

CASE No.  
163

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

---

SIERRA DE LOS VERDUGOS GRANT

---

ANTONIO CORONEL

CLAIMANT



MAR 6 1963

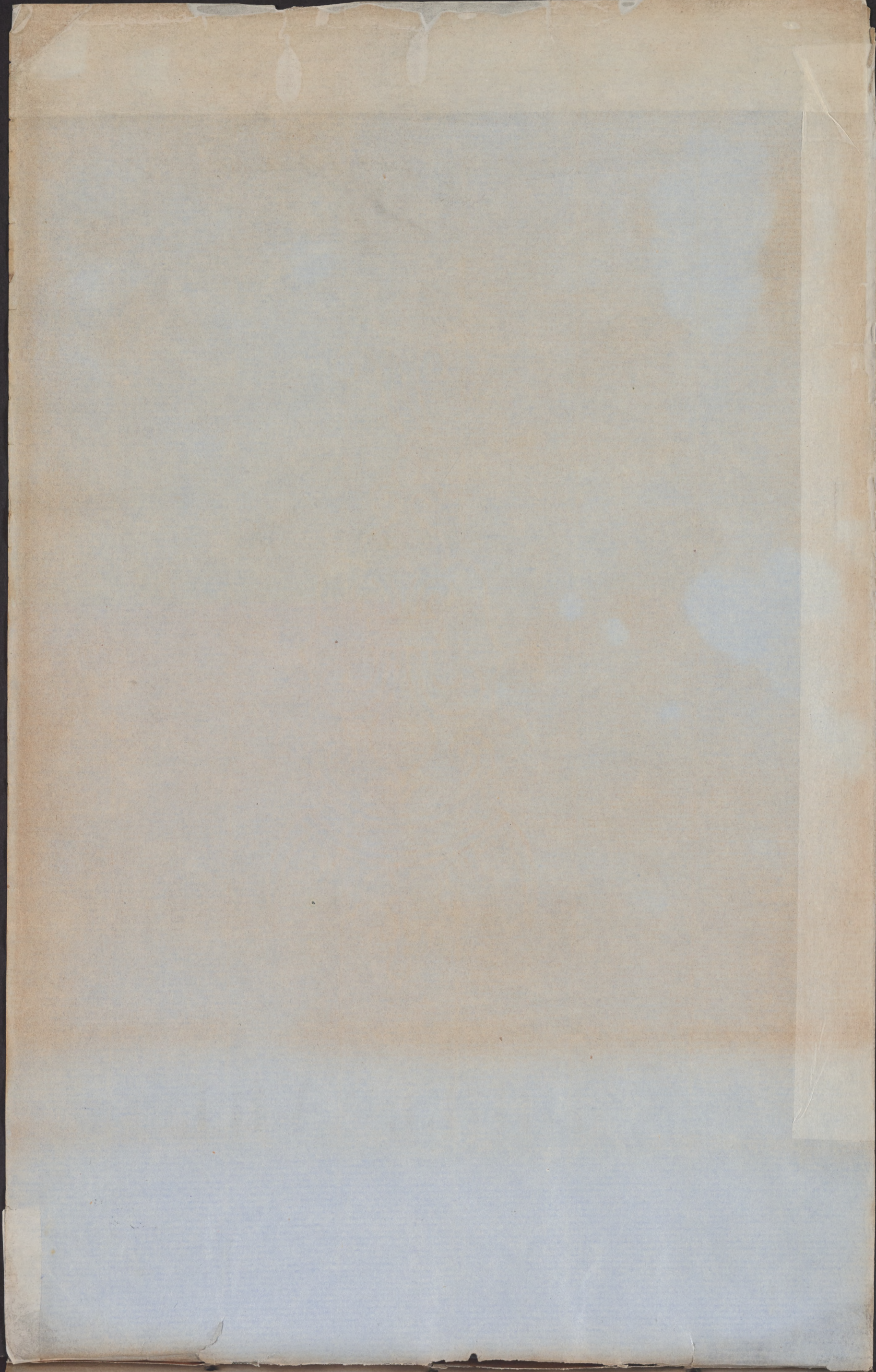
A. S. V.  
52% COTTON FIBER  
BROKER BOND  
Hammill



