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Form 504
Rev. April 1935

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic / ~~*Hydrographic*~~ *Sheet No.* T473-8

State California

LOCALITY

Pajaro & Salinas Rivers

~~193~~ 1854

CHIEF OF PARTY

W. M. Johnson & A. F. Rodgers

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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Appendix 1854 248

Camp. Sept 30th 1854

I have the honor to make the following report of the progress of my party from April 1st to date.

Number of Miles of Shore line	17
Number of Miles of shore line of Rivers & Sloughs	35
Number of Miles of shore line of Ponds	24
Number of miles of Roads	8¼
Total	84¼

Area of Country surveyed 18 Sqr. miles.

The Survey was made on the scale of 1/10000 and extends from the mouth of the Pajaro River Southward, to the work executed by Asst R. D. Cutts, which together with the work of Mr Harrison, makes a complete topographical Survey of Monterey Bay.

The country between the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers is in all respects similar in its formation to that from Pt Año Nuevo to the Pajaro, which was surveyed and reported upon by Mr. Harrison.

Extending from the mouth of the Pajaro to the Salinas River is a range of low sand hills between which and the older formation lay several ponds these mark the former bed of the Pajaro, it having evidently at one time, found its way to the Ocean through this Chanal, but by an accumulation

of its waters, during the winter months, it burst the narrow strip of beach which separates it from the sea, and thus forms for itself, a new & more direct outlet; this new mouth, if we may so call it, is frequently closed by the sand thrown up during the prevalence of S. gales. This part of the country is peculiarly adapted to grazing, since fresh water is plenty and the fogs that prevail during the summer months afford sufficient moisture to nourish and keep alive the grasses, during the dry season.

Dr Trask in his report on the "Geology of the Coast Mountains" says in speaking of this part of the coast; "there is no part of this state that I have visited, which possesses the same natural advantages for fruit culture, while artificial irrigation is necessary in others parts of the state in order to sustain the vitality of the tree; this is furnished regularly each night by aqueous exhalations from the ocean"; and that "during the months of July and August, last summer, over this entire country a sufficient amount of moisture was deposited each night to wet the leaves of plants very sensibly, and during the heavy fog a quantity sufficient to keep the ground wet under medium sized trees until mid-day"

The valley of the Salinas is watered

through its whole extent by the river of the same name, and near the coast several sloughs take their rise, and empty into the river near its mouth, neither the river or the sloughs are navigable but for a short distance, for bessels of light draft; In summer the Salinas is an magnificant stream fordable, were it not for the quick sands; at almost any point three miles from its mouth; and in winter a rushing torrent that destroys large tracts of fertile country by overflowing its banks and depositing on the low lands sand and gravel, frequently to the depth of two and a half feet.

Dr Gast estimates the amount of arable land in the Salinas Plains at seven hundred and eighty sqr miles, this he says is comprised in the lower terrace only, as the upper terrace is considered as a grazing country alone.

In the Salinas there are evidences of frequent changes in the beds of streams; these were carefully surveyed and represented as they now appear, in some of the old beds, we still find marsh, and thus again can only be traced as a slight depression in the Plain. The river frequently during the winter forms for itself a new outlet, at the place marked A on the enclosed reduction, which was the case winter before last and for that reason

most persons ~~speak~~ regard that point as of the mouth of the Salinas a ~~at A~~. South of the Salinas the character of the Country undergoes a striking change, the soil is a loose dry sand that produces sparingly but the coarsest grapes, and in the distance of 12 miles water, fit for use, could only be jo[illegible] in one locality, by digging a well 6 feet deep on [illegible] margin of one of the largest salt water ponds ~~marked B on the reduction~~

I have the honor to be
very respectfully your
Obt Svt
Wm Johnson

Prof A. D. Bache
Supt U S Coast Survey
Washington City
D.C.

Surveyor Office

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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: California

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topo. *Sheet No.* 473a

LOCALITY:

From Pajaro River Southward Supplementary Survey

1910

CHIEF OF PARTY:

F. Westdahl

HSB.

Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

SHEET No.473.

SUBOFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

No.473. This sheet extends from the Pajaro mouth 2 to 1 1/2 miles north of Moss Landing. Sand dunes extend along all this coast, except at the rivers mouth, making very little of the country visible from the sea. Between the Pajaro and Salinas river mouths there is good farming land, hay and barley being the main crop.

