



Welcome to San Bernardino County

Select Language ▼



Home

About Us ▼

Departments



Search



[Reset](#)

Categories

- ☐ Aging and Adult Services
- ☐ Agriculture/Weights & Measures
- ☐ Airports
- ☐ Animal Care
- ☐ Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- ☐ Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk
- ☐ Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Collector
- ☐ Behavioral Health
- ☐ Big Bear Alpine Zoo
- ☐ Board of Supervisors
- ☐ Census
- ☐ Child Support Services
- ☐ Children and Family Services

San Bernardino

County history: The Mojave River

January 29, 2025

[COUNTY HISTORY](#)

| [COUNTYWIRE](#)



Located on the eastern side of the San Bernardino Mountains, the Mojave River has played a critical role in the early exploration of San Bernardino County.

- ☐ Sexual Exploitation
- ☐ Code Enforcement
- ☐ Community Development and Housing
- ☐ Community Vital Signs
- ☐ County Administrative Office
- ☐ County Destinations
- ☐ County Fire
- ☐ County History
- ☐ County Library
- ☐ County Museum
- ☐ County Surveyor
- ☐ Countywide Plan
- ☐ CountyWire
- ☐ Disasters
- ☐ District Attorney
- ☐ Economic Development Agency
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Environmental Health Services
- ☐ Equal Opportunity Commission

San Bernardino County was among the first to settle along the Mojave River. In 1776, Spanish missionary Francisco Garcés was the first to explore the length of the river and named it "Rio de las Animas" or "Spirit River of the Souls."

In 1826, Jedediah Smith was the first American to travel to California by following the Mojave Indian Trail. Upon his discovery, he renamed the river "Inconstant River." In 1844, John C. Fremont, an American explorer and military officer, intercepted the route and redirected parts through what is now known as the Cajon Pass.

Fremont renamed the river to the "Mohahve" after the Mojave people that lived in nearby mountain ranges. Through the years, the Mojave River Trail was used by Mormons who traveled between Utah and California; it became known as the Mormon Road. During the Great Drought of California in the 1860s, the Mojave River was a refuge for ranchers who needed water to keep their livestock alive.

In the 1880s, journeys along the Mojave River came to an end as the Santa Fe Railroad had reached this area. This route gradually became part of what we now know as the National Old Trails Road or U.S. Route 66.

- ☐ Fleet Management
- ☐ Government Works
- ☐ Grand Jury
- ☐ Homeownership Protection Program JPA
- ☐ Housing Authority
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ Human Services
- ☐ ICEMA
- ☐ Innovation and Technology Department
- ☐ Land Use Services
- ☐ Legislative Affairs
- ☐ Office of Emergency Services
- ☐ Office of Homeless Services
- ☐ Photos
- ☐ Preparedness
- ☐ Preschool Services
- ☐ Probation Department
- ☐ Public Authority
- ☐ Public Defender
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Public Works

...y through Victorville, you are driving on top of the Mojave River. For more information about the Mojave River, please visit their website at https://www.mojaveriver.org/app_pages/view/41.html.

The information in this historical feature was originally part of a video series produced by the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk's office.

Additional County Update News – Jan. 30, 2025

- [Community unites to support annual Point-In-Time Count and resource fair](#)
- [Board Actions – Jan. 30, 2025](#)
- [Timely reporting waiver available for CalFresh in response to prolonged power outages](#)
- [2025 Human Trafficking Symposium a Resounding Success; Community Unites Against Exploitation](#)



Commission

- ☐ Regional Parks
- ☐ Registrar of Voters
- ☐ San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association
- ☐ SANBAG
- ☐ SBCERA
- ☐ Sheriff's Department
- ☐ South Coast Air Quality Management District
- ☐ Special Districts Department
- ☐ State Legislation Veto
- ☐ Superintendent of Schools
- ☐ Superior Court
- ☐ Things to do
- ☐ Transitional Assistance Department
- ☐ Uncategorized
- ☐ Veterans Affairs



Board of

- [Ant provides critical assistance to affected pets during Los Angeles fires](#)
- [Valentine's Day Marriage Service Appointments Now Available at the San Bernardino County Clerk's Office](#)
- [Museum curator's blog submission recognized as one of the top ten reads of 2024](#)
- [Complete the County Update survey by Feb. 10](#)
- [Prepare with us!](#)
- [San Bernardino County destinations: Yucaipa Regional Park](#)
- [Call for submissions: Share your favorite San Bernardino County destinations](#)
- [San Bernardino County history: The Mojave River](#)
- [Things to do in San Bernardino County](#)
- [Pet of the Week: Bottega](#)
- [Jobs of the Week](#)

[All Posts](#)

[< Previous](#) [Next >](#)

Investment Board

Dates

- ☐ Past Week
- ☐ Past Month
- ☐ Past Year

From

mm/dd/yyyy



To

mm/dd/yyyy



(FLY) award for 2025-26 budget

May 28, 2026

Remote participation to begin for Board of Supervisors meetings

May 28, 2026

The heart behind fostering: Leann's story

May 28, 2026



Welcome to San Bernardino County

Site File Archive

San Bernardino County Website



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Contact Us](#)

 Select Language ▼



Welcome to San Bernardino County

Home

About Us ▼

Departments



Board of Supervisors ▼

Newsroom ▼

Opportunity ▼

Contact Us