The following ten books are considered the most authoritative on Fr. Serra, and none of them accuse the priest of torture:

- Junipero Serra: California's Founding Father by Steven Hackel
- Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions by James Sandos
- Life and Times of Fray Junipero Serra, Volumes 1-2 by Maynard Geiger
- Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Missionary by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz
- Journey to the Sun: Junipero Serra's Dream and the Founding of California by Gregory Orfalea
- Saint Junipero Serra: Making Sense of History and Legacy by Christian Clifford
- Junipero Serra: A Short Biography by Kerry Walters
- A Cross of Thorns: The Enslavement of California's Indians by the Spanish Missions by Elias Castillo
- Life of Ven. Padre Junipero Serra by Francis Palou
- Francisco Palou's Life and Apostolic Labors of The Venerable Father Junipero Serra, Founder of The Franciscans by Francisco Palou and C. Scott Williams

Finally, it must also be said that Vatican scholars pored over thousands of documents related to Fr. Serra and released a 1,200 page position paper on him. They would never recommend for sainthood anyone who ever authorized the torturing of innocent persons.