



**Bay Area Watersheds – Compiled research
of creeks that drain into the San
Francisco/San Pablo Bay system**

**Organized by Jon Fischer and Lauren Hartman
and the Society of Submerged Culture**

Selected Creek List

San Francisco County

1. Lobos Creek
2. Mission Creek
3. Islais Creek
4. Yosemite Creek

San Mateo County

5. Colma Creek
6. San Bruno Creek
7. Millbrae Creek
8. Mills Creek
9. San Mateo Creek
10. Belmont Creek
11. Pulgas Creek
12. San Francisquito Creek
(county border)

Santa Clara County

13. Permanente Creek
14. Stevens Creek
15. Adobe Creek
16. Guadalupe River
17. Guadalupe Slough
18. Saratoga Creek
19. Coyote Creek

Alameda County

20. Mowry Slough
21. Alameda Creek/Alameda
22. Union City Slough

23. San Lorenzo Creek
24. San Leandro Creek
25. Glen Echo Creek
26. Temescal Creek
27. Strawberry Creek
28. Cerrito Creek (county border)

Contra Costa County

29. Wildcat Creek
30. San Pablo Creek
31. Pinole Creek
32. Refugio Creek

Napa County

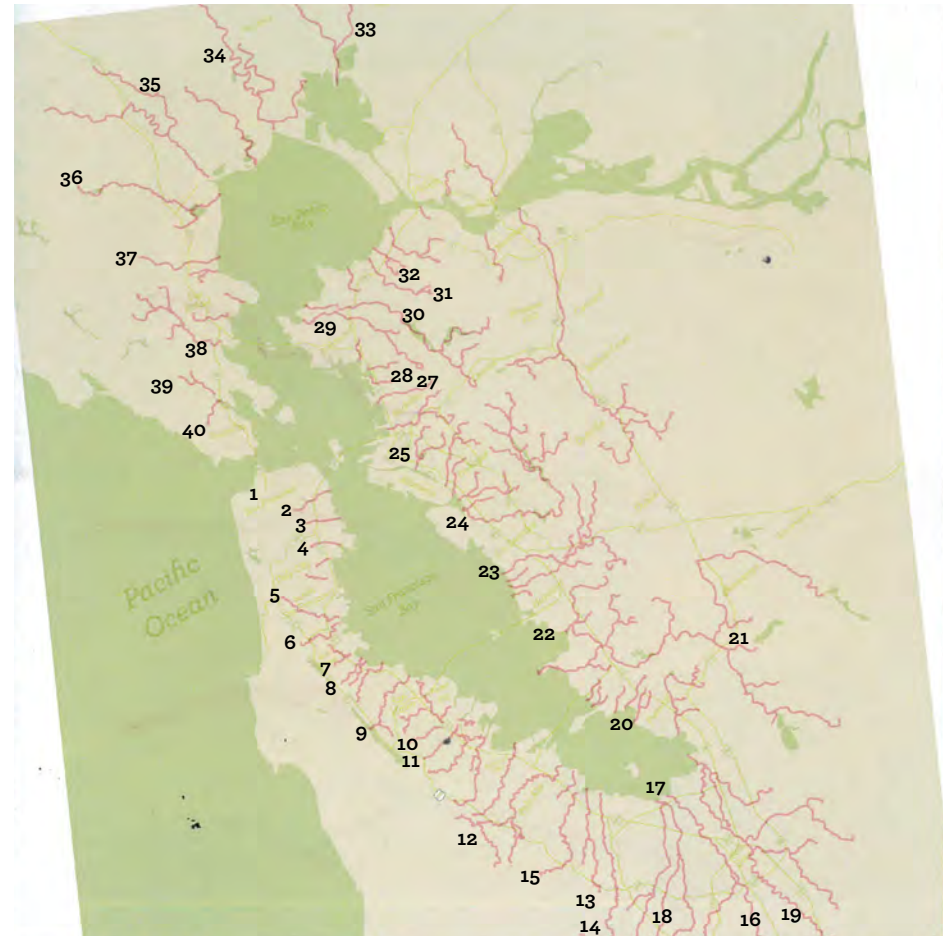
33. Napa River

Sonoma County

34. Sonoma Creek
35. Petaluma River

Marin County

36. Novato Creek
37. Miller Creek
38. Corte Madera Creek
39. Old Mill Creek
40. Coyote Creek #2





---MAP 1---
---SAN FRANCISCO---

Only two free flowing creeks remain in San Francisco: **Islais Creek** and **Lobos Creek**.