Pauls Island or the area just north of Elkhorn slough is partially reclaimed and is used for grazing. From Elkhorn slough northward there is good agricultural land. The mouth of the Pajaro is constantly changing its position owing to the shifting sand bars. The Salinas river has changed greatly, the river now has its mouth (~~12~~ 2)-miles south of Castroville, and the river shown on this sheet is little more than a slough, and is shoaling up yearly. Elkhorn slough, (Road-house slough on old chart) runs back several miles and years ago a small steamer towed barges to Moss Landing on it. At present there is not enough water for any navigation. In Sept.1909, the U. S. Engineer Corps made a survey here for a proposed inland harbor. From Moss Landing the narrow gage R. R. follows closely the river to the end of the sheet.

Roads. The only important road on this sheet is the county road from Watsonville to Salinas, it is a well improved road with a concrete fill bridges over the Elkhorn and the next slough and is a great automobile thoroughfare.

Railroads. The only R. R is the Pajaro Valley Consolidated P. V. C. R. R. narrow gage which runs from Watsonville to Spreckels. It follows the Pajaro river to its mouth, then along edge of sand dunes to Salinas river, which it then follows to the end of the sheet. It has an oiled readbed and runs one train a day each way.

At Moss Landing there is a good wharf at which vessels can lie at any time in the year. At present the wharf agent says there is 55' at the end. There is not much business done here as a steamer calls only once every 10-days. There are (3)- large warehouses for farm produce.

The only prominent land marks are the warehouses and wharf at Moss Landing. The flag pole 5/8 -mile N. W. of Moss Landing shows up over the trees from the ocean. The woods and trees shown near Moss Landing stand out very plainly. They are often visible from Monterey and Santa Cruz.

Submitted by
Messrs. Cadr and Lukens

Descriptive Report of additional work on revision of Sheet No.473.

"△ Pajaro Mouth 2 " to "△ Castroville, "

HSB.

Pajaro River,-

The Pajaro River from its mouth to the limits of the survey, excepting for a short distance along the bluff 3/4 of a mile inshore, has low but well defined banks and there are no evidences of recent changes of its course. The land along the west bank of the river is low and flat and all under cultivation excepting in the vicinity of the slough abreast "△ Pajaro Mouth 2 " where there is pasture land, after passing the bluffs above mentioned, the land on the east bank of the river is somewhat rolling and nearly all under cultivation. The pond 1/2 mile East of the river and near the limit of the survey exists as shown on the original sheet.

Old Mouth of Pajaro River,-

Some slight changes have occurred in this vicinity as indicated by the new survey, The salt pond shown on the outside of the R.R. track, is connected by a small culvert with the inner lagoon, which is brackish. The upper lake which lies in hilly ground, has not changed since the original survey, The road which now (May 1910) terminates at the lower lagoon, is accessible from this end by fording the shallow end of the lagoon, from whence it leads across the R.R. track and loses itself in the sand dunes.

Elkhorn Slough,-

This slough is known on the old sheet as " Roadhouse Slough " and its northern part as Bennetts Slough. The principal changes seem to be a diminution both in width and depth of the main slough and its laterals, and a reduction of the marshy area in the vicinity. The wind-mills shown on the north bank of the Elkhorn are used for pumping water into the diked areas of the salt farm. The salt ponds shown in the resurvey are also diked and used for the production

of salt by the evaporation of the salt water. The North and West parts of the island shown are now used for pasture land.

Moss Landing Slough,-

The flow in and out of this slough is now partially controlled by a gate at the crossing of the county road near Moss Landing. The marshy areas shown on the old sheet do not now exist. There is good pasture ground close up to the banks of the slough, and a short distance away on either side the land is under cultivation.

Salinas River,-

The part of the Salinas River shown on this sheet is now very shoal and only navigable for small boats at high tide. The new mouth of the Salinas River near Mulligan Island is frequently closed by the action of the Sea and at such times there is an increased flow through this old channel.
The outer shore line from △ Castroville to Moss Landing, has a line of sand dunes as shown in the old survey. The ponds shown 1/3 mile inshore at the South limits of the old sheet exist. The marshy area shown is now used as pasture land but is said to be flooded at the times of the winter rains.

Respectfully submitted,

H.W. Rhodes.
asst. C. & G.S.