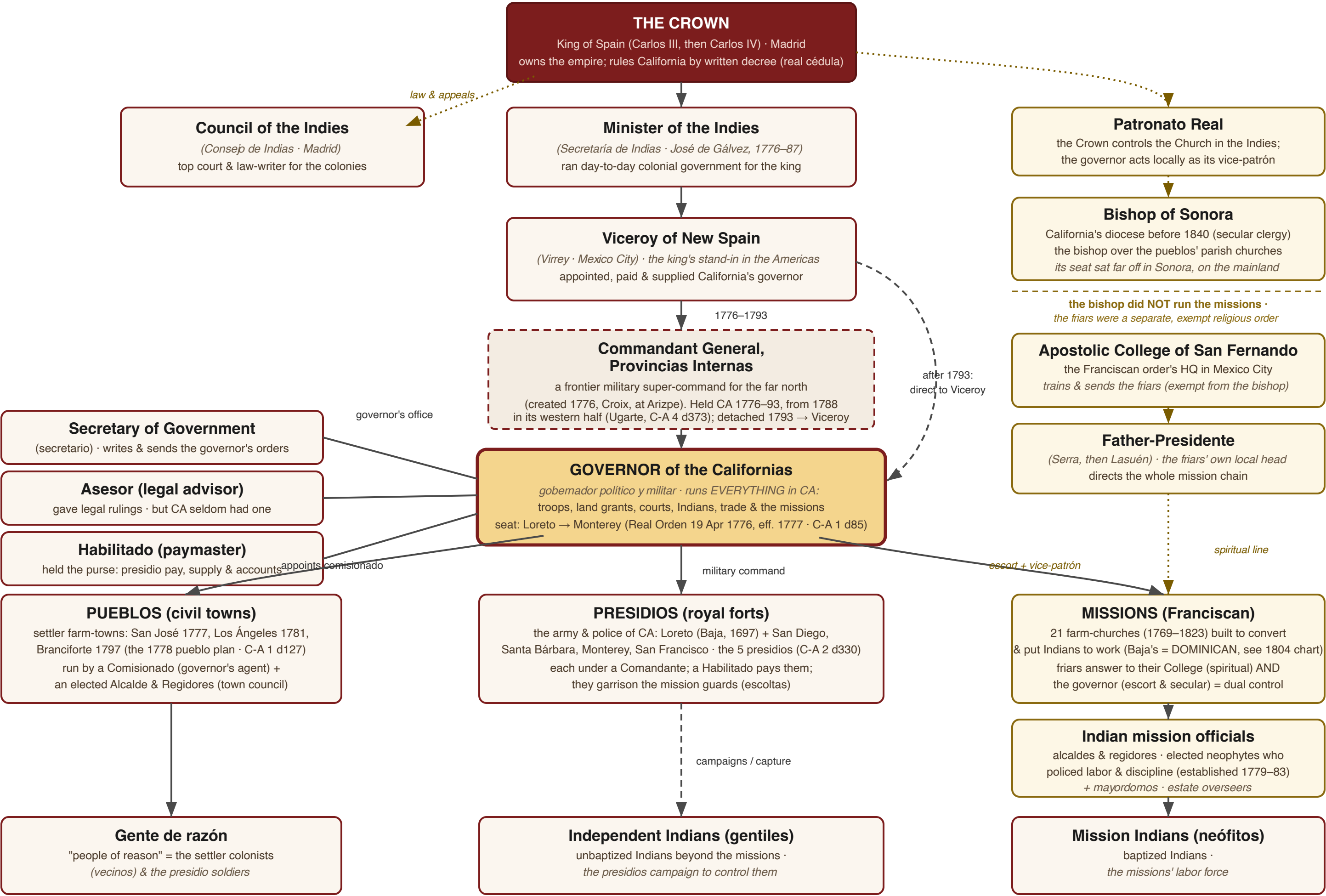


GOVERNMENT OF SPANISH CALIFORNIA

PROVINCIA DE CALIFORNIAS · PROVINCE OF THE CALIFORNIAS · one province 1769–1804, then NUEVA (ALTA) CALIFORNIA to 1821 · a civil-military command