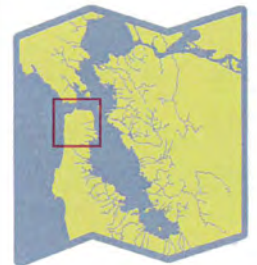


Photo by Private Collection, San Francisco, CA

Islais Creek emerging from Glen Canyon, 1890s

DAYLIGHTING

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, in partnership with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will restore Yosemite Creek's flow from subsurface pipes to an open water channel by daylighting approximately 1,700 feet of **Yosemite Creek**.



4. yosemite creek



visitation valley watershed

Daly City

5. colma creek

guadalupe valley creek

South San Francisco

6. san bruno creek

7. mill

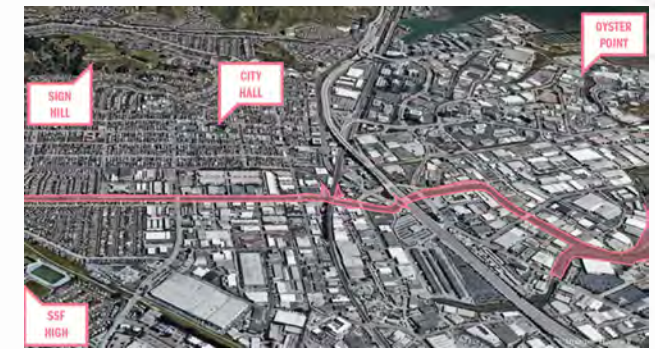
brae creek

San Bruno

---MAP 2---

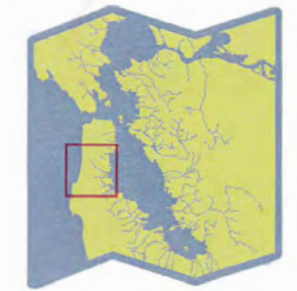
---SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN---

Colma Creek flows approximately 5 miles from its headwaters in the foothills of San Bruno Mountain through the city of South San Francisco before reaching San Francisco Bay. It is one of the largest creeks on the peninsula.



Colma Creek Connector Project

The Colma Creek Connector Project is an innovative project to manage flooding and restore ecology and community access using creative methods



Dick Lyon

San Mateo Creek is a major waterway that flows approximately 13 miles from its headwaters in the Santa Cruz Mountains through the city of San Mateo before emptying into San Francisco Bay. The creek's watershed encompasses Crystal Springs Reservoir and Crystal Springs Dam.

Pulgas Water Temple: a monument to the engineering systems that brought water more than 160 miles from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay Area. The Hetchy Project took 24 years to build.



San Mateo County Parks

At approximately 600 years old, the Jepson Laurel is the largest known Bay Laurel tree to exist in California.



San Francisco Public Utilities Commission





---MAP 4---
---SAN MATEO SOUTH---



BAIR ISLAND

In 1997, the Peninsula Open Space Trust bought the 300 acre island (twice the size of the Presidio) using \$15 million raised from private donors and government agencies.

A decades-long effort to build thousands of new homes there ended in 2021 after a U.S. District Court judge ruled the FDA ignored its own regulations when it decided in 2019 that about 1,400 acres of San Francisco Bay salt ponds aren't protected by the Clean Water Act.



2016

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City of Belmont

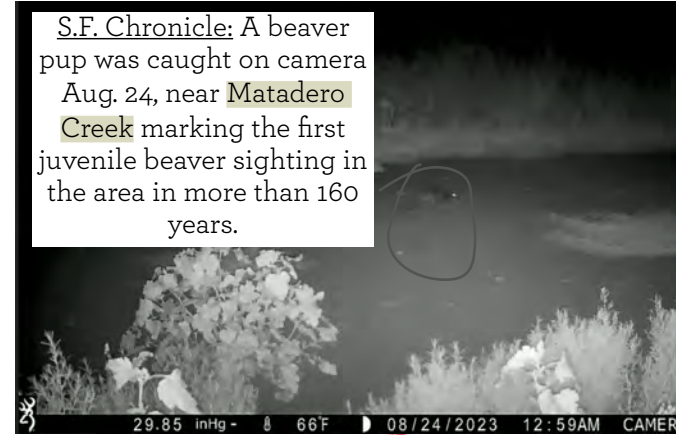
Flooding around the Belmont Creek area during the winter storms of 2022.



