

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q: By the 1760s, the colonial port cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans were thriving, but Los Angeles is not even on a map. Where can I get the facts about the origin of the City of Los Angeles.

Unlike the founding of most of the cities in the American West, the settlement and development of early Los Angeles was carefully planned, principally in Spain and Mexico.

In 1769, the location of Los Angeles was first selected as a site for a new pueblo and a Franciscan mission. In the decade which followed, close coordination among officials in Northern California, Mexico and Spain produced a plan describing how the new pueblo would be settled, governed and administered.

As a first phase in the plan, farmers and soldiers were recruited in Mexico. In 1779, these parties began a long trek from Mexico and Baja through Arizona to California. The pueblo of Los Angeles was officially founded on September 4, 1781.

You can find these facts—and many, many more—in the “Founding Documents” reference.

CITATION

Title:
*The Founding Documents of
Los Angeles: a Bilingual Edition*
[Doyce Nunis, ed.]

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