► THE 1804 SPLIT

Las Californias is divided in two: ALTA (governor now at Monterey) and BAJA (governor at Loreto). Ordered by the King 1804, EFFECTED 1806 · Goycochea recognized at Loreto 5 Jul 1806; the line = the arroyo del Rosario, following the 1772 Franciscan–Dominican mission boundary (C-A 25). ► See the companion chart THE TWO CALIFORNIAS · 1804.

HOW TO READ THIS CHART

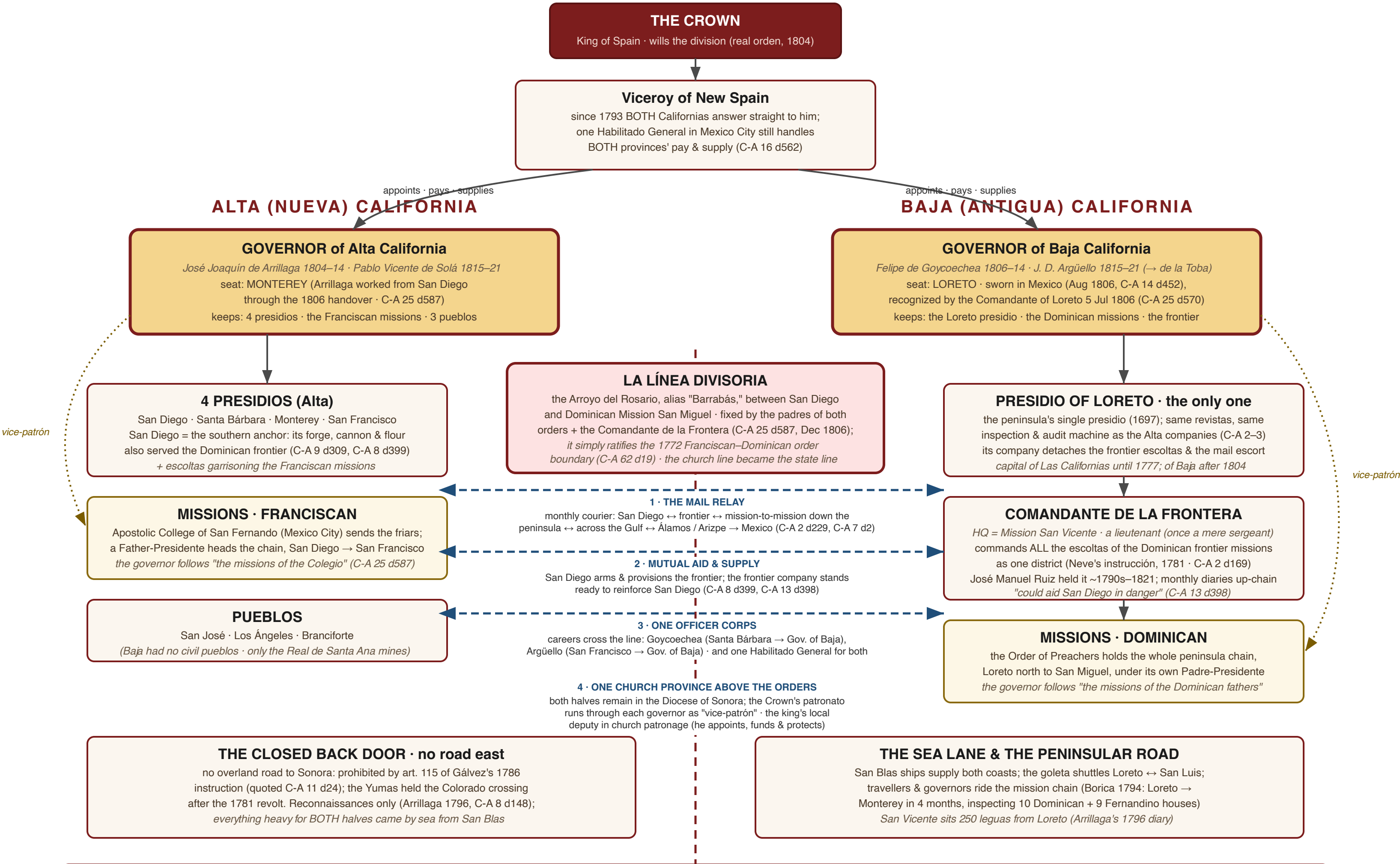
- ▶ solid arrow = chain of command (appoints / issues orders / answers to)
- - -▶ dashed arrow = intermittent / changing authority (the Provincias Internas)
-▶ dotted arrow = a church line of authority