438

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PAGE 1

# TRANSCRIPT

OF THE

# PROCEEDINGS

IN CASE

NO. 438

*Antonio Coronel* CLAIMANT

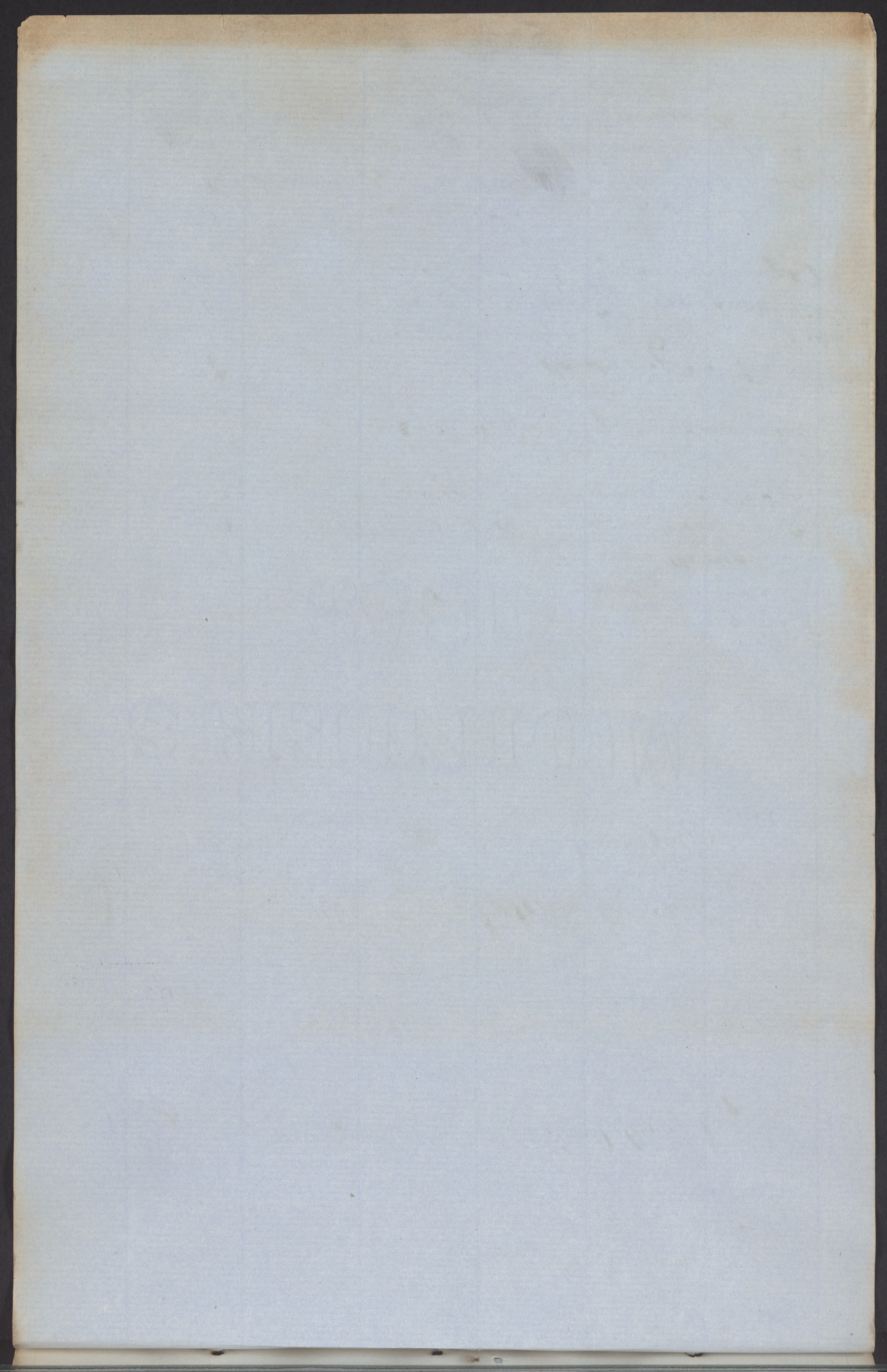
VS.

THE UNITED STATES, DEFENDANT,

FOR THE PLACE NAMED

*"Sierra de los Verdugos"*







Office of the Board of Commissioners,

To ascertain and settle the Private Land Claims

IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Be it Remembered, that on this First day of November, Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-two, before the Commissioners to ascertain and settle the Private Land Claims in the State of California, sitting as a Board in the City of San Francisco, in the State aforesaid, in the United States of America, the following Proceedings were had, to wit;

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The Petition of Antonio Coronel, for the Place named "Sierra de los Verdugos," was presented, and ordered to be filed and docketed with No. 438, and is as follows, to wit;

(Vide page 3 of this Transcript.)

Upon which Petition the following subsequent Proceedings were had in their chronological order, to wit;

Los Angeles November 9<sup>th</sup> 1852,  
In Case no. 438, Antonio Coronel for the place named "La Sierra de los Verdugos," the deposition of Anastasio Salcedo, a witness in behalf of the Claimant, taken before Commissioner Meland Hall, was filed;

(Vide page 4 of this Transcript.)

In the same case the deposition of Jose Maria Dopeno, a witness in behalf of the Claimant, taken before Commissioner Meland Hall, was filed;

(Vide page 6 of this Transcript.)

In the same case the deposition of Agustin Olvera, a witness in behalf of the Claimant, taken before Commissioner Meland Hall, with document marked A H, no. 1 & Translation thereof marked B, annexed thereto, was filed;

(Vide page 5 of this Transcript.)



Los Angeles December 13<sup>th</sup> 1852,  
 In the same case the deposition of Leonard Cota  
 a witness in behalf of the claimant, taken before  
 Commissioner Richard Hall, was filed;  
 (Vide page 8 of this Transcript.)

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In the same case the deposition of Manuel F.  
 Corone, a witness in behalf of the claimant,  
 taken before Commissioner Richard Hall, was  
 filed;  
 (Vide page 6 of this Transcript.)

San Francisco May 9<sup>th</sup> 1854,  
 Case no. 438 was called, submitted on briefs and  
 taken under advisement by the Board.

San Francisco June 27<sup>th</sup> 1854.  
 In the same case Commissioner R. Aug. Thompson  
 delivered the Opinion of the Board, rejecting the  
 claim;  
 (Vide page 23 of this Transcript.)

San Francisco Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> 1854.  
 In the same case, on motion of the U.S. Law  
 Agent, the following order was made, to wit;  
 (Vide page 25 of this Transcript.)



3

To the Honorable the Board of W. G. Land Commissioners appointed to settle Private Land Claims in California

Petition

The Petition of Antonio Coronel respectfully sheweth

That on or about the fifteenth day of June A. D. 1846 Pio Pico then Governor of California in the name of the Mexican Nation by virtue of the laws then in force the powers in him vested the customs and usages of the Country affecting grants of land in California granted in full property unto your Petitioner the Mountain tract known by the name of Las Verdugas situate in the present County of Los Angeles which is situated at the South of the Rancho of Don Ignacio Coronel and is bounded by the dry stream of San Pascual on the South and on the West by the stream of Tuzunga

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Said tract being described in the papers and maps relating to said grant of land copies of the papers now in the possession of your Petitioner are herewith filed as part of this Petition

That as soon as copies of the Record of this grant in the Archives in the custody of the U. S. Governor General for California can be obtained your Petitioner prays leave to file the same as part of this Petition,

and your Petitioner further shews that the land above described is a Mountain tract of little value except for wood that grows upon it that your Petitioner has continued to occupy said land by procuring his wood and timber from the same and other wise exercising acts of ownership over said lands and has up to the present time had and possessed the peaceable and quiet possession of said land as in the manner aforesaid

There is no competing claim to said lands known to your Petitioner and the said lands have not been surveyed by the Governor General for California

The evidence upon which your Petitioner relies in this case consists of the Records of this grant papers and maps in the Office and custody of the U. S. Governor General for California original papers and maps in the possession of your Petitioner and the testimony



