U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Form 501

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: 1847
Office No.: 1848

LOCALITY
State: California
General locality: San Francisco Bay
Locality: 

1848

CHIEF OF PARTY
L. A. Sengell

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DATE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

M. M. Thome, Superintendent.

State: California.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic sheets Nos. 1847 and 1848.

LOCALITY: Suisun Bay.

1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

L. A. Sengteller.
To Mr. F. W. Thomas,
Superintendent U.S. Survey
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

In the U.S. Survey (Topography) of Sierra Bay, Sheet No. 1 of the eighth section, before this day forwarded, presents perhaps the most marked and important feature in this survey and for which I respectfully submit the following descriptive report.

The essential features in changes or improvements on compass and the original works of locality (excepted about 20 years ago) are first the quick and rapid formation of Tule, bordering the marsh, and second the reclamation of marsh lands and attendant construction of levees and dikes.

Regarding the subject of formation of tule and its consequent encroachment, I would call your attention to the results recently obtained at the head of Sierra Bay.
From the mouth of Hoaning River, proceeding northward and passing the entrance to Grizzly Slough, thence along the shore of Grizzly Island to Kevinson (33°), upon examination, the greatest shoal of mud will be found to extend off the mouth of Grizzly Slough, the head of the bay, thence the spreading barrow would make, it does not only expand but rapidly advance into the water of Second Bay that now it extends at that point northward outside of the original shore line. Again from Hoaning River, passing Grizzly Slough, and following the tide shore of Grizzly Island thence thence a half degree lat. 47° 25' lat. 48° 15' long. 16° 30' 30' long. 17° 10' which it is quite apparent in a few years will become connected with the present defunct tidal line. or shore.

The formation of this as represented by the Topography, naturally includes but a part of the shoal, as for the settlement of mud, sand and all characters of debris floating in or sent upon reaching as it is natural to expect at the head of such a bay, water an influence by currents must become rapidly deposited, but that determination can only be obtained from Hydrographic operations as the rise and fall of tide one week in the tidal for such gradual effects may make a difference of many
yards in distance, while it would also state from the soft
cracter of mud, landing or tracing are impracticable to
the topographical and consequently low water line indeterminate.
High water level are equally unapproachable or
indeterminant from the same reason, but from my observation,
generally, operation of ordinary or mean high tide, but
latter, if any water flow in or beyond the edges of tidal land
while the latter is usually found even one hour after CM.

Regarding the reclamation of these marsh lands, it is
quite evident, the construction of banks and dams prove
a serious factor in the apparent destruction of natural
ways, and an attendant effect in proportion at their sources
of outflow. The reclamation upon Grisly and Hammond
islands have existed for some years, and I find the stream
of both below existing dams to have much filled up with Silt:\nwhile above the dams some small creek upon one or both sides
of a creek its filling in is now greater; but upon Simmons
Island un-reclaimed, its creeks must now more readily attain their
original values. This slight manner, since the work was
done has been reclamation by a thorough construction of
banks and dams, the material for which is obtained from
the marsh, cut into blocks of mud, cut as near as possible
to the site of construction and in the course from river, such
which eventually flanks them by ditch.

The commercial interest or value of these lands is entirely confined to stock raising and grazing, and seem to be specially adapted to the purposes, given first being available through the entire year by occasional changes of vegetation upon which exist many varieties of nutritious grasses, leguminous, Graminacea, Gramineae, Legumaceae, and others. When the pastures during the Summer and Fall months are said to afford good feed to stock, it is well known it is well known within the above points the approach of Autumn, the lands offer little or no food to stock. For Autumn are not essentially known, excepting that during the prevalence of rain storms, the only shelter available to stock is the sea of tilb, which under the conditions may not completely reach or find.

Periodically and subsequent to rain storms, a cold spell may prevail for two to three days, and very skeptically, as during last Winter, a cold wave prevailed for about ten consecutive days.

From my observations during the prevalence of storms or subsequent cold spells, stock is so exposed that heavy losses are not infrequent. Protection or guano comfort and safety to stock could be readily brought about.
by the intermixed or grouped introduction of any kind of rapid growth susceptible of efficient upon such lands, as they would at least, sooner and very soon affect stock, speaking shelter, as well as relieve the crops from un-necessary and perhaps large losses.

On such lands, I have observed the Eucalyptus Plant. Some and some varieties of fruit, time, the fruit mentioned is doubtless the most applicable, its growth being particularly rapid, would soon furnish the demand shelter and, doubtless, after a few years, fuel.

This tree, grown upon the ground, will be found indicated by a faint, soon, owing to the fact that the taking of the bark was commenced before the circular directing otherwise was received.

Since the it also transmitted is practically a part of Plant No. 1 and does not seem to call for a special descriptive report.

Yours very respectfully,

Louis A. Sprague
Asst. Chief Country.