

Water



Macario Springs

Availability of water has always been a critical requirement for people living in this area. When the first Spanish arrived in 1769, Father Crespi found Native Americans living near the lagoons and also near fresh water sources such as Macario Springs.



Buena Vista Creek- European settlers, such as the Marron and Kelly families, found other fresh water sources near creeks, collected water in cisterns or dug wells. When water sources dried up farmers and ranchers lost valuable livestock and crops. This lack of dependable abundant water limited development of the area.



In the early 1880s, land not claimed (pre-empted) by the railroad became available for purchase. Vista Post Master **John Frazier** purchased 160 acres of pre-empted coastal land near the railroad tracks. Searching for water, he began boring wells that produced in 1885.

News spread of his water discovery and its reported health benefits. Frazier's well water was reported to be similar in content to one of the famous wells in Karlsbad Bohemia. Real Estate developers capitalized on Frazier's discovery and formed a partnership in 1886 with the intent of establishing a town. They purchased Frazier's land and well plus some additional coastal acreage, forming the Carlsbad Land and Water Company.