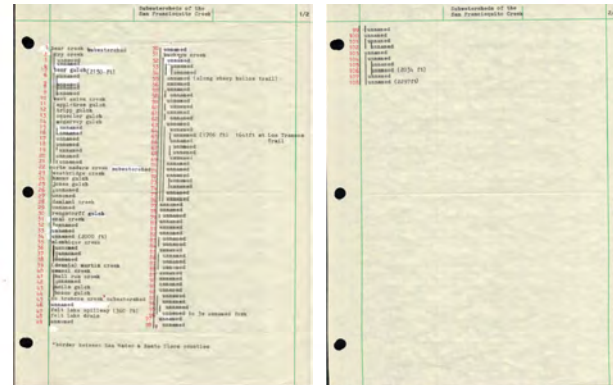


---MAP 5---
---PALO ALTO---

S.F. Chronicle: A beaver pup was caught on camera Aug. 24, near Matadero Creek marking the first juvenile beaver sighting in the area in more than 160 years.



Bill Leikam






101 Subwatersheds of the San Francisco Creek

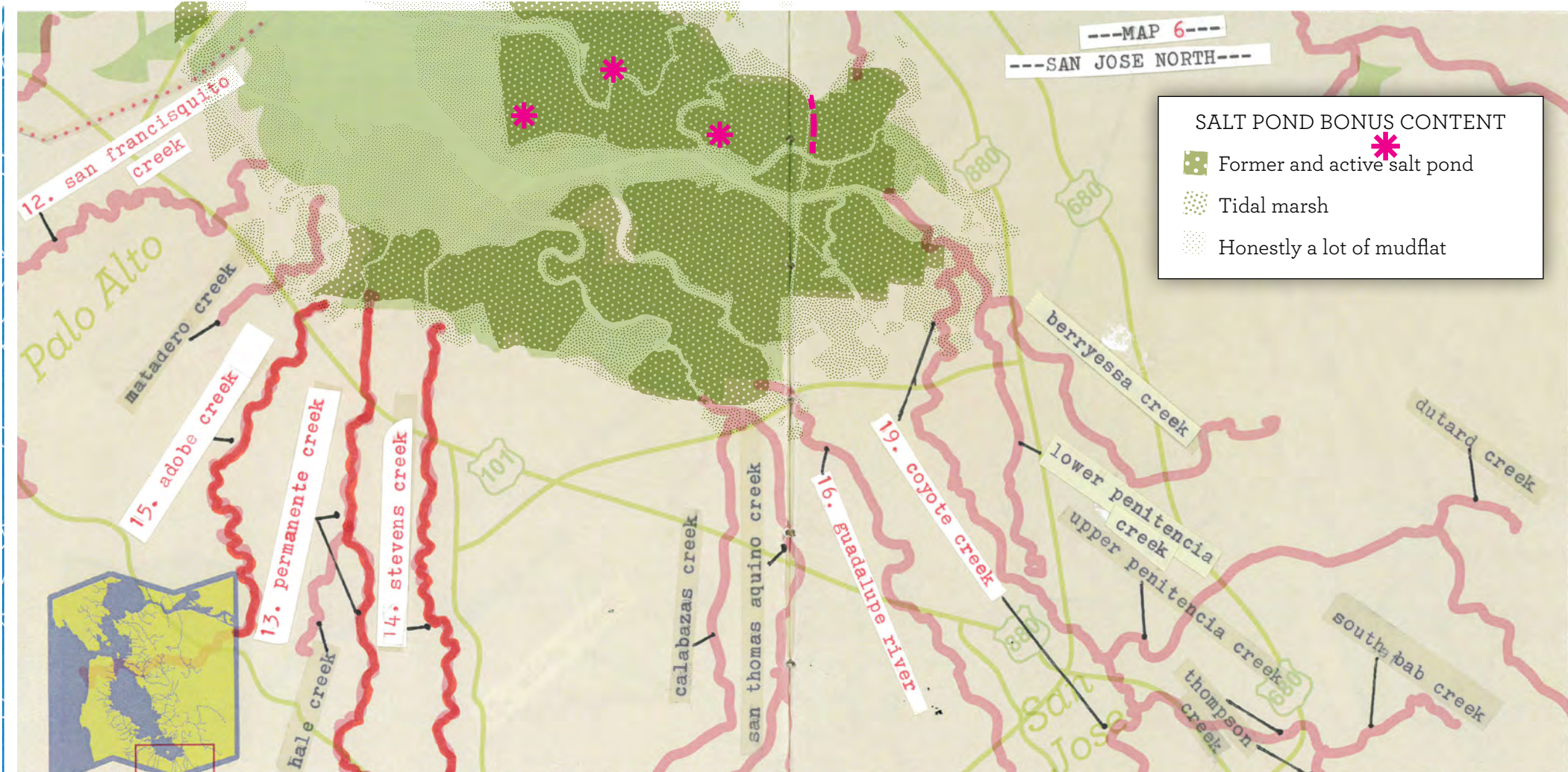
The co-founders of Adobe Systems both lived on Adobe Creek. (Thanks for making InDesign.)