4.

of witnesses to be produced before your Honorable Board

Respectfully submitted for such action as the just and nature of the claim may require

E. O. Crosby  
Counsel for Claimant

Filed in Office November 1st 1852

Geo Fisher  
Secretary

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Los Angeles Novem<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1852

Deposition  
of  
Anastacio  
Salcedo

On this day before Commissioner H. Hall came Anastacio Salcedo a witness in behalf of the Claimant A. F. Coronel Petition No 438 and was duly sworn his evidence being given in Spanish and interpreted by the Secretary

The U S Associate Law Agent was present

In answer to inquiries by Counsel for the Claimant the witness testified as follows

My name is Anastacio Salcedo my age is thirty years and I reside in the city of Los Angeles

I am acquainted with the place called Sierra de los Indios claimed by Antonio Coronel. It is about four leagues from this place in a Northern direction

I have known it for about three years since at the place from October 1830 to March 1831 and was engaged in sawing timber by permission of said Coronel who I considered the owner I was again at the place getting timber in the same way in March last and I have some timber there yet

Anastacio Salcedo

Sworn and Subscribed Before me

Hiland Hall Comm

Filed in Office Novem<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1852

Geo Fisher Secretary



5  
 Déposition  
 of  
 Agustin  
 Olvera

Los Angeles November 9th 1852  
 On this day before Comissioner Heliana Hall  
 came Agustin Olvera a witness in behalf of the  
 Claimant Antonio Cerme Petition No 438  
 and was duly sworn his evidence being interpreted  
 by the Secretary

The U S Associate Law Agent was present

In answer to questions by Counsel for the Claimant  
 the witness testified as follows.

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My name is Agustin  
 Olvera my age is thirty two and I reside in Los Angeles  
 I am acquainted with the hand writing and signatures  
 of Pio Pico and Jose Matias Moreno

a paper is now  
 shown me purporting to be a grant to Antonio Cerme  
 of a tract of land called Finca de los Padregos I be-  
 lieve the signatures of said Pico and Moreno on said  
 paper to be genuine

I think the date of the paper is the  
 15th of June 1846 the paper is made in Mexico and  
 marked H H No 1.

Question by the Associate Law Agent

When did the Departmental Assembly ever sit  
 at Los Angeles in the summer of 1846

Answer I believe the regular session was closed  
 in the month of July and the extra session in August

At what time in the month of July 1846 did Don  
 Pio Pico return to this place from the North

Answer I do not recollect

Agustin Olvera

Given and Subscribed  
 Before me

Heliana Hall Comr  
 Filed in Office November 9th 1852  
 Geo Fisher  
 Secretary



Los Angeles November 9th 1852

Deposition  
of  
Jose Ma  
Doporto

On this day before Commissioner Hall came Jose  
Ma Doporto a witness in behalf of the Claimant  
Anto Coronel, Petition No 438 and was duly  
sworn his evidence being interpreted by the Secy

The W & Associate Law Agent was present

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In answer to inquiries by the Claimants Counsel  
the witness testified as follows

My name is Jose Maria Doporto my age is forty two  
years and I reside in Los Angeles and I have lived  
here for five years

I know the land called Guvia de Los Nequeros  
claimed by Antonio F Coronel, It is about two  
leagues from this place in a westerly direction here  
after I came to this Town being told that the place  
belonged to Coronel.

I applied to him to get wood  
there and I have obtained it several times Coronel  
has also got wood and timber there.

I have seen a  
brother of said Coronel with his family in a tent  
on the place and having a corral there with about  
half a dozen Milch cows.

Jose Maria Doporto  
Signed and Subscribed  
Before me

Hiland Hall Commissioner

Filed in Office November 9th 1852

Geo Fisher  
Secretary

Deposition  
of  
Manuel  
E. Coronel

Los Angeles November 20th 1852

On this day before Commissioner Hiland Hall  
came Manuel F Coronel a witness in behalf of  
the Claimant Antonio F Coronel Petition No  
438 and was duly sworn his evidence being given in Sp  
anish and interpreted by the Secretary



3/4/08

4

The W G Associate Law Agent was present

In answer to inquiries by Counsel for the Plaintiff and the witness testified as follows

My name is Manuel Francisco Gomez my age is twenty two years and I reside in Los Angeles

In 1846 I was Clerk to the Alcalde of this place and at the request of the Secretary of the Green meat I went into the Office of the Secretary and remained there for two months as copying clerk. It was to the best of my recollection during the months of June and July. During the time I was there I wrote out a Petition for my brother Antonio F Gomez asking the Governor for a tract of called "called" the Guinas. It was situated back of the Canada of the Redwoods.

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A paper being shown the witness which is an Official Transcript from the United States Surveyor General for California of Expediente No 572 copied by him the 23 of October 1852 the witness says

That the Petition to the Governor found on page second is his hand writing on its being explained to the witness that the Paper before him is not an original but a true copy he says he supposed it was his own hand but that it may be that it is exactly like his.

The witness further testified as follows, The decree in the margin of said Petition is the hand writing of the Governor's Secretary Jose Matias Moreno.

The date to the said Petition was written by me by mistake July being written for June. I was young and only a copyist and in my mind was fifteen or sixteen years old.