- ◉ = the governor (the focus of this chart)
- ◉ = a superior office whose power over California came and went
- ◉ = Church institutions (the bishop's diocese AND the separate Franciscan order)

The dashed line marks the split: the friars answered to their order, not the bishop. Indian officials + bishop sourced from the C-A catalog (ca23, ca25, ca34).
Source: Aodhan Coyne, research file "governor-of-california-office-profile" · Bancroft, History of California I–III. Compiled 2026-08-04 · updated 2026-10-16 (Loreto added to the presidio line; Provincias Internas dates per C-A 4 d373; 1804 banner per C-A 25 d570d587).

THE TWO CALIFORNIAS · 1804

PROVINCIA DE LA NUEVA CALIFORNIA · PROVINCIA DE LA ANTIGUA CALIFORNIA · ordered 1804, effected 1806 · the threads that still tied them together



► WHY SPLIT?

A Monterey government "no puede celar á distancia de 600 leguas... hasta el cabo de San Lúcas" · "cannot keep watch at a distance of 600 leagues... to Cape San Lucas" (C-A 54 d216). And the halves faced different enemies: Alta faced FOREIGN NAVIES · after Nootka, San Francisco was "el último punto que podemos poseer... con completo é independiente dominio," "the last point we can hold... in complete and independent dominion" · while Baja faced DISTANCE and the desert frontier. That is also why Alta got four presidios and Baja kept one: presidios answered ships; escoltas answered the frontier.

HOW TO READ THIS CHART

→ solid arrow = chain of command (appoints / issues orders / answers to)

.....→ dotted arrow = a church line of authority

←--→ blue dashed double arrow = a thread ACROSS the division · the ties that kept the halves one system

○ = the two governors (equal rank, parallel commands)

