DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

State: California
Locality: Pajaro & Salinas Rivers

198-185 Y
Chief of Party: W. M. Johnson & A. F. Rodgers

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
I have the honor to make the following report of the progress of my party from April 12th to July 30th.

Number of miles of shore line 17
Number of miles of shore line of rivers thorough 35
Number of miles of shore line of Roads 34

Total 84½

Area of country surveyed 1877.99 miles².

The survey was made on the scale of 1:100,000 and extended from the mouth of the Pajaro River southward to the mouth of the San Lorenzo River, which together with the mouth of the Salinas River, make 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 the one river to the Pajaro, which was surveyed and reported upon by Mr. Harris.

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 is having evidently at one time found its way to the ocean through this channel, but by an accumulation...
of its rains, during the winter months, it bursts. The narrow strip of beach which separates it from the sea, and thus forms for itself, a sort of more or less outlet; this short month, if we may so call it, is frequently closed by the land thrown up during the prevalence of gales. This part of the country is peculiarly adapted to grape-growing. Since fresh water is plenty and the soils that prevail during the summer afford sufficient moisture to promote and keep alive the grapes, during the dry season. Dr. Tempe, in his report on the "Ecology of the Coast Mountains" says in speaking of this part of the Coast, "there is no part of this State in which there are found the same natural advantages for fruit culture. While artificial irrigation is necessary in other parts of the State in order to sustain the vitality of the tree, it is furnished regularly each night by aqueous exhalations from the ocean; and that during 5 months of July and August, last summer, at this latitude, a sufficient amount of this water was deposited each night to wet the leaves of plants very densely, and during the heavy fog a quantity sufficient to keep the ground, re- 

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 vessels
of light draft. In summer the Palmas is
an magnificent stream bearable, were it not
for the quick sands; at almost any point three
miles from its mouth, and in winter a rushing
storm that desteps 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. Tassell estimates the amount of arable land
in the Palmas Plains at seven hundred and eighty
four miles. This he says is confined in the lower
terrace only, as the upper terrace is considered
as a grazing country alone.

In the Palmas there are evidences of frequent
changes in the beds of streams. These were formerly
diverged and represented as they now appear,
in some of the old beds, we still find marshes and
thus again can only be traced as a slight depression
in the plain. The river frequently along the winter
forms for itself a new outlet, at the place
marked A on the opposite reduction, which was
the old point before last and for that reason.
I have the honor to be
Very respectfully yours,

Officer A. D. Coombs
Washington A. T.

Prof. A. W. Baboe

Washington A. T.

July 31, 1876.
Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
O.R. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: California

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

LOCALITY:
From Pajaro River
Southward Supplementary Survey

1910

CHIEF OF PARTY:
J. McDaid
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.

Paula 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 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 next slough and is a great automobile thoroughfare.

Railroads. The only R. R is the P. V. C. R. R. narrow gage which runs from Watsonville to Speckels. 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 roadbed 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 landmarks 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
Missors, Eade and Lucken
Descriptive Report of additional work on revision of Sheet No. 473.

"A Pajaro Mouth 2" to "A Castroville,"

H. H. B.

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 "A 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 A 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,

[Signature]

Asst. C. E.S.