAN FACTS

The Ranch Plan will achieve the following:

- Farming and ranching will continue on Rancho Mission Viejo,
- More than 2/3 (or 15,132 acres) of the Ranch will be protected as natural open space and habitat,
- Over a twenty to twenty five year period, the local quality of life will be maintained through the responsible construction of the following:
  - A wide range of 14,000 homes, including 6,000 homes for Seniors,
  - Parks and playgrounds,
  - Schools and libraries,
  - Facilities for essential protective services,
  - Houses of worship,
  - Child care centers,
  - Retail plazas, and
  - Employment centers.
- Funding for an assortment of transportation improvements and roadway additions in South Orange County.

To learn more about The Ranch Plan, visit [www.RanchoMissionViejo.com](http://www.RanchoMissionViejo.com).



## NATURE LOVERS TOUR FAMILY GARDENS

Scores of nature lovers were presented with an unforgettable opportunity to see a world-



class desert garden in full bloom during the second annual public tour of the Richard and Donna O'Neill Garden, conducted this spring in San Juan Capistrano.

Visitors to the Garden learned about the art of designing with cacti, succulents, and other drought tolerant plants in this spectacular private setting. Gary Lyons, who assisted in the design of the Garden and is now curator of the desert gardens at The Huntington Library, has featured photos of the Richard and Donna O'Neill Garden in his pictorial books.

The Garden tour was conducted to benefit the Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy, a 1,200-acre wilderness reserve located at the Rancho Mission Viejo.

The Conservancy was created in 1990 when the O'Neill/Avery/Moiso family joined with the County of Orange and the City of San Clemente to establish one of the region's first private land conservancies along the southwestern border of the family's Ranch.

For more information about the Conservancy, visit [www.theconservancy.org](http://www.theconservancy.org).



RANCHO MISSION VIEJO

PO BOX 1209

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92693

[WWW.RANCHOMISSIONVIEJO.COM](http://WWW.RANCHOMISSIONVIEJO.COM)

## TEE-UP at Arroyo Trabuco

Two weeks of tee times were sold out before it opened; plus 60,000 rounds of play are projected for this year alone. And, pros and duffers alike are singing the praises of its wide fairways and carefully groomed greens as some of the most playable and picturesque in the Southland.

Now approaching its first year anniversary, Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club is quickly becoming the course of choice for golfers in and around Orange County. The first full-size public course in Mission Viejo, Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club is set amidst Trabuco Creek and the Ladera Ranch Open Space Reserve in Mission Viejo. Designed by Orange County golf architect Casey O'Callaghan and PGA Tour player Tom Lehman, Arroyo Trabuco Golf encompasses 240 acres and offers 18 holes with five sets of tee boxes, playing from 5,100 to 7,000 yards as well as two lakes and 53 bunkers.

"This is much more than just a golf course," said Matt Donovan, general manager of the Golf Club. "This is a superb example of successful site reclamation and revegetation, open space protection, public amenity building, and responsible stewardship by the Rancho Mission Viejo family members, owners of the Golf Club with their partners DMB Holdings, LLC. This course is a very special place. It blends exceptional play with some of most spectacular scenery in South County."

Once part of a sprawling sand and gravel mine, the Golf Club was completely reclaimed and then revegetated with native plants including heritage oak and sycamore trees. In addition, some 400 acres of permanent open space were added to the adjacent 1,400-acre Ladera Ranch Open Space Reserve as a result of the construction. Trails were established to link O'Neill Regional Park with the urban trails of San Juan Capistrano. And, a 3,000-foot clubhouse, 4,600-square foot restaurant, a wedding gazebo/garden area, large banquet and ballroom, and well as an oversize outdoor patio were added to help meet a space need for all sorts of private and community events. Plus,



weekday green fees were set at just \$55 with discounts for Seniors and Junior golfers, making it one of the most price sensitive courses in the region.

To learn more, visit [www.arroyotrabuco.com](http://www.arroyotrabuco.com).

*I thought that you might  
find this of interest -  
Best Regards,  
Tony Moiso*