---MAP 6---
---SAN JOSE NORTH---

SALT POND BONUS CONTENT

-  Former and active salt pond
-  Tidal marsh
-  Honestly a lot of mudflat



---MAP 7---

---SAN JOSE SOUTH---

14. stevens creek

regnart creek

280

calabazas creek

18. saratoga creek

sanborn creek

san thomas aquino creek

los gatos creek

17

16. guadalupe river

guadalupe creek

880

San Jose

180

alamitos creek

thompson creek

680

19. coyote creek

101

south bah creek

upper penitencia creek



---MAP 8---

---COYOTE CREEK---

19. coyote creek

16. guadalupe river

guadalupe creek

alamitos creek

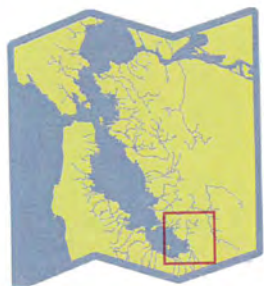
arroyo calero



---MAP 9---
---FREMONT---

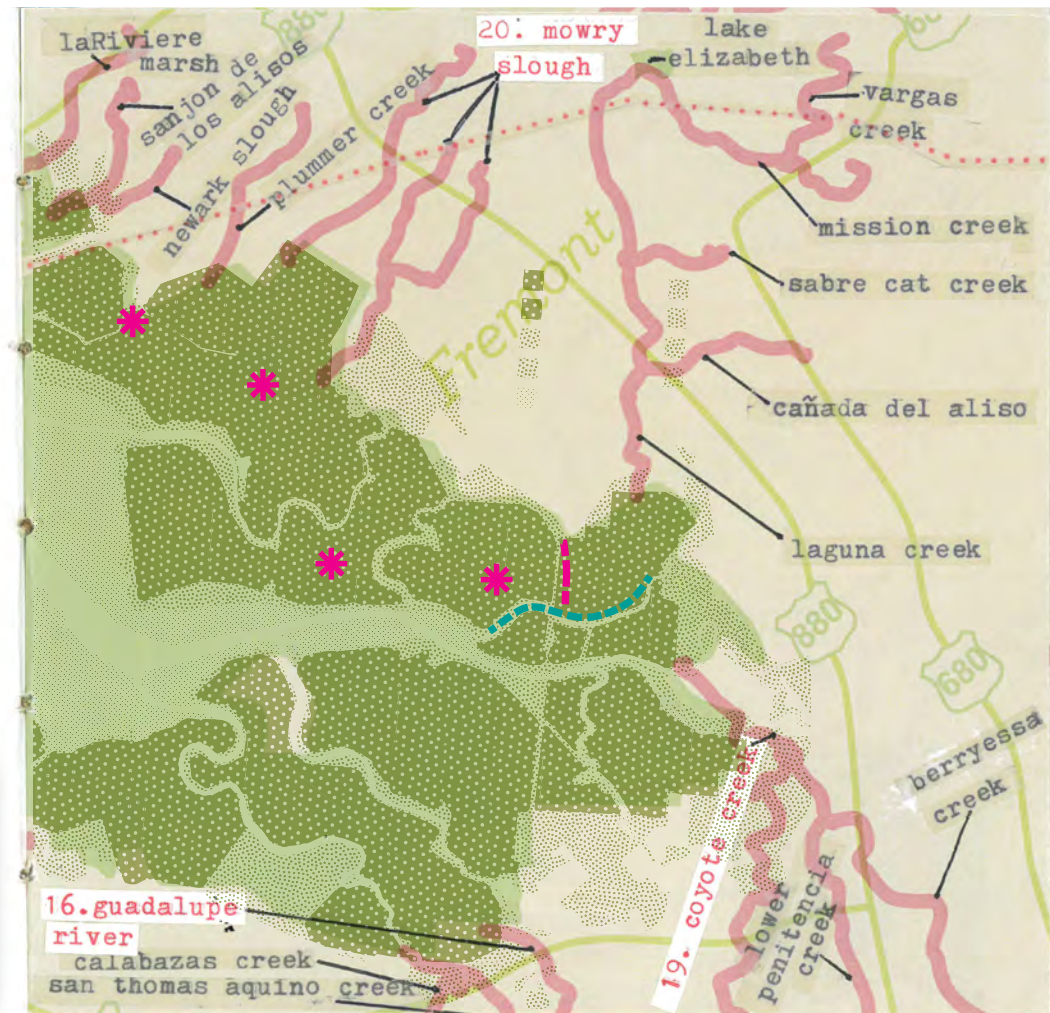


Mud Slough is part of the Laguna Creek Watershed



SPBC

- Former and active salt pond
- Tidal marsh
- Still more mudflat



---MAP 10---
---HAYWARD---

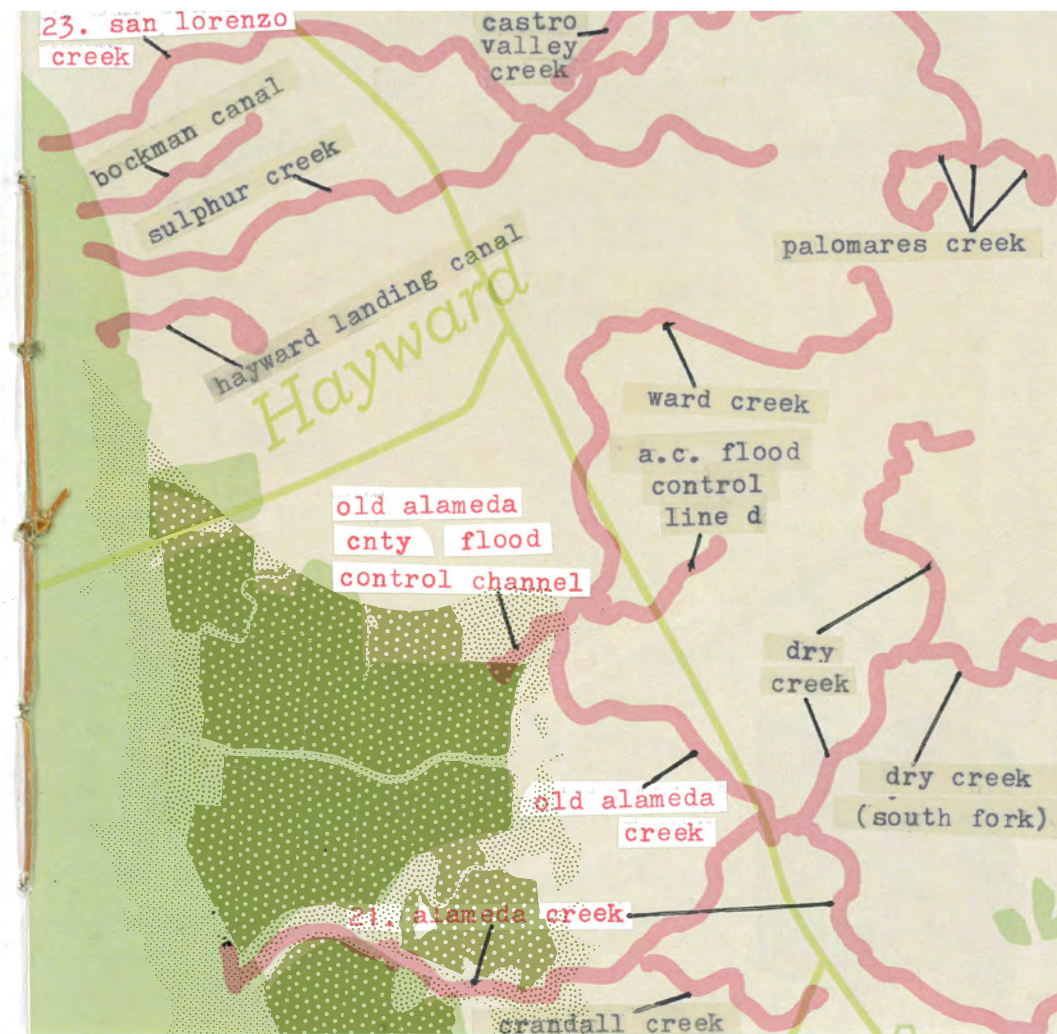


Stacy Repin

Murietta Falls: tallest waterfall in the East Bay located in Ohlone Regional Wilderness, a 9,737-acre park only accessible by hikers or horseback riders.



