

JAMES CAMERON

His Santa Barbara Exit Interview with Les Firestein



All-Time Successful Director Lives by the Credo “Don’t Be a Tall Poppy”

In answer to the question, is James Cameron the quintessential Santa Barbaran? The most accurate answer is he probably *was*. That’s because the mega-hyphenate writer-director-producer-scientist-engineer-submarine designer-Mariana Trench explorer and Reggio Emilia school founder has put his Central Coast personal Shangri-La up for sale now that he’s raised his family and written both *Avatar* movies there. Let someone else enjoy the Galapagos north of Goleta.

It’s easy to see how James Cameron and Parcel 89 at Hollister Ranch were a perfect match. Cameron checks all the same boxes as Santa Barbara: nature loving, understated, environmentally concerned – and obsessed with the water and natural beauty.

For a guy with a lot to brag about, Cameron is not showy. He cares deeply about human advancement and sustainability and the interaction between the two. For many years Cameron’s “Parcel 89” in Hollister Ranch (as he affectionately and nondescriptly refers to it) was the perfect vortex for the director-scientist-explorer’s wide-ranging studies and interests.

Yeah, Cameron’s spread is unspoiled and lush as few other acres on this planet are. But it also has a working subsistence farm, all sorts of mammalia roaming the free-est range to ever exist, and miles of isolated coastline that look like they once did not just before Europeans but before homo sapiens. Some time after God but before Darwin.

Interestingly, Hollister is also a great place to live out the dystopia if things go more “Terminator” than “Avatar” – which as of this writing is how things are trending. To this end, Parcel 89 has multiple helipads, and can sustain itself completely off grid thanks to highly advanced solar and wind generation. The property also has every kind of well, both for agriculture and for the aforementioned homo sapiens and their support animals.

Yeah, it looks like Avatar but actually exists in Santa Barbara County

