DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
R. S. Patton, Director

State: CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Locality
Central California Coast
Point San North
Santa Maria River & Vicinity

1934

Chief of Party
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 ........... H ..........  
REGISTER NO. 6271

State .................. California ..........  
General locality ....... California Coast .............  
Locality ............... Point Sal North - Santa Maria River vicinity .............  
Scale 1:10,000 .... Date of survey June 1934 ..........  
Vessel ................. U.S.C. & G.S.S. PIONEER .............  
Chief of Party .......... C. W. Swainson .............  
Surveyed by ............ H. Clarke .............  
Inked by ............... H. Clarke .............  
Heights in feet above MHW to ground 100 feet  
Contour Approximate contour Form line interval 100 feet  
Instructions dated November 18, 1932 ..........  
Remarks: ..................
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. H.

Point Sal North, (Santa Maria River, California Coast. Lat. 34° 58' to 35° 01').

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 latter part of the month of June, 1934.

CONTROL

The control was established by occupying and taking cuts on triangulation stations located previously by F. G. Johnson in 1933, at an approximate maximum distance of two miles along the coast line. Traverses were run between those stations with the following errors of closure:

△ Whale, 1933 to △ Splash, 1933 - Flat.
△ Splash, 1933, to △ Oso Flaco, 1933 - Flat.

Backlying knolls were located by cuts and elevations were determined.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This section is characterized by abrupt, undulating sand beach backed up by a narrow stretch of low grassy dunes about 25 feet elevation. Between these low dunes and the higher bare and bushy dunes is a low grassy pasture land. The shifting of the dunes is gradually covering this grazing land as well as the shallow ponds therein.

△ Whale, 1933, is located in a bare sand hollow surrounded by a narrow sparse stretch of low grassy dunes. Immediately north thereof the bare sand beach carries clear back from the ocean to the Santa Maria River. The Santa Maria River is a shallow, winding stream polluted by sewage from inlying towns. The outlet is at times closed until the waves roll up high enough to break through. The south bank is mainly sand beach, whereas the north bank, except near the outlet, is grazing land covered with low grass. In the center of this stretch is a large group of willows. Just south of these trees the river forks.

△ Santa Maria, elevation 192 feet, is located on the highest point of the highest dune on the sheet, marking the southerly end of the higher ridge of alternating bushy and bare dunes. At the western base of this dune is the low flat grassy pasture land and the several shallow ponds therein.

North of the Santa Maria River the sand beach rapidly narrows until the low grassy dunes lie very close to the shore. The high water line maintains its undulating character. The sand beach is sharp, leveling off near the low water point. Near △ Splash the migration of the low dunes
has covered over the grazing land and, with the exception of two patches, the grassy patch has been replaced by a low bare sand valley between the lower dunes and higher dunes. Oso Flaco is on a westerly bushy projection of the higher dunes. The high water line opposite thereto is still undulating, but the beach is much less abrupt than the remainder of the sheet. Beaches are characterized by coarse sand.

**CHANGES IN COAST LINE**

The high water line at the southerly end of the sheet approximates the same location as that of the old survey and diverges more or less uniformly therefrom, moving offshore about 90 meters at the northern end of the sheet.

The channel of the Santa Maria River, west of the fork, has moved southward a maximum of 200 meters. The outlet of the river has moved northward approximately 1000 meters.

The lagoon shown on the old topographic sheet north of the river is now a series of small shallow ponds, due to encroachment of the dunes.

**CONTOURS**

The contours as shown on the old survey were checked by inspection and numerous elevations. Changes are shown in red.

**STATISTICS**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shore line</td>
<td>3.5 statute miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes and sloughs</td>
<td>6.3 statute miles</td>
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</table>

H. Clarke,  
Topographer.

Forwarded:

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

**NOTE:** There are no Recoverable Plane Table Positions on this sheet. As this is a careful, complete resurvey of the shore line and adjacent area, it should be given preference and supersede the old survey.
LANDMARKS FOR CHARTS


February 28, 1935.

The following determined objects are prominent, can be readily distinguished from seaward from the description given below, and should be charted.

C. W. Swainson,
Chief of Party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topo Sheet H.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>METHOD OF DETERMINATION</th>
<th>CHARTS AFFECTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No landmarks on this sheet.</td>
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</table>

A list of objects which are of sufficient prominence for use on the charts, together with a description of the same, must be furnished in a special report on this form, and a copy of such report must be attached by the Chief of Party to his descriptive report. The selection, determination, and description of these points are of primary importance.

The description of each object should be short, but such as will identify it; for example, standpipe, water tower, church spire, tank, tall stack, red chimney, radio mast, etc. Generally, flagstaffs and like objects are not sufficiently permanent to chart.
GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Date: May 7, 1935

CALIFORNIA

Survey No. T6271

Chart No. 5302

Diagram No. 5302-2

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. *

Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R

Under investigation. Q

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Name on Survey</th>
<th>Name on Chart</th>
<th>New Names in local use</th>
<th>Names assigned by Field</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Maria River</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Names approved 7/1/35
KTAldenso
REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 6271

Title (Par. 56) Santa Maria River & Vicinity, California

Chief of Party O. W. Sweeney Surveyed by H. Clarke Inked by H. Clarke

Ship Pioneer Instructions dated Nov. 16, 1932 Surveyed in June, 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.)

5. The delineation of contours-formlines- is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.)

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. 23.) 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, 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.)

12. The tree line was shown on mountains. (Par. 16g.)

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.
Paragraph 9

T1596 (1879)

The present survey indicates the H.W. line has moved off shore nearly 100 meters at the North end of the sheet in comparison to T1596. A discussion of this and other changes inshore are noted in the Descriptive Report on Page 2.

T1595 (1879)

The present survey is in good agreement, the H.W. line being only about 10 meters off shore from that of the previous survey T1595.

T6271 should supersede T1596 and T1595 in part.

Chart 5302

The present survey differs with the chart 5302 as indicated above under T1596 and T1595.
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.)

   *No list of planetable positions - Evidently no prominent marks*

14. The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aero-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 LMs and DPs, 68.) *None submitted*

16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 16d, e, 60.) *None submitted*

17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.) *No note of having checked declinatory Declination at a slope (1893) 1° East of that at a Whole - Declination at a slope evidently correct*

18. The geographic datum of the sheet is N.A. 1927 (Adjusted) and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 54.)

19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate.

   *Joins T 6272 (1934) on the North*

   *Joins T 6270 (1934) on the South*

20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 68k.)

21. The quality of the drafting is good. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 29, 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. Bish Jr.* May 29, 1936.

Examined and approved:

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

*C. F. Green*  
Chief, Section of Field Records

*W. O. Dobbs*  
Chief, Division of Charts

*F. H. Faddy*  
Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.