How do you account for the date July to the decree on the margin of the Petition and the date to the report of Leonidas Cota on the third page of said paper and why are these dates different

Answer I from the time I wrote the Petition I do not know that I have seen the paper. I believe that the others are mistaken by my mistake but I cannot



state it to be so of my own knowledge

Questions by the Associate Law Agent

Do you recollect whether many letters were written out in the Office of the Governor Pio returned from the North

Answer I was very young and therefore took very little interest in the business of the Office and do not remember what was done

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Manuel F. Beroncel  
Given and Subscribed  
Before me

Alfano Hall  
Commissioner

Filiatic Office December 13th 1852

Geo Fisher  
Secretary

Deposition  
of  
Leandro  
Cota

Los Angeles, November 20th 1852  
On this day before Commissioner Alfano Hall came Leandro Cota a witness in behalf of the Claimant Antonio F. Beroncel Petition No 438 and was duly sworn his evidence being interpreted by the Secretary

The U S Associate Law Agent was present

In answer to questions by Counsel for the Claimant the witness testified as follows

My name is Leandro Cota my age is thirty four years and I reside in the County of Los Angeles

In the year 1846 I was Regidor and during the months of June and July for the greater portion of those months I acted as Alcalde

A paper is now shown me purporting to be an Official travel letter from the Office of the United States Surveyor General



4/438

9.

for California copied by the Governor June 23 of October 1852

I recollect that the report made by me which is on 3. of said papers The date to said report I first wrote July because that was the date of the Petition and the marginal decree of the Governor but I immediately altered it because I knew it was June and I afterwards called the attention of the Secretary to the date in the margin It was on the 4th day of June when I made the report

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Question by the Associate Law Agent

Do you recollect that it was the fourth of June from another circumstance than by your seeing the date on the paper

Answer I should have recollected that it was in June and not July but I might not have remembered the day of the month, I should have remembered that it was in June from the circumstance of my being the only magistrate in this place and having of the business to attend to in those days

Did you call the attention of the Secretary himself to the mistake and on the day in which the correction was made by you

Answer It was the Secretary himself and I called his attention to the mistake some days after I had made and corrected my own report

In whose hand writing the draught of the title at the end of the paper before shown you

Answer I do not know,

Are you acquainted with the names of all the persons employed in the Secretary's Office at that period?

Answer I am not, There are several persons employed. It was difficult to procure regular clerks and boys were sometimes employed as copyists



10.

Do you mean the hand writing of the Governor's  
order which follows your own report

Answer I cannot positively say but I think an-  
-gustin Alvaras or Juan M. Novandias. I  
rather think it was Alvaras

Do you recollect in what part of the month  
of June 1846 Governor Pio left this place for the  
North and when did he return

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Answer I do not recollect the time he left or the time  
of his return

How many days after you made the report and  
attended the date was it before you informed the  
Secretary of the mistake

Answer About ten or three days after I had up and  
corrected the report and sent to the Governor and in  
a day or two after that I called the attention of the  
Secretary to it as before stated

Lemuel Cota

Given and Subscribed  
Before me

Helena Hall  
Commissioner

Filed in Office December 13th 1852

Geo Fisher  
Secretary

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N 438 1

//

Expediente

[1. P. D. N.]

1840

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Sierra de los Verdugos, concedido  
à Antonio F. Coronel

N<sup>o</sup> 572

1840



L. S.

E. Sr.

Angelés Julio  
3 de Julio 1845  
Informe el  
Sr. Juez 1.º de  
este Capital  
sobre si el ter-  
reno es ó no  
baldeo y vuel-  
va al Gobier-  
no p.º resolver

Pico

Antonio J. Coronel mexicano  
por nacimiento y vecino de esta  
Ciudad ante V. E. y como mejor  
halla lugar en derecho digo:  
que hallandose valdies la Tierra  
que está al Norte del Rancho  
del Sr. mi Padre Don Ygnacio  
Coronel en esta jurisdicción, cono-  
cido por el nombre de los Verdugo,  
deseoso de emprender algu-  
nos cortes de madera, y otros  
ramos para mi subsistencia lo  
denuncie en debida forma y  
pido se me adjudique en  
propiedad tres sitios de ganado  
mayor que contiene oho terreno  
poco mas ó menos desde el arroyo de tozungo-

Por tanto =

N. V. E. Suplico decreto de conformidad en lo  
que recibire gracia Juro 1.º ser verdad y ad-  
mitir lo presente en papel común por  
falta de sellado =

Angel. Julio 3 de 1845 -  
Anto. J. Coronel -

Exmo. Sr.

A consecuencia del superior decreto  
marginal pase a examinar el parage  
de la Tierra que solicita el interesado  
y practicada la veduria segun lo dispuesto  
por reglamentos, resulta estar enteramente  
valdies y no pertenecer a particular alguno -  
por lo que creo no habrá obstaculo en con-  
cederlo, todo lo que tengo el honor de  
informar a V. E. para su conocimiento  
y demás fines =

Angelés 21 de Julio de 1845 -  
Bernardo Cota



103

Angeles Junio 15 de 1845

Visto la peticion con que da prin-  
cipio este expediente y el informe que an-  
tercedo con todo lo demas que se tuvo pre-  
sente y ver conimo de conformidad con la  
ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824 - - -

[4 P.D.R.]

y reglamento de 21 de Noviembre de 1828  
declaro a' D<sup>no</sup> Antonio J<sup>o</sup> Coronel dueño en  
propiedad de tres sitios de ganado mayor en  
la sierra de los Verdugos colindante con  
D<sup>no</sup> Ygnacio Coronel. Librese el titulo res-  
pectivo y sometase este expediente a' la apro-  
bacion de la E. J. Departamental.

Sio Sico Gobernador Constitucional  
del Departamento de California lo decretó  
y firmo' d'ofe' -  
Sio Sico

José Matias Moreno  
Pro. Yuto

[5 P.D.R.]

Sio Sico Gob<sup>o</sup> Constitucional del  
Departamento de Californias - Por cuanto  
el Ciudadano Ant<sup>o</sup> J<sup>o</sup> Coronel ha preten-  
dido para su beneficio personal y el de su  
familia la sierra conocida con el nombre  
de los verdugos q<sup>e</sup> esta situada al N. del  
Rancho de D<sup>no</sup> Ygnacio Coronel y colinda  
con el arroyo seco de San Susenual por el O.  
y al S. con el arroyo de Toymunga; que se  
halló absolutamente valdido; practicadas  
las averiguaciones concernientes y usando  
de las facultades con que me halló autorizado  
por el Supremo Gobierno a nombre de la  
Nacion Mexicana he venido por decreto de  
este dia en concederle al expresado D<sup>no</sup>  
Coronel la denominada sierra declaran-  
dole la propiedad de ella por las presentes  
letras de conformidad con la ley de 18

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1845 JUN 15 10 30 AM  
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de Agosto de 1824 y reglamento de 21 de Noviembre de 1828 bajo las condiciones siguientes -

