Welcome to Rancho de las Pulgas

“Ranch of the Fleas”
The year was 1795

Governor Diego de Borica issues Jose Dario Argüello a Spanish land grant, the Rancho de las Pulgas (Ranch of the Fleas). This rancho was the largest grant on the San Francisco Peninsula consisting of 35,260 acres. It was in present-day San Mateo County, and encompassed contemporary San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Atherton and Menlo Park.
Why did Jose Dario Arguello receive the land?

The Spanish, who owned the area at the time, would give land as a reward to its best soldiers. Jose Dario Arguello was a Spanish soldier and was the commander of the San Francisco Presidio, Monterey Presidio, and Santa Barbara Presidio. Because of these accomplishments he was given Rancho de las Pulgas.
Governor

Jose Dario Arguello became Governor of Alta California and then Baja California.
Arguello Family

Governor Arguello was married to Maria Ygnacia Moraga. Their son and daughter-in-law lived at Rancho de las Pulgas, with their main residence being in San Carlos.

If you have ever visited the Redwood City Caltrain station, you will see a statue of Doña Arguello who lived here.
What was Rancho de las Pulgas like?

A ranch census in 1838 listed 4,000 cattle and 2,000 horses in the area of today’s San Carlos, where Dona Arguello and her family lived and which now boasts an Arguello Park, close to the family home..