The 660-square-mile Alameda Creek Watershed is the largest watershed in the Bay Area. It extends as far south as Mount Hamilton, north to Mount Diablo, east to the Altamont Hills in Livermore, and west to San Francisco Bay.



---MAP 11---
---SAN LEANDRO---

San Leandro Creek starts deep in the East Bay hills, and then flows across the East Bay plain from downtown San Leandro to San Leandro Bay.

Its 78 miles flow through Lake Chabot, Upper San Leandro Reservoir, Redwood Regional Park, Chabot Regional Park.

Katie Rodriguez

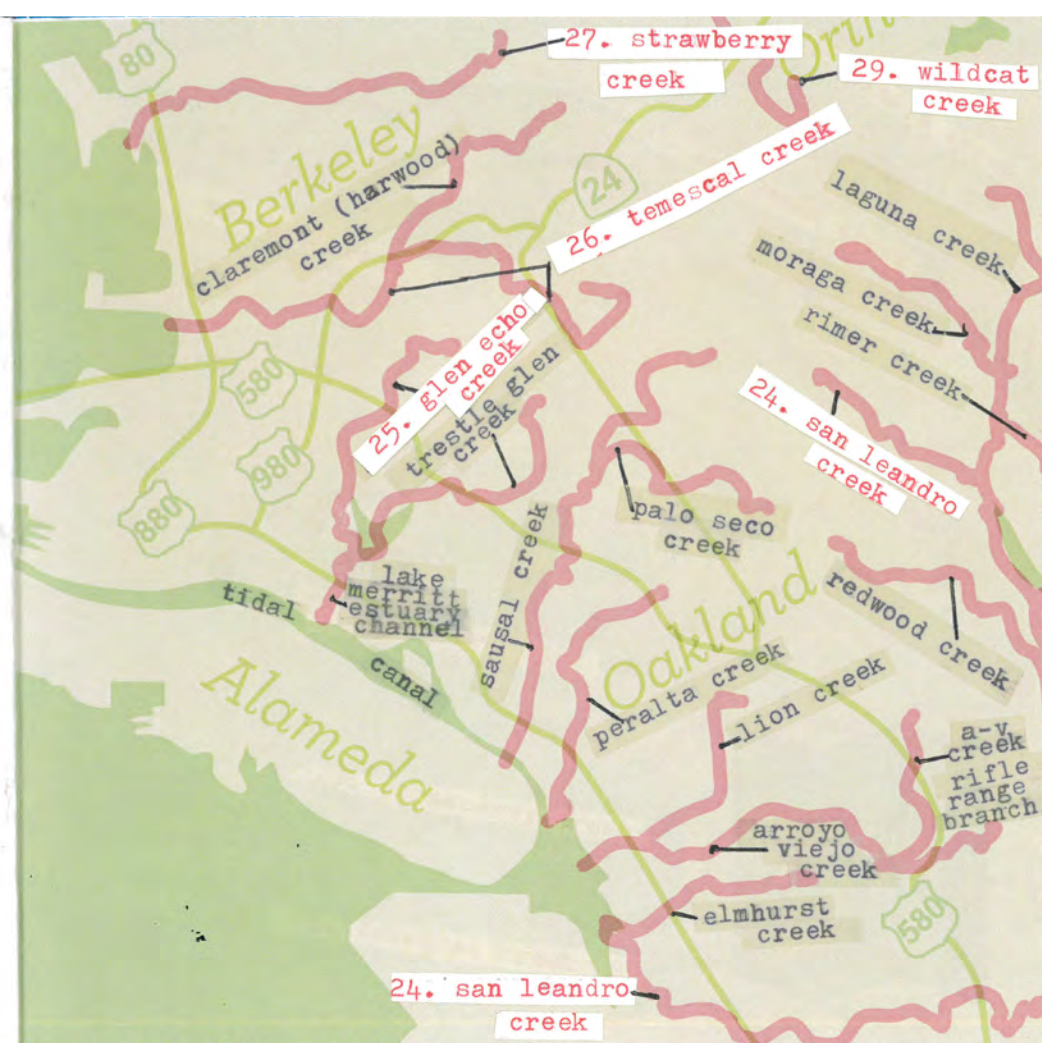
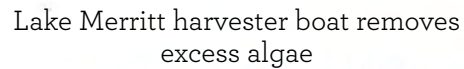
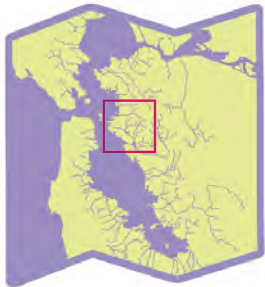
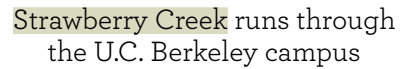
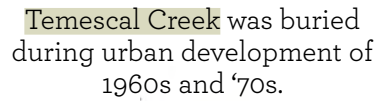


Chabot Dam sits at the top of San Leandro Creek.