1<sup>a</sup> Podrá cultivarse de manera mas conforme a colonizacion destinandola al uso q mejor le convenga, teniendo la en el mas pronto aprovechamiento -

2<sup>a</sup> Solicitara del juez respectivo la posesion juridica en virtud de este despacho, cuya autoridad hara la mediacion con arreglo a ordenanza -

3<sup>a</sup> Formara el interesado el disenyo Plano topografico de la denominada sierra y pasara a este Gobierno un tanto de el para agregarlo -

— — — — — [L.P.R.]  
al expediente - En consecuencia mandado que teniendo este titulo por firme y valido se tome razon de el en el libro a que corresponde y se entregue al interesado para su resguardo y demas fines. Dado en la Ciudad de los Angeles en este papel comun por no haber sellado a los 15 dias del mes de Julio de 1845 -

Office of Surveyor General of the United States for California -

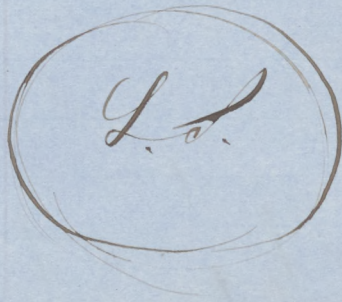
I Samuel D King Surveyor General of the United States for the State of California, and as such now having in my office and under my charge and custody a portion of the archives of the former Spanish and Mexican territory or Department of upper California, do hereby certify that the six preceding and herunto annexed pages of tracing paper numbered from one to six inclusive, and each of which is verified by my initials (S.D.K.) exhibit true and accurate copies of certain documents on file and forming

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15.

part of the said archives in this office  
In testimony whereof I have  
herunto signed my name  
officially and affixed my  
private seal of office (not  
having a seal of office) at the  
city of San Francisco this  
twenty third day of October  
1852 -



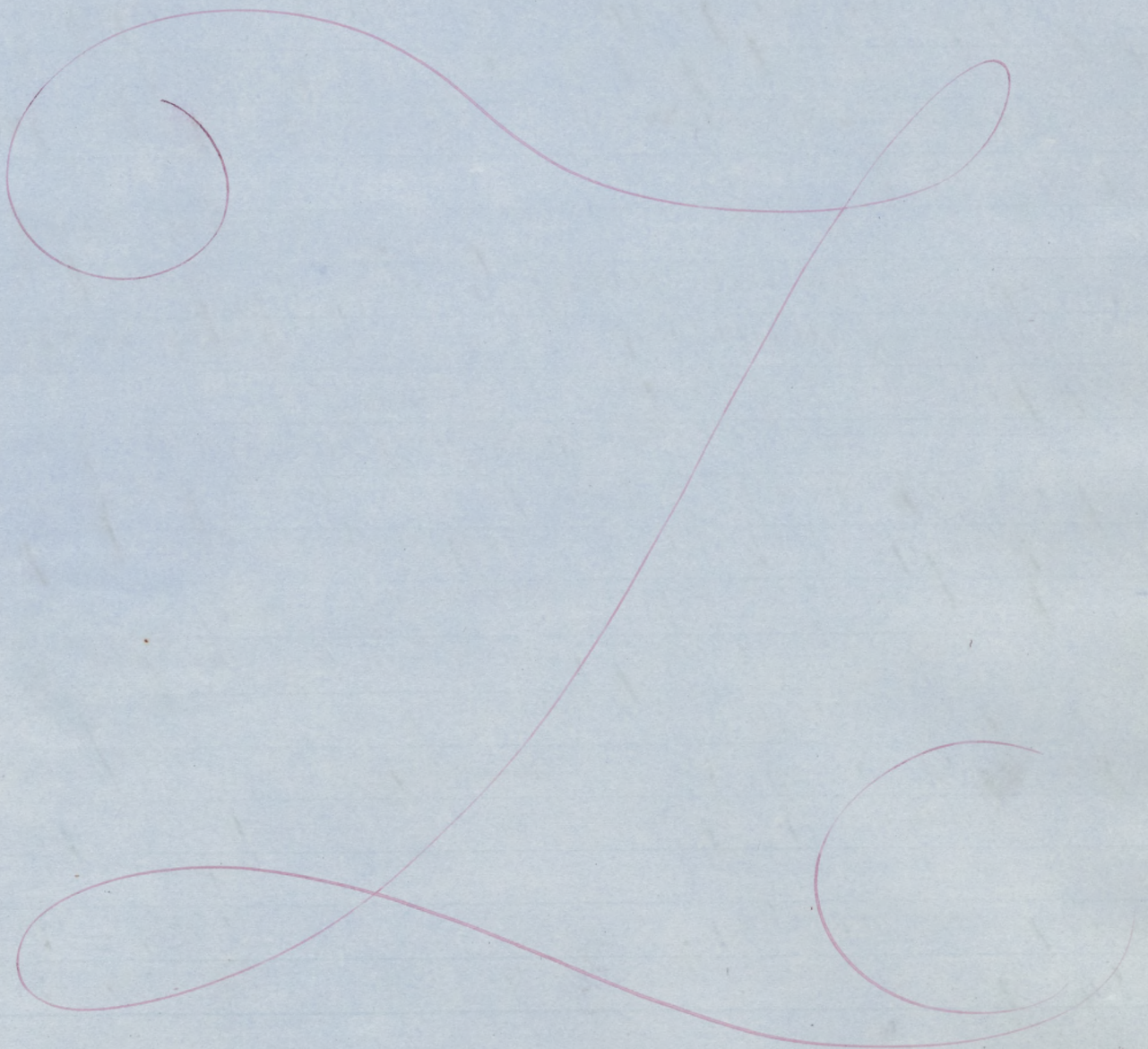
(Signed) Saml. D. King  
Surv Genl Cal.

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Filed in office Aug<sup>t</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1853 -  
(Signed) Geo. Fisher  
Secy

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J

1885  
June 22nd  
1885

1885  
June 22nd  
1885





Translation  
of  
Exhibit No 2  
Expediente.

