

6286

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY  
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Form 504 Ed. June, 1928	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY R. S. Patton, Director	
State: CALIFORNIA	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Topographic <del>HYDROGRAPHIC</del>	Sheet No. N
LOCALITY	
Central California Coast	
Point San Luis & Vicinity	
to Pecho Rock	
1934	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
O. W. Swainson, H. & G. Engr.	

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
RECORD ARCHIVES  
MAY 15 1935  
REG. NO.

The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field Letter N

REGISTER NO. 6185

State California

General locality Central California Coast

Locality Point San Luis & Vicinity to Pecho Rock

Scale 1:10,000 Date of survey October, 19 34

Vessel U.S.C. & G.S.S. PIONEER

Chief of Party O. W. Swainson

Surveyed by Harold Clarke

Inked by Harold Clarke

Heights in feet above MHW to ground ~~to tops of trees~~

~~Contours~~ Approximate contour Form line interval 100 feet

Instructions dated November 18, 1932, 19

Remarks:



## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. N.

Point San Luis, California Coast,  
Latitude  $35^{\circ} 11'$ , Longitude  $120^{\circ} 44'$  to  
 $120^{\circ} 49'$ .

### AUTHORITY

This work was done in accordance with instructions dated November 18, 1932, to the Commanding Officer of the PIONEER, for Project No. 120 and also those dated April 4, 1932, to the Commanding Officer of the GUIDE, Project No. 101. Work was done during the month of October, 1934.

### CONTROL

The sheet was controlled by triangulation points located previously by Charles Pierce in 1933 at an approximate maximum spacing of two miles along the coast line. Traverses were run between these stations with the following errors of closure:

- △ Union, 1933 to △ Whalers Island, 1933 - Flat.
- △ Whalers Island, 1933, to △ San Luis Obispo Lighthouse, 1933, - Flat.
- △ San Luis Obispo Lighthouse, 1933, to △ McRay, 1933, - Flat.
- △ McRay, 1933, to △ Olson, 1933. - Flat.

Offlying rocks and backlying land features were located by cuts. Elevations of prominent peaks and knolls were determined and contours were checked from a form line standpoint.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This section is characterized by high ranges the toe of which is Point San Luis. The slopes on either side of the range are abrupt and covered with either grass or low brush and the tops of the ranges are generally flat and grassy. The backlying canyons are full of low spreading oak trees. The cliffs are generally rocky, sometimes low with the higher portion dirt, and the cliff line is broken by frequent small canyons. Many inshore reefs and offlying rock patches, especially at the northernmost end of the sheet, characterize the section.

Opposite △ Union, 1933, and west thereof is a long stretch of sand beach, backed by a low cliff next a shelf on which is constructed the ~~San Luis Obispo Valley~~ <sup>Pacific Coast</sup> Railroad and then short lengths of high whitish clay cliffs interspersed with deep canyons.



Union Oil Tank, West, 1933, marks the location of a series of oil tanks, a refinery, and several small buildings. West thereof, the high rock cliff starts culminating at the point.

### Pacific Coast

The inshore end of the ~~Santa Maria Valley~~ Railroad Dock is indicated by  $\Delta$  Chimney of Old Hotel, 1933, the hotel having burned to the ground prior to this survey, leaving a portion of the chimney standing, and the water end by  $\Delta$  Railroad Dock, 1933, marking also the end of the narrow gage railroad.

Access by land to Point San Luis and the lighthouse is had by a high, narrow, side hill trail above the steep, gray green rock cliff. Very close inshore is a continuous line of small rocks and just north of the point is Smith Island, elevation 44 feet. Point San Luis is characterized by a low, rock cliff, with Whalers Island just offshore and being connected with the mainland by the Avlia breakwater, the latter extending offshore of Whalers Island some 600 meters. Of note is the lighthouse pier between Smith Island and Whaler's Island.

The San Luis Obispo Lighthouse about 600 meters west of Whalers Island marks the south end of extensive offlying rock patches. The cliff line is composed of 20 to 40 feet of gray green rock base with the remainder being a light brown to white clay over. Inshore is a narrow ~~strip~~ of gently sloping grassy land culminating in the steep slopes covered with low brush. Frequent deep, short canyons break the continuity of the ~~strip~~ and the cliff line is very broken. The base of the cliff is on a long beach of boulders with a narrow reef and offlying rock patches continuous.