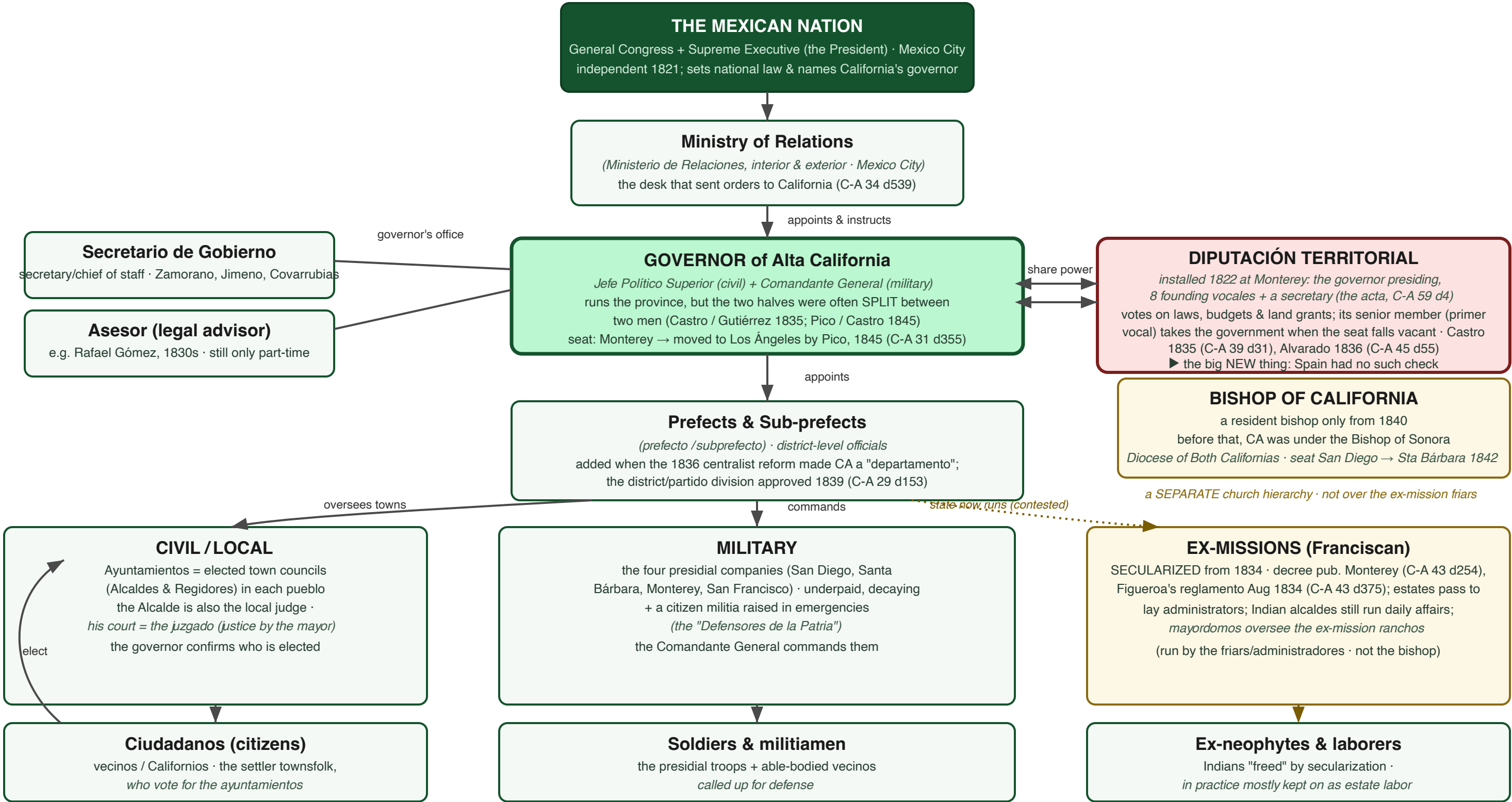
○ = the dividing line itself (a church boundary promoted to a political one)

○ = Church institutions (Franciscan college / Dominican province)

Companion to "Government of Spanish California 1769–1821" and "Government of Mexican California 1822–1846." Every cited record is a BANC MSS C-A document (volume + doc id), readable at archivesofcalifornia.com. Source: Aodhan Coyne, research file "two-californias-baja-presidios-and-frontier" + leaf read of Arrillaga's 1796 diary (C-A 8 d148). Compiled 2026-10-16.

GOVERNMENT OF MEXICAN CALIFORNIA

TERRITORIO DE LA ALTA CALIFORNIA 1824–36 · DEPARTAMENTO DE CALIFORNIAS 1836–46 · an elected assembly now checks the governor



► WHAT CHANGED FROM THE SPANISH SYSTEM

1) An ELECTED assembly (the Diputación) now shares power with and checks the governor. 2) The missions are SECULARIZED (1834) · the friars lose the estates. 3) California's status shifts TERRITORY (1824) → DEPARTMENT (1836), which adds prefects. 4) The capital moves Monterey → LOS ÁNGELES (1845).