(Government seal)  
Angelis July 3 1846  
Let the Honorable  
1st Judge of this Cas  
- ito report as to who  
- the promises are  
unoccupied or not  
and let report be  
made to the Govern  
ment for further  
action

Nico

You Excellency

Antonio Flores Mexican by  
birth a resident of this city be  
fore you Excellency and in the  
most approved form of Law do  
say that the ~~mountain~~ <sup>mountain</sup> tract  
lying at the mouth of the Ranch  
of My Father Juan Don Ignacio  
General of this jurisdiction and  
known by the name of La Boca  
is unoccupied

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That I am  
desirous of conducting some  
cutting of timber and other branches  
for my support. Thus fore I deman  
- see the promises in due form  
and request that the ownership  
may be adjudicated to me of three  
square leagues of Land which  
said tract contains to the same  
a little more or less from the City  
Stream of San Pascual to the Stream

of Tojunga. Thus fore I beseech you Excellency to  
decree according to my prayer when in I shall receive  
a grant I make oath &c

Be pleased to admit the  
present Petition on com mumpaper for want of the  
stamp

Angelis July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1846

You Excellency

In consequence of the Superior Marquino's decree prop  
- osed to examine the tract of mountain land which  
the party interested solicits and having taken the  
view according to the provisions of regulations  
it results that it is entirely unoccupied and does  
not belong to any individual

Thus fore I believe  
that there is no obstacle to its being granted all which  
I have the honor of reporting to you Excellency for  
his information and further ends Angelis <sup>July 3<sup>rd</sup></sup>  
1846 Leonardo Cota



Angeles June 15th 1845,

In view of the Petition where in these proceedings originate and the foregoing report with all the other things that are brought forward and it behoves to view in conformity with the Law of August 18th 1824 and the Regulations of 21st November 1828.

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Where Don Antonio Flores owns in full property of three square leagues of land (sitios de ganados Mayors) in the Sierra de los Vedados bounded by lands of Don Ignacio Torres.

Let the appropriate Patent be issued and these Minutes be submitted to the approval of the Most Excellent the Departmental Assembly.

Pio Pico Governor Constitutional of the Californias has so decreed and subscribed & ratified

Pio Pico  
Jue. Matias Arroyo  
Secretary ad interim

Filed in Office August 30th 1845

Gen. Fisher  
Secretary

Went  
20



19  
Document  
H. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1  
annexed to  
the deposition  
of Agustin  
Olvera

"H. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1"

Sio Pico Gobernador Constitucional del  
Departamento de Californias

L. S.

Por cuanto el Ciudadano  
Antonio Coronel ha pretendido  
para su beneficio personal y el de su fa-  
milia la Sierra conocida con el nombre  
de los Verdugos que esta situada al N.  
del Rancho de D. Ignacio Coronel y co-  
linda con el arroyo seco de San Sausal  
por el O. y al S. con el arroyo de Toquingü;  
que se halla absolutamente valdido; prac-  
ticadas las averiguaciones concernientes  
y usando de las facultades con que me  
halla autorizado por el supremo Gobierno  
a nombre de la Nacion Mexicana, he  
venido por decreto de este dia en conceder  
al espresado suor la denominada Sierra  
declarandole la propiedad de ella por las  
presentes letras, de conformidad con la ley  
de 18 de Agosto de 1824 y reglamento  
de 21 de Noviembre de 1828 bajo las  
condiciones siguientes

1<sup>a</sup> Podrá cultivarla de la ma-  
nera mas conforme a colonizacion, des-  
tinandola al uso que mejor le convenga,  
teniendola en el mas pronto aprovechami-  
ento

2<sup>a</sup> Solicitara del juez respectivo  
la posesion juridica en virtud de este  
despacho, y cuya autoridad hard la  
medicion con arreglo a ordenanza

3<sup>a</sup> Formara el interesado el  
diseño plano topografico, de la denomi-  
nada Sierra, y pasara a este Gobierno  
un tanto de el para agregarlo al ex-  
pediente. En consecuencia mando que  
teniendose este titulo por firme y valdido  
se tome razon de el en el libro a  
que corresponde y se entregue al inte-  
usado para su resguardo y demas fines,

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Dado en la Ciudad de los Angeles en este  
papel comun por no haber sellado  
a' los 15 dias del mes de Junio de  
1845 →

(Signed) Bio Pico

(Signed) Jose' Matias Moreno  
Tro Gato

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Queda tomada razon de este superior  
despacho en el libro respectivo →

(Signed) Moreno

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Filed in Office November 9<sup>th</sup> 1852

(Signed) Geo. Fisher  
Secy

---

LVCE  
1852 20



Translation Pio Pico Constitutional Governor of the Dep  
 of - autumns of the Californias  
 N N No 1. L S

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Whereas the Citizen Antonio Leonel has claimed  
 for his own personal benefit and that of his family  
 the Mountainous tract known by the name of Los  
 Angeles which is situated at the mouth of the Rancho  
 of Don Ignacio Coronel and is bounded by the  
 Dry stream of San Pascual on the South and on  
 the West by the stream of Tujunga which is now abso-  
 lutely deserted the investigations in that behalf hav-  
 ing been taken and in the exercise of the prerogative  
 with which I find myself invested by the Supreme Govern-  
 ment in the name of the Mexican Nation I do here  
 by decree of this day grant to said Gentleman the ap-  
 preciated Mountainous tract declaring unto him the  
 ownership thereof by the present letting in conformity  
 with the Law of 15th of August 1824 and the Regu-  
 lations of 21st of November 1828 under the following  
 conditions

1. He may cultivate it in the manner most con-  
 formable to (the system of Colonization directing  
 it to the use which may best behove him in improving  
 it as soon as possible
2. He shall solicit the competent Magistrate for  
 the judicial possession in virtue of this patent  
 said Magistrate shall mark the measurements  
 agreeable to ordinance
3. The party interested shall make the design or topo-  
 graphical Plan of the appraised Mountainous tract  
 and send to this Government an abstract thereof  
 to add it to the minutes of the proceedings

Consequently  
 I order that this title being held as firm and valid  
 be entered of record in the appropriate Book  
 and delivered to the party in interest for his protec-  
 tion and further purposes

