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

State: CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
Topographic Sheet No. L

LOCALITY
Central California Coast
San Luis Obispo Bay South
Pismo & 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: L

REGISTER NO.: 4

State: California

General locality: California Coast

Locality: San Pedro, San Pedro (Vicinity)

Scale: 10,000

Date of survey: August 19, 1934

Vessel: U.S.C.S.S. PIONEER

Chief of Party: O. J. Swainson

Surveyed by: Harold Clarke

Inked by: Harold Clarke

Heights in feet above MSL to ground

Contour Approximate Form Line Interval: 100 feet

Instructions dated: November 18, 1934

Remarks:
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. L.

San Luis Obispo Bay South (Pismo)
California Coast
Latitude 35° 07' to 35° 09'

AUTHORITY

This work was done in accordance with instructions dated
November 18, 1932, to the Commanding Officer of the PIONEER,
for Project No. 180 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 August, 1934.

CONTROL

This sheet was controlled by triangulation points located
previously by Chas. Pierce in 1933 at an approximate maximum
distance of two miles along the coast line. Traverses were
run between these stations with the following errors of clo-
sure:

\[ \Delta \text{ Granada, 1933 to } \Delta \text{ Pismo, 1933 - Flat} \]
\[ \Delta \text{ Pismo, 1933, to } \Delta \text{ South Point 2, 1933 - Flat} \]

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The southern portion of the sheet consists of a broad
flat sand beach with a narrow strip of low grassy sand dunes
immediately back of this. Then follows Pismo Creek, the high-
way Ocean to Pismo, and the Southern Pacific Railroad Main
Line between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Joining the val-
ley of Pismo Creek is the valley of Villa Creek, up which val-
ley the Southern Pacific breaks inland.

Villa Creek is at the south end of Pismo and marks the
end of the sand dunes. The broad sand beach continues north
of \( \Delta \) Pismo, 1933, about 700 meters.

The cliff line starts about 300 meters south of \( \Delta \) Pismo,
1933, varying from 20 to 60 feet high, being of dark sandy
soil until about 500 meters north of \( \Delta \) Pismo, 1933, where the
rock strata start. The cliff line is broken up by several
canyons marking the location of washes down the mountain. The
ciff being composed of approximately 2/3 white to brown rock
and the top third dark sandy soil and varying from 50 to 80
feet elevation continues to \( \Delta \) South Point 2, 1933, and with
the exception of a few short stretches of narrow sand beach,
marks the high water line.
The cliff is very crooked, being full of short bights and points and characterized by extensive offlying rock patches and inshore reefs. There are also numerous islets in these rock patches, particularly just south of South Point 2, 1933.

Back of the cliff line lies the main coast highway, U.S. Route No. 101, the highway being located near the base of the steep slopes leading up to the cliffs. These peaks are generally covered with small oaks, the slopes with low brush and occasional oaks, particularly in the draws. The ground from the cliff line to approximately the 300 foot elevation is mostly under cultivation.

At South Point 2, 1933, is a small settlement called Shell Beach which includes a few residences, numerous dirt and gravel roads.

Price, 1872, elevation 903 feet, is located on a very sharp peak as contrasted with the more rounding tops of the range south thereof.

The pier at Pismo (Pismo Dock, 1933; elevation 22 feet) is about 300 meters long, the east end being at a concrete retaining wall about 15 feet high and about 200 meters long. Several large building and concrete walls at the back of the beach stand out prominently.

This is a complete new survey and consequently supersedes in all respects except the contours, the former survey. This particularly applies to the shore line, offlying rocks and reefs.

CHANGES IN COAST LINE

The highwater line at Grand Island, 1933, has moved offshore approximately 60 meters as compared to the old survey. This continues more or less uniformly to the rock cliff.

There are no indications of changes in the cliff line or offlying rocks. At the north end of Pismo Beach several rocks are undoubtedly buried in the sand.

The additional features comprised of the Southern Pacific Railroad main line between Los Angeles and San Francisco; paved highway, U.S. No. 101; paved highway Pismo to Oceano; the town of Pismo and the settlement at Shell Beach are noteworthy changes shown by the new topography.

The settlement indicated on the charts as Gilport has been abandoned and is now used for farming purposes. It should be removed from the chart.

STATISTICS

- Shoreline - 5 statute miles.
- Linear Miles Streams - 0.7 statute miles.
- Shoreline, lakes and sloughs - 2.5 statute miles.
- Railroad - 2.3 statute miles.
- Highway - 13.9 statute miles.

Forwarded:

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

Harold Clarke,
Topographer.
LANDMARKS

Sheet L.

Pismo Dock, 1933.

This pier, about 360 meters long and 30 meters wide, 22 feet high, is visible from all directions and should be charted.