HOW TO READ THIS CHART

→ solid arrow = chain of command (appoints / issues orders / answers to)

↔ double-headed arrow = shared / mutual power (the governor and the assembly)

⋯ dotted arrow = a church line of authority (the state claiming the ex-missions)

○ = the governor (Jefe Político + Comandante General)

○ = the elected assembly (the key new institution vs. the Spanish period)

○ = Church institutions (the ex-missions AND the bishop's diocese · kept separate)

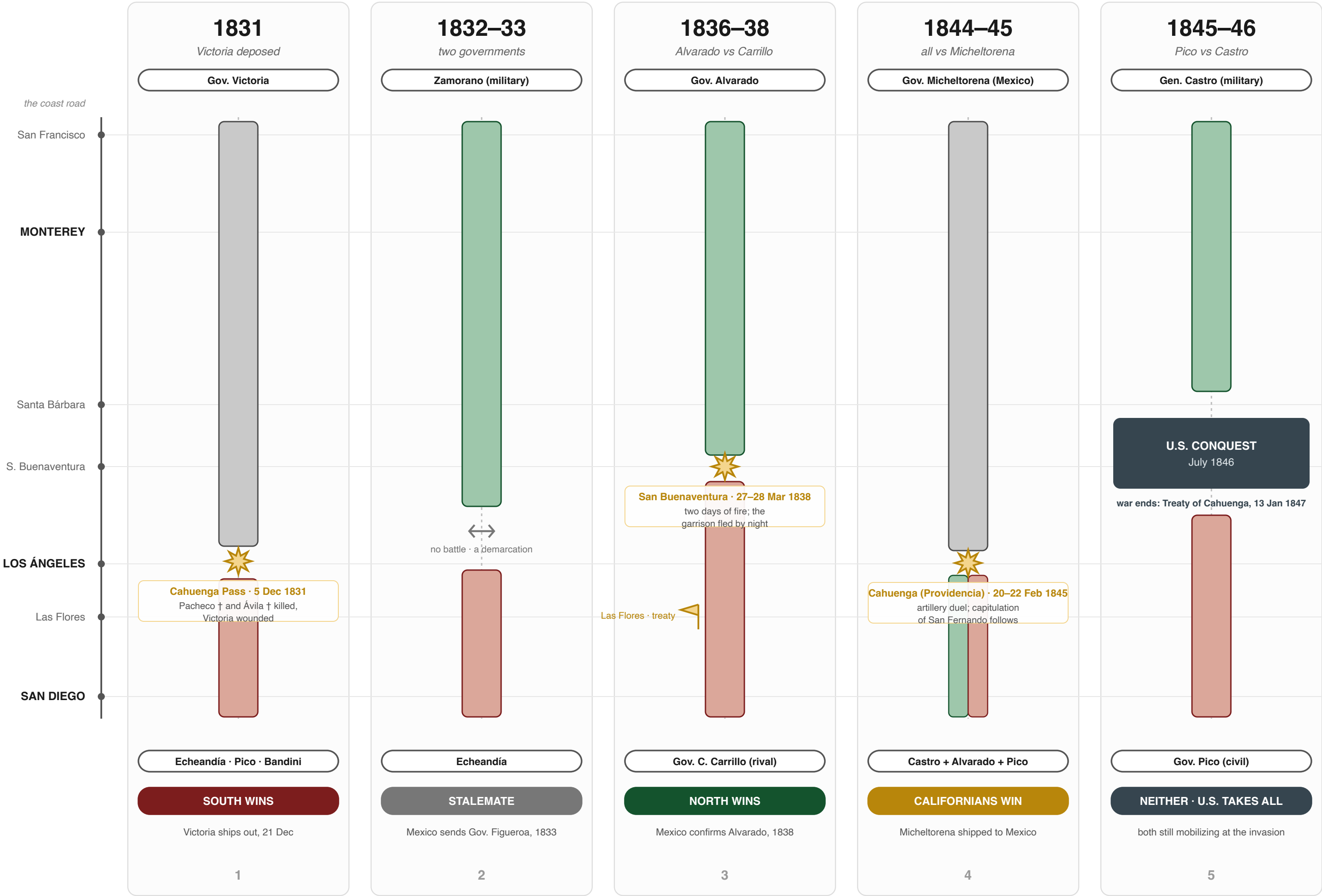
The bishop is drawn as its own box, apart from the government chain. Bishop of Sonora /García Diego /Indian alcaldes & mayordomos sourced from the C-A catalog (ca25, ca34, ca37).

