



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **REMAINING BURIAL PLOTS AT THE HISTORIC MISSION CEMETERY**

San Juan Capistrano, CA – January 15, 2010 – Mission San Juan Capistrano summons third party consultant to determine the number of full body burial plots. The outcome of that study will be shared with the community.

It is the hope of Mission San Juan Capistrano that the study will allow the Mission to mark the remaining available plots, inform the community of the space limitations, and make accommodations accordingly.

If you would like to be kept informed about changes in policies, use, or are in desire of other information pertaining to this historic cemetery, the Mission invites you to provide your full contact information in one of the following ways so that you may receive updates regarding the Mission's findings and plans:

- Email [cemetery@missionsjc.com](mailto:cemetery@missionsjc.com)
- Visit the Mission's front gate staff, open daily 8:30AM-5:00PM
- Write a letter to: Historic Mission, 26801 Ortega Highway, SJC, CA 92675 Attention: Cemetery Offices.

Once the survey, is completed by a third party consultant, the community will also be invited to share concerns at a future meeting discussing new policies.

The Mission believes that it is important to develop solutions that will accommodate as many people possible without desecrating graves in the process.

In accommodating as many people as possible; areas of concern that need to be discussed include: role of cremain burials, required spacing between graves, and the use of archaeologists to prevent disruption to an existing grave.

***About Mission San Juan Capistrano:***

*Known as the “Jewel of the Missions,” Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.*

*The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres’ quarters of the South Wing.*

*The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County’s only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County’s only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com).*

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