Pismo Plunge (PLU)

This building, 100 feet by 160 feet approximately, position indicated by the west end of PLUNGE sign (incorrectly located in triangulation data), 31 feet high, elevation 42 feet, is prominent from all directions being of brick of vermillion color and should be charted.

"The Peak" (FUN)

This distinctive building, 15 feet by 20 feet, elevation 105 feet at top, 30 feet above the ground, with the west face white, roof black and forming a very sharp peak is visible from all directions and should be charted as a house.

▲ White Water Tank East of Pismo Beach, 1933.

This tank, about 15 feet in diameter and 20 feet above the ground, elevation of top 423 feet, painted white, stands out, particularly from the southwest, prominently, and should be charted.

Yellow House, Southwest Corner, (YL).

This house, on a high point projection, elevation 231 feet to top, back of Pismo, is visible from all directions and should be charted as a house.
GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Sheet  L.

The following should be removed from the charts:

Pismo Landing (superseded by the town of Pismo).

The following should be added to the chart:

Pismo (town) ✓
Shell Beach (settlement) ✓
Hilla Creek
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block Signal #2638</th>
<th>35° 07' 1310</th>
<th>Stone Chimney</th>
<th>35° 08' 1693</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 37 1270</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 38 410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block Signal #2637</td>
<td>35 07 1310</td>
<td>Barn Cables</td>
<td>35 08 1639</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 37 1263</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 38 1105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block Signal #2632</td>
<td>35 08 267</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>35 09 622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 37 1322</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 39 1464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLU</td>
<td>35 08 699</td>
<td>Tower</td>
<td>35 09 710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 38 816</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 40 161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEL</td>
<td>35 08 1610</td>
<td>Ney</td>
<td>35 09 363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 38 709</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 40 618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>35 09 314</td>
<td>Yck</td>
<td>35 09 339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 40 486</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 40 605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sho</td>
<td>35° 08' 745</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 38 632</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LANDMARKS FOR CHARTS


February 23, 1935

DIRECTOR, U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY:

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

O. W. Swainson,  
Chief of Party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topo Sheet L. Description</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Method of Determination</th>
<th>Charts Affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>Datum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>±° ±&quot; D.M. meters</td>
<td>±°±&quot; D.P. Meters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PISMO DOCK (Pismo Dock 1931)</td>
<td>35°08'</td>
<td>120° 38'</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PISMO PLUNGE (TopoSig PLU)</td>
<td>35°08'</td>
<td>120° 38'</td>
<td>816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;PEAK&quot; BUILDING (TopoSig Fun)</td>
<td>35°09'</td>
<td>120° 39'</td>
<td>1484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANK (White Water Tank east of Pismo Beach, 1931)</td>
<td>35°09'</td>
<td>120° 38'</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSE (Yellow) (TopoSig &quot;Yel&quot;)</td>
<td>35°08'</td>
<td>120° 38'</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.
<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>Shell Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pismo Beach</td>
<td>Pismo Lending</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pismo Creek</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Villa Creek</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Villa Creek is definitely located by description on page 1, which is accepted as correct. It does not, however, agree with USGS quad.
REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 6274

Title (Par. 56) Pismo & Vicinity, California

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

Ship Pioneer Instructions dated Nov. 18, 1932 Surveyed in August 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. 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.)
   No new contours - Check elevations taken and old contours considered adequate.

5. The delineation of -contours-formlines- is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.)
   See Par. 4

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.)

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.
Paragraph 9

T1393 (1873-4)

The present survey is in good agreement with T1393 except as noted under "Changes in Coast Line" on Page 2 of the Descriptive Report. A group of rocks at Lat. 35°-09'.1, Long. 120°-39'.85 on T1393 were noted on the contemporary hydrographic survey H5772 as sunken rocks. In many cases bare rocks on T1393 are indicated as rocks awash on the present survey. Survey T6274 should supersede T1393 in part.

Chart 5302

The chart is in good agreement as far as can be ascertained with the big difference in scale. Note is made on page 2 of the Descriptive Report that Oilport is now abandoned and used for farming purposes whereas it still is shown on the chart.
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 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 DMs and DPs, 68.) 13 cards submitted.

16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 18d, e, 60.)

17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.) No evidence of having checked declinometer. Declinometer at A granite 3° East of that at A Pismo. Evidently local attraction at A granite.

18. The geographic datum of the sheet is AMAG and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.)

19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate.

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, 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. A. Busch Jr. May 24, 1936.

Examined and approved:

C. J. Green                   Fred. E. Peacock
Chief, Section of Field Records  Chief, Section of Field Work

L. D. Rollins                   Thelde
Chief, Division of Charts  Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.