San Leandro Bay is on California's list of Toxic Hot Spots due to excessive levels of DDT, lead, mercury, pesticides, PCBs, PACs, selenium, and zinc in its sediment.







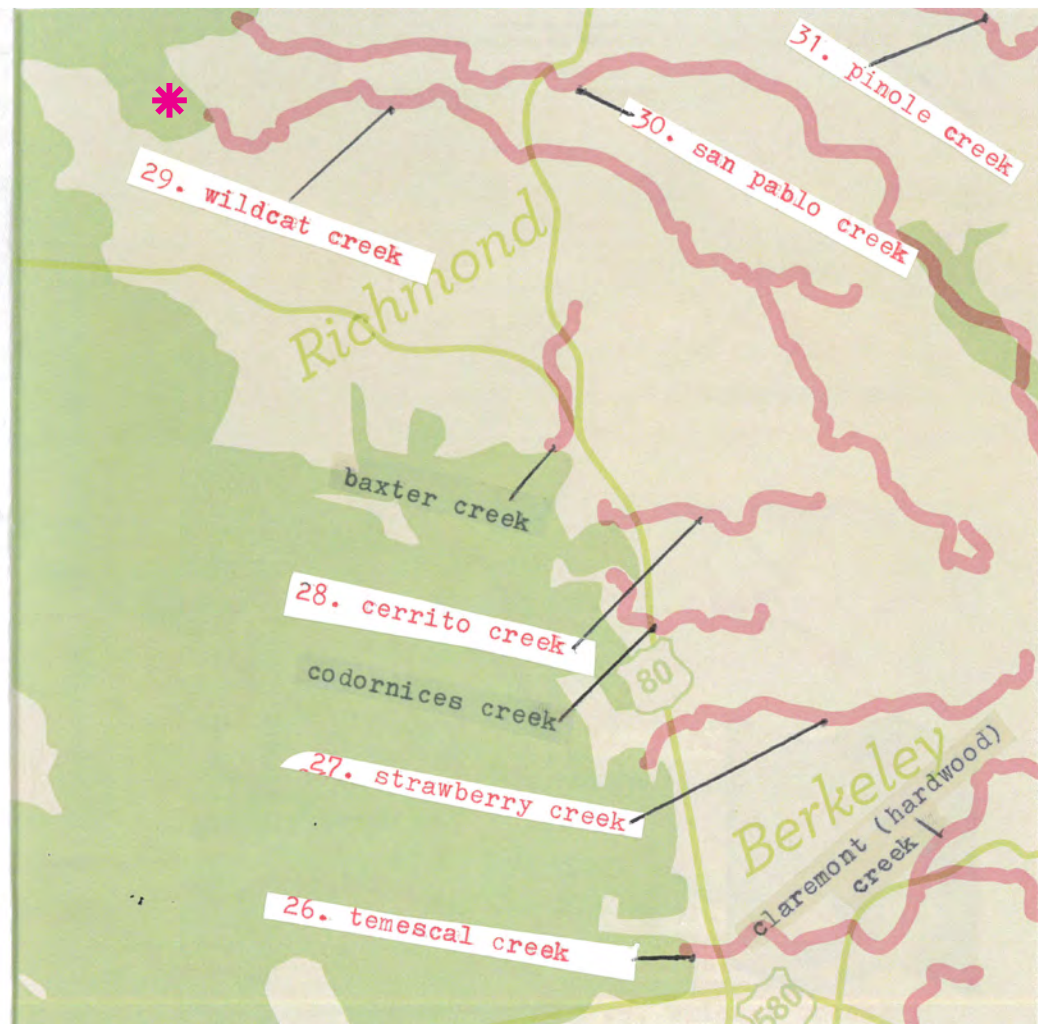
Wildcat Creek Marsh

Jason Doiy (Getty Images)



Wildcat Creek passes numerous shellmounds containing burial, ceremonial and household artifacts, and the remains of fish, birds, and other animals. Some have been built up to as high as thirty feet and acres in size.