Given at the City of  
 Los Angeles on this Common paper this being none  
 stamped on the 15th day of the month of June 1846



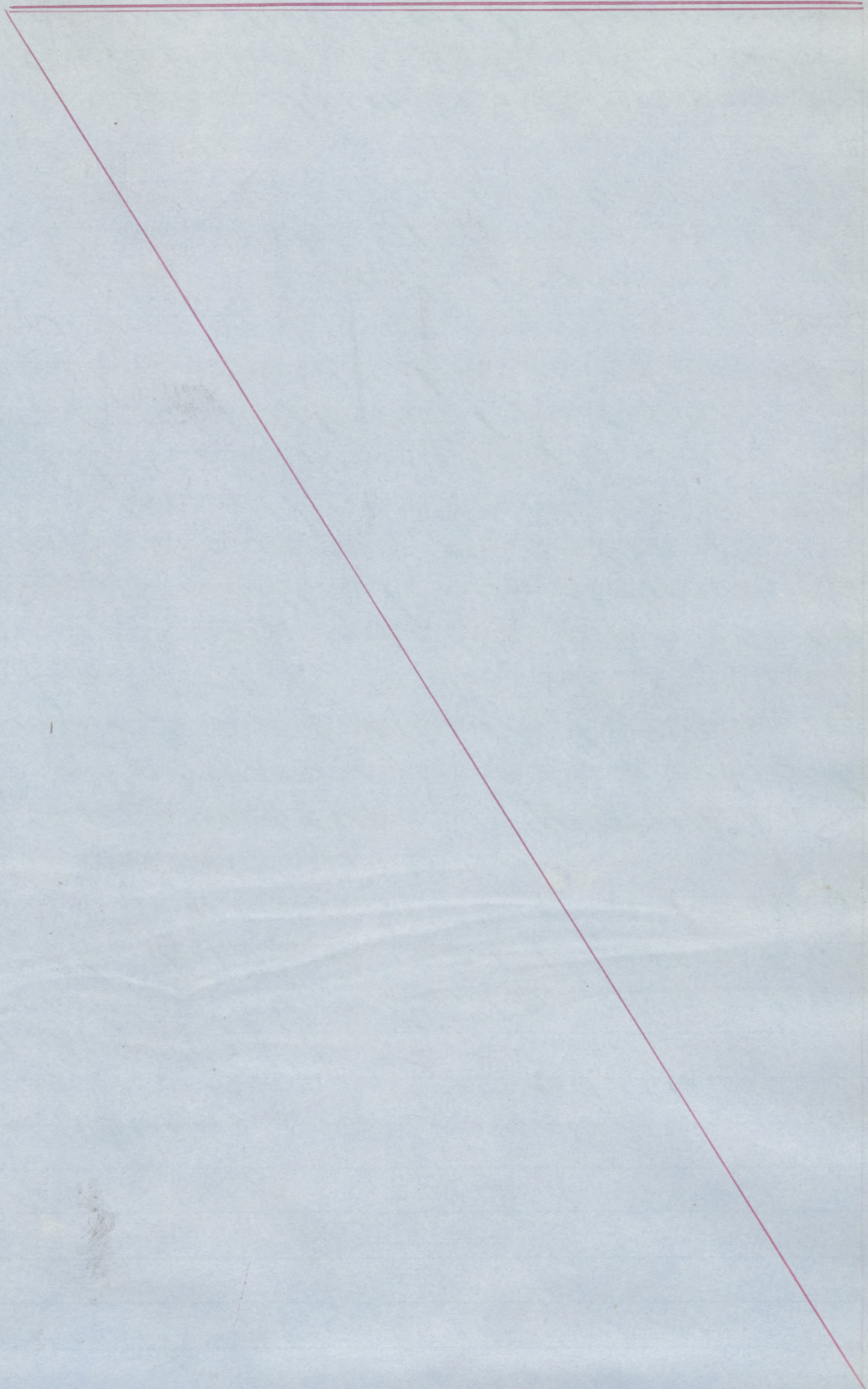
Pio Pico  
Jose Antonio Moreno  
Secretary ad interim

This Superior Patent is entered in the appropriate  
Book

Moreno

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Filed in Office November 1st 1852  
Geo. Fisher  
Secretary





Opinion  
of the  
Board

Case No 438

Antonio Coronel

The United States

Los Verdugos

This claim belongs to a class of cases in which the grants purport to be made at or about the time of the occupation of the country by the United States and under circumstances calculated to throw strong doubts as to the good faith of the transaction and whether they were made in anticipation of and with reference to the approaching change of Government.

It should therefore be subjected to a more rigid scrutiny and stricter rules of evidence than cases of more ancient grants accompanied by long occupation.

The grant filed by the Petitioner in this case in support of his claim purports to be made by Governor Pio Pico to the claimant on the 15th of July 1846. The signatures of the Governor and Secretary Murcio to this document are proven to be genuine but the date has evidently been altered from July to June by a clumsy attempt to cut out the letter "J" in the word Julio into an "n".

A reference to the true copy of the Expediente shows that the dates of all the documents contained in that record have been changed in a similar manner except the petition for the grant and the decree of encierro made by the Governor.

The former of these documents still bears the date of July though the figures appear to have been changed from the 13th to the 3d by converting the "1" before the 3 into an O; the latter document appears to have been originally dated June 15th.

An awkward attempt is made in the evidence to account for these discrepancies upon the ground that the person who drew the petition was mistaken in the month and that in consequence of his mistake the authors of the other papers fell into the same error.



It would be rather an extravagant stretch of credu-  
-lity to believe that three different individuals all  
occupying responsible official situations and in  
the daily habit of preparing and dating official  
documents should all on different days fall into  
the same mistake as to the month in which the respec-  
-tive documents prepared by them were executed.

A much more rational  
conclusion and one to which my mind is irresistibly brought  
is that the several acts were all performed in the month  
of July the dates subsequently attached in or date and  
the question as to the validity of a grant made after  
the raising of the American flag at Monterey on the  
7th of July 1846 and the decree of emancipation afterwards  
issued in the Expediente and ante datum order conform  
to those altitudes.