The farthest southerly point of possible vehicular travel in dry weather is marked by the first canyon south of topographic signal HILL. The roads back of the cliff line are of variable location, are not improved, and are not passable in wet weather. Access to the shore line west of the range is had by a poorly graveled road, impassable in wet weather, starting just north of  $\Delta$  Union, 1933, winding among the hills and finally following the canyon just east of  $\Delta$  Chimney, Adobe Ruins, 1933. The road parallel to the shore line follows in general the old trail, its location being changed or destroyed by crop requirements.

North of topographic station HILL the ~~strip~~ at the base of the steep slopes starts to broaden. At  $\Delta$  McRay, 1933, is a slightly more extensive offlying reef and kelp. Just north thereof a short stretch of sand beach extends.  $\Delta$  Chimney, Adobe Ruins, is in the center of a field under cultivation, the soil being adobe, full of shells and small pebbles.

At  $\Delta$  Olson, 1933, located on a grassy knoll, the cliff is composed of a low green rock base and a top of light brown clay.

Offlying is Pecho Rock, elevation 40 feet. Just east thereof are two small islets.



### CHANGES IN COAST LINE

The delineation of the cliff and shore line check closely with the old topography as do the offlying rocks. Some additional rocks have been located and the reefs and foul areas more accurately indicated on the new topography.

The addition of the Pacific Coast Railroad, the high trail to the lighthouse, (their only means of land access), the railroad pier, the oil tanks and the Avila Breakwater constitute changes of note over the old topography.

This survey should supersede all former surveys in all respects except contours. The contours unless shown on this sheet as having been changed are the same as drawn on previous surveys.

### STATISTICS

Shore Line	17.5 statute miles.
Streams	1.8 statute miles.
Narrow Gage R. R.	1.5 statute miles.
Roads	1.5 statute miles.



Harold Clarke,  
Topographer.

Approved and forwarded:



O. W. Swainson,  
Chief of Party,  
Commanding PIONEER.



# PLANE TABLE POSITIONS

Wet	35° 10'	+1314 m.	Red Tank	35° 09'	+1249 m.
	120 44	834 m.		120 45	853
Refinery	35 10	1197	Rock	35 09	1088
Stack	120 45	373		120 46	359
Kob	35 10	1011	Gab	35 11	123
	120 45	381		120 48	45
Gay	35 10	410	Rock	35 10	1467
	120 45	588		120 48	882
Nat	35 10	203			
	120 45	253			
Mast	35 09	1196			
	120 45	400			



GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Sheet N.

The following should be removed from the charts:

Fossil Point (Now Union Oil Pier location).

Roads indicated are either impassable or do not exist (see topographic sheet).

The following should be added to the charts:

Stack should be retained on the chart.

Smith Island

Pecho House is now indicated by  $\Delta$  Chimney, Adobe Ruins, is unoccupied and in a state of disintegration.

Pecho Creek should be retained on the chart.



"LANDMARKS"

Sheet N

△ Union Oil Tank West, 1933

This tank is the south easterly tank of a large group, is about 100 feet in diameter, and about 35 feet high, elevation 135 feet. It is visible from the south and east and should be charted. In fact, all the tanks should be shown on the chart.

△ R. R. Dock, 1933

This dock, called Port San Luis, is the terminal of the Pacific Coast Railroad; is constructed of wood piling and plank decking; has a large warehouse near the center (topographic signal Nat) and ends about 15 meters east of a Chimney of Old Hotel, 1933, this being the edge of the foundation walls, all that remains after the burning of this hotel. This dock should be charted.

△ Smith Island, High Point, 1933.

This island, 44' in elevation, has sharp dark rock cliffs, culminating in a sharp peak at the west end, is visible from the east and should be charted.

Lighthouse Pier

This pier, indicated by the mast of the derrick located on the platform of the pier consists of wood piling and decking at the outer end, rests on an intermediate rock island at the center and thence to the mainland. This pier should be charted.

△ Whaler's Island, 1933

This island, elevation 72', has sharp vertical rock cliffs, is brush covered, is an integral part of the Avila Breakwater, extending out 565 meters. This island and breakwater are visible from the south, east, and west and should be charted.

△ San Luis Obispo Lighthouse, 1933

The lighthouse, elevation 131 feet, tip of spire, and 132' focal plane, should be charted.

High Point, Offlying Rock

This rock, about 420 meters offshore and isolated, elevation 2 feet, (incorrectly indicated 6 feet on charts) is a low rock marking the outer edge of a shoal area and should be charted.