Source: Aodhan Coyne, research file "governor-of-california-office-profile" · Bancroft, History of California III · Diputación roster: C-A 59 d4. Compiled 2026-08-04 · updated 2026-10-16.

Baja California stayed a separate pfatura after 1822, but the military command was at times held over "ambas Californias" (C-A 18 d398, C-A 27 d113); Alta convicts served presidio terms at Loreto (C-A 18 d398).

NORTH vs SOUTH · THE CIVIL CONFLICTS OF MEXICAN CALIFORNIA

Territorio de la Alta California · Departamento de Californias · five breaks, 1831–1846 · each panel is a snapshot of who held the coast road



HOW TO READ · each panel colors the coast road by who held it, top (north) to bottom (south)

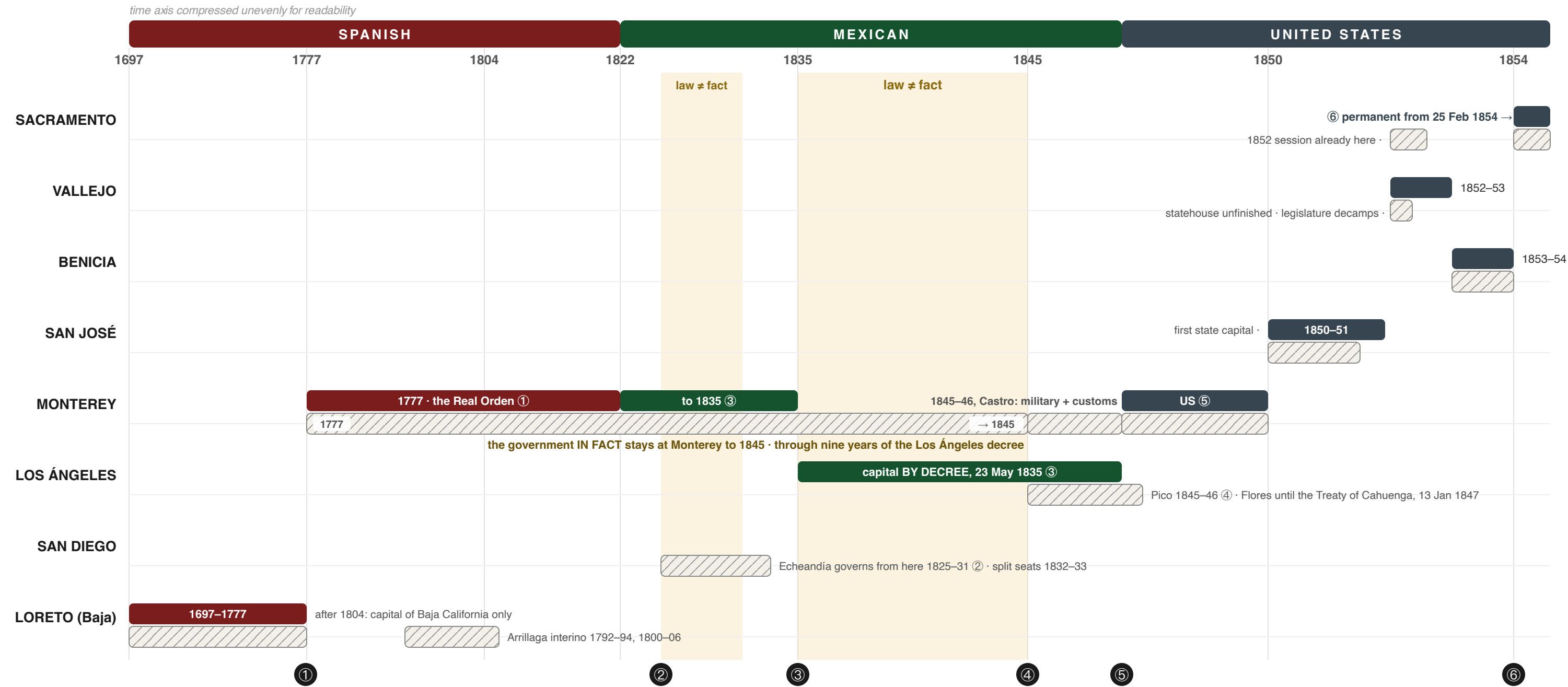
northern party southern party Mexico's sitting governor battle treaty / capitulation

