



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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Rock 'N Roll: New Interpretive Center Opens at Vasquez Rocks

Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, nestled between Santa Clarita and Palmdale off the 14 Freeway, is mostly recognized for its desirability as a film location (Flintstones the Movie, the original Star Trek TV series), as well as its geological rock formations and scenic hiking trails.

Now with the recent opening of its brand new state-of-the-art LEED-certified Interpretive Center, visitors can learn everything about the 932-acre natural area park.

"This is a very interesting project, and everybody is very pleased that we have finally achieved this day," Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich said. "It's an opportunity for the people to come to Vasquez Rocks and learn the history of early California, and help our young children, and young and old alike know more about the County of Los Angeles."

Russ Guiney, Director of L.A. County's Department of Parks and Recreation explains the historical context. "Well, they can look forward to a real simple explanation of how these plate tectonics formed, the geology that you see here. But also a lot of interesting thing about the animals and plants that live here, and about the indigenous people, and then the pioneer settlers that came here."

The new interpretive center features some of the slithering animals that can be found walking along the many Vasquez Rocks trails.

Park Ranger Goodwyn explains the benefit of this information: "Especially for safety. You have a rattlesnake and a gopher snake, so they can see the comparison, so when they're out on the trails they know what to look for to be safe."

Highland Park's Steven Linsley, who was on hand with his daughter Ondine, says places like Vasquez Rocks are an important part of L.A. County. "Cause it's a place that preserves nature and animals and things that are disappearing, so our kids can come out and see them and experience them."

When the park is not hosting Hollywood films and TV shows, it sees more than 100,000 visitors a year. These visitors now have much more to look forward to when visiting this L.A. County hidden gem.