Landmarks Continued  
Sheet N

△ Large Rock, south of Pecho Rock, 1933

This rock, elevation 6 feet, located about 1000 meters off shore should be charted.

High Point, Offlying Rock

This rock, elevation 2 feet, located about 650 meters off-shore (incorrectly indicated 6 feet on charts) should be charted.

△ Pecho Rock, 1933

This island, with sharp cliffs rises to an elevation of 40 feet (incorrectly indicated on charts as 31 feet) stands out prominently from all directions, marks the location of an extensive rock group and should be charted.







Diagram No. 5302-2

Under investigation. Q

[illegible]



## REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 6286

Title (Par. 56) *Point San Luis and Vicinity to Pecho Rock, California*Chief of Party *A.W. Swainson* Surveyed by *H. Clarke* Inked by *H. Clarke*Ship *Pioneer* Instructions dated *Nov. 18, 1932* Surveyed in *October, 1934*

1. The survey and preparation for it conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual. (Par. 7, 8, 9, 13, 16.) ✓
2. The character and scope of the survey satisfy the instructions. ✓
3. The control and closures of traverses were adequate. (Par. 12, 29.) ✓
4. The amount of vertical control that the Manual specifies for -contours-formlines- was accomplished. (Par. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.)  
*No new contours added. Several check elevations taken and old contours considered correct and adequate*
5. The delineation of -contours-formlines- is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.)  
*Taken from previous surveys*
6. There is sufficient control on maps from other sources that were transmitted by the field party to enable their application to the charts. (Par. 28.) *None submitted*
7. High water line ~~on marshy and mangrove coast~~ is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, 44.) ✓
8. The representation of low water lines, reefs, ~~coral reefs~~ and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) ✓
9. Rocks and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 25, 26, 27.)  
*See reverse side*
10. ~~The span, draw and clearance of bridges are shown.~~ (Par. 16c.)
11. Locations and elevations of summits are given. (Par. 19, 51.)  
*Check elevations taken*
12. The tree line was shown on mountains. (Par. 16g.)  
*Not shown*

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.



REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 5386

Little (Part 55) and has been found to be in good agreement with the original survey. The survey was conducted by the Chief of Party and the Surveyor in Charge. The survey was conducted in accordance with the instructions dated 1911.

Paragraph 9

T1321 (1871-2)

The present survey is in good agreement with T1321 with the exception of a rock awash at Lat.  $35^{\circ}-10'.5$  Long.  $120^{\circ}-45'.1$  which was brought forward to the present survey. The docks and breakwater are not as they are shown on T1321 as they have been reconstructed for which T6286 is authority. Survey T6286 supersedes T1321 in part.

An island shown on T1321 <sup>500 m W</sup> ~~1000 m E~~ of the breakwater has been broken up into several small islands on the present survey. *as shown*

Chart 5386

The chart is in good agreement except as indicated under T1321 above.

1. High water line on map and narrow beach is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
2. The representation of low water lines, reefs, coral reefs and rocks and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
3. Rocks and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
4. The open, clear and clearance of bridges are shown. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
5. Locations and elevations of points are given. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
6. The true line was shown of mountains. (Par. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)
7. NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those remaining. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.



13. The descriptive report covers all details listed in the Manual, in so far as they apply to this survey. (Par. 64, 65, 66, 67.) ✓
14. ~~The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aere topography relative to type of photographs, method of compilation and type of ground control.~~
15. The descriptions of recoverable stations and references to shore line were accomplished on Form 524. (Par. 29, 30, 57, 67 except scaling of IMs and DPs, 68.) *10 cards submitted*
16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 16d, e, 60.) ✓
17. The magnetic meridian was shown ✓ and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.) *No note of having checked declinatoire*
18. The geographic datum of the sheet is *N.A. 1927 (Adjusted)* and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.) ✓
19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate. ✓  
*Joins T 6287 on the North and T 6285 on the South and East*
20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 66k.) ✓
21. The quality of the drafting is good. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.) ✓
22. No additional surveying is recommended. ✓
23. The Chief of Party inspected and approved the sheet and the descriptive report ~~after review by~~ ✓
24. Remarks:

Reviewed in office by *Chas. P. Bush Jr.* May 27, 1936.

Examined and approved:

*L. H. Green*  
Chief, Section of Field Records

*L. O. Lobert*  
Chief, Division of Charts

*Fred. R. Peacock*  
Chief, Section of Field Work

*Glade*  
Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.