Documents (BANC MSS C-A, readable at archivesofcalifornia.com): ① C-A 28 d38 · C-A 42 d1337 · C-A 43 d876 ② C-A 19 d183, d218, d221 ③ C-A 29 d228, d252 · C-A 43 d811 ④ C-A 30 d216, d230, d232 ⑤ C-A 31 d3–d92

Battle details not preserved in C-A (the deaths at Cahuenga 1831; Las Flores; the 1845 artillery duel; the Jan 1847 Treaty of Cahuenga) are from Bancroft, History of California III–V.

THE CAPITALS OF CALIFORNIA · 1697–1854

the capital IN LAW (solid bar) vs where the government ACTUALLY SAT (striped bar) · cities north to south · Las Californias → Alta California → the State



THE ORDERS BEHIND THE BARS

- ① Real Orden, 19 Apr 1776: the governor to reside at Monterey (C-A 1 d85) · effective Feb 1777. The 1804 division leaves Loreto the capital of Baja only (executed 1806, C-A 25 d570/d587).
- ② No order moved anything: Echeandía simply resided at San Diego · his orders to Monterey are datelined there (C-A 27 d129-132). The Diputación stayed installed at Monterey (founding acta, C-A 59 d4).
- ③ Decree of the Mexican Congress, 23 May 1835: Los Ángeles erected into a city and THE CAPITAL (C-A 43 d389; published in California 4 Jan 1836, C-A 44 d428) · not obeyed for nine years; under the 1836 regime the capital stayed formally "aún no señalada" (C-A 37 d468).
- ④ 1845: Pico and the Assembly finally sit at Los Ángeles ("the capital," C-A 31 d355) · but the military command and the customs stay at Monterey with Castro (C-A 31 d3-d92): the capital itself splits in two.
- ⑤ US conquest, July 1846: military governors at Monterey. The war in California ends with the Capitulation (Treaty) of Cahuenga, 13 Jan 1847 · Andrés Pico to Frémont (Bancroft V); the 1849 Constitutional Convention meets at Monterey. [standard record]
- ⑥ Statehood: San José 1850 (1849 Constitution) → Vallejo 1852 → Benicia 1853 → SACRAMENTO from 25 Feb 1854, permanent (1854 act; 1879 Constitution). [Statutes of California · beyond the C-A archive]

solid bar = capital IN LAW (red Spanish · green Mexican · slate US) striped bar = where the government ACTUALLY sat amber zone = law and fact disagree

Read any column top to bottom: when the solid bar and the striped bar are in different rows, California was governed from somewhere other than its legal capital.

Source: Aodhan Coyne, research file "governor-of-california-office-profile" · BANC MSS C-A records as cited (archivesofcalifornia.com) · Bancroft, History of California II-V · Statutes of California 1850-54. Compiled 2026-10-16.