The Ohlone and Bay Miwok tribes historically inhabited the area around Wildcat Creek, utilizing its resources for food, water, and cultural practices.



---MAP 14---
---CONTRA COSTA NORTH---

Pinole Creek is one of the last primarily undeveloped watersheds in the Bay Area. Its headwaters are in western area of Briones Regional Park.

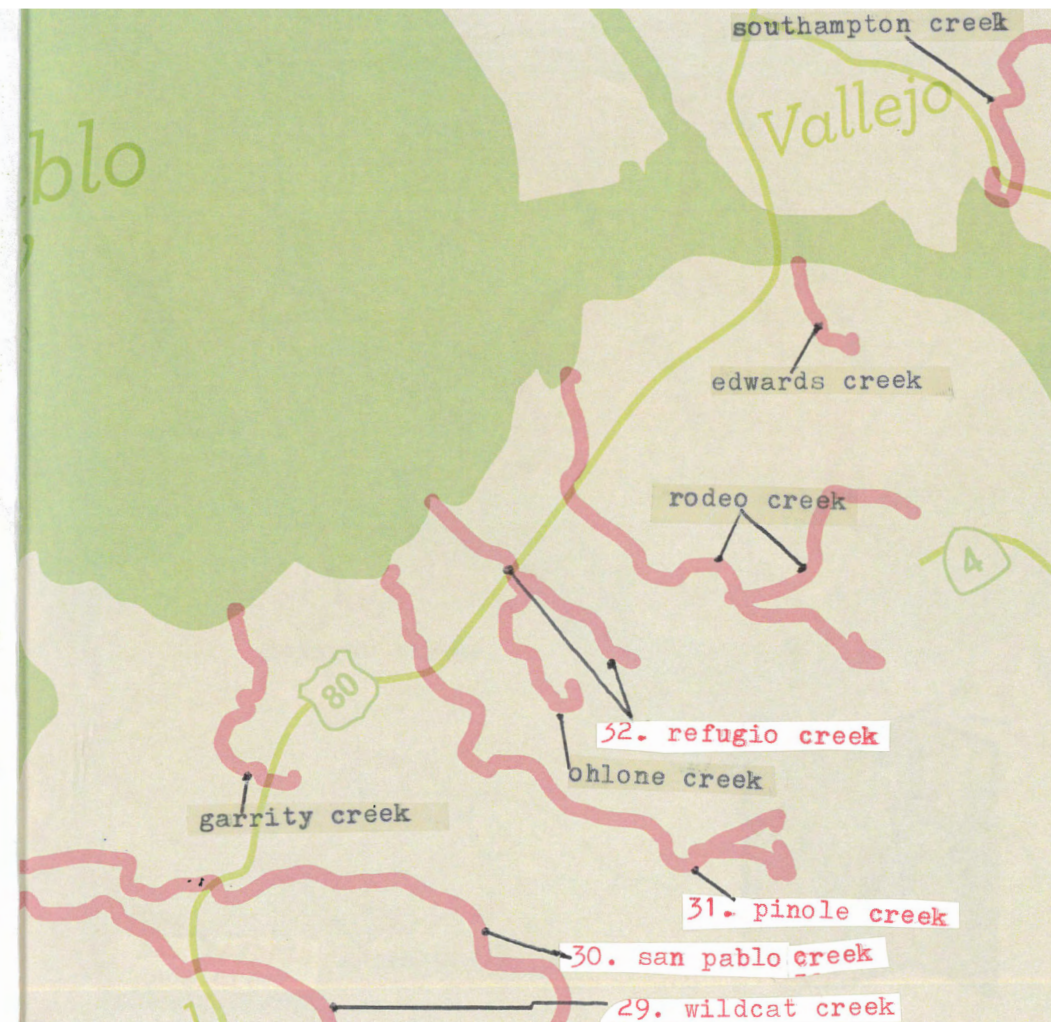


David Baselt

Briones Regional Park



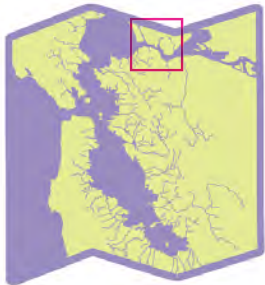
In 1965, the Army Corps of Engineers armored the Pinole Creek channel for flood control, removing riparian zone vegetation and tree cover needed for fish and other wildlife. This was somewhat reversed in 2016, with the completion of the Pinole Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project at Highway 80.



---MAP 15---
---CARQUINEZ---



Refugio Creek