These circumstances are  
sufficient to create a suspicion of bad faith and  
fraud in the transaction to which they relate and  
consequently a strong presumption against the validity  
of the claim.

But it is not necessary to inquire whether  
they would be sufficient of themselves to authorize its  
rejection.

According to the principles settled by the  
Board in numerous other cases the evidence is  
clearly insufficient to entitle it to a compensation.  
There is no evidence that the grantee was ever in poss-  
-ession of the land or occupied in any manner except  
that he got some timber on it and authorized two other  
parties to do the same thing.

This is clearly not such  
an occupation as was contemplated by the Mexican  
Laws of Colonization or as would invest him with  
such an equitable right in the premises as would have  
been binding upon the conscience of that Government to  
raise it into a complete title. The grantee was never requir-  
-ed by the terms of his grant to obtain from the proper authorities  
the judicial possession of the land and to return to the  
Government a design or topographical plan of the tract  
to be annexed to the Expediente, neither of these acts were  
performed and in those cases there is no other disci-  
-plinary contained in the grant or any other evidence which  
would operate as a segregation of the land from the  
public domain or by which it could be located.



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and its bounds as established For these reasons we  
are of opinion that the claim is not valid and a decree  
will be entered accordingly  
Filed in Office June 7th 1854 Geo Fisher Supt

Decree

Case 438

Antonio F. Corvino

The United States

Los Verdugos

In this case on hearing the proofs and allegations  
it is adjudged by the Commission that the claim  
of the Petitioner is not valid and it is therefore decreed  
that his application for a confirmation thereof  
be denied

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Alpheus Felch  
R. Aug. Thompson  
Commissioners

Filed in Office June 27th 1854  
Geo Fisher Supt

And it appearing to the satisfaction of this Board  
that the land hereby adjudicated is situated within  
Southern District of California it is hereby ordered  
That two transcripts of the proceedings and of  
the decision in this case and of the papers and  
evidence upon which the same are pronounced be  
made out and duly certified by the Supt any one  
of which transcripts shall be filed with the  
Clerk of the United States District Court for the  
Southern District of California and the other  
be transmitted to the Attorney General of the United  
States



NYRE  
1885



Office of the Board of Commissioners,

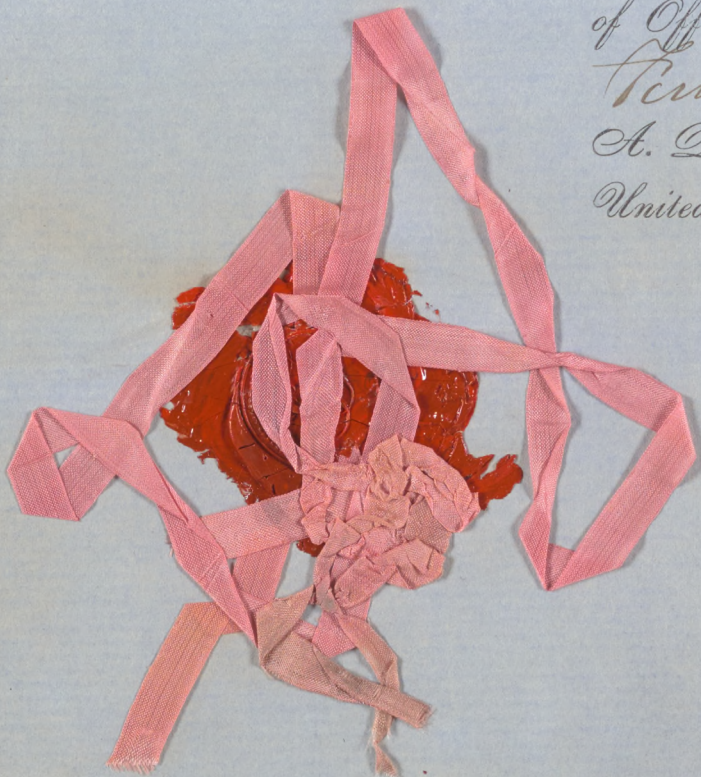
To ascertain and settle the Private Land Claims in the State of California.

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I, *George Fisher* Secretary to  
the Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the Private  
Land Claims in the State of California, do hereby certify the  
foregoing *Twenty five* pages, numbered from  
1 to 25, both inclusive, to contain a true, correct and full Tran-  
script of the Record of the Proceedings and of the Decision of the  
said Board, of the Documentary Evidence and of the Testimony  
of the Witnesses, upon which the same is founded, on file in this  
Office, in Case No. 438 on the Docket of the said Board,  
wherein *Antonio Coronel* is

the Claimant against the United States, for the place known by  
the name of *Sierra de los Verdugos*.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand  
and affix my private Seal (not having a Seal  
of Office) at San Francisco, California, this  
*Twenty sixth* day of *December*  
A. D. 1854, and of the Independence of the  
United States of America the seventy-ninth.



*G. Fisher*  
*G. Fisher*



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U. S. District Court  
Southern District California

No. 163. Docket

The United States

vs

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Antonio Coronel

"Serrano de los Verdugos"

Transcript of the Record  
from the

Board of U. S. Land Commissioners

In Case No. 438.

Filed December 19<sup>th</sup> 1834.

J. E. Farr  
Clerk

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In the District Court of the United  
States for the Southern District of  
California.

Antonio Coronado, N<sup>o</sup> 163,

vs. <sup>(Enrollment N<sup>o</sup> 438.)</sup>  
The United States. An appeal from  
Circuit Court.

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The Motion of P. Ord Attorney of the  
United States for the Southern District  
of California, and on showing to  
the Court that no notice of intention  
to present the appeal in the above  
entitled cause, has been filed <sup>by claimant</sup> ac-  
-cording to law. It is ordered that  
by the Court that this cause be  
dismissed.

P. Ord

As Dist Atty.



No 163.

United States Dist. Court  
Southern Dist. of California

Antonio Coronel

vs

The United States.

Motion to dismiss cause

Filed October 24<sup>th</sup> 1855

C. E. Canwell

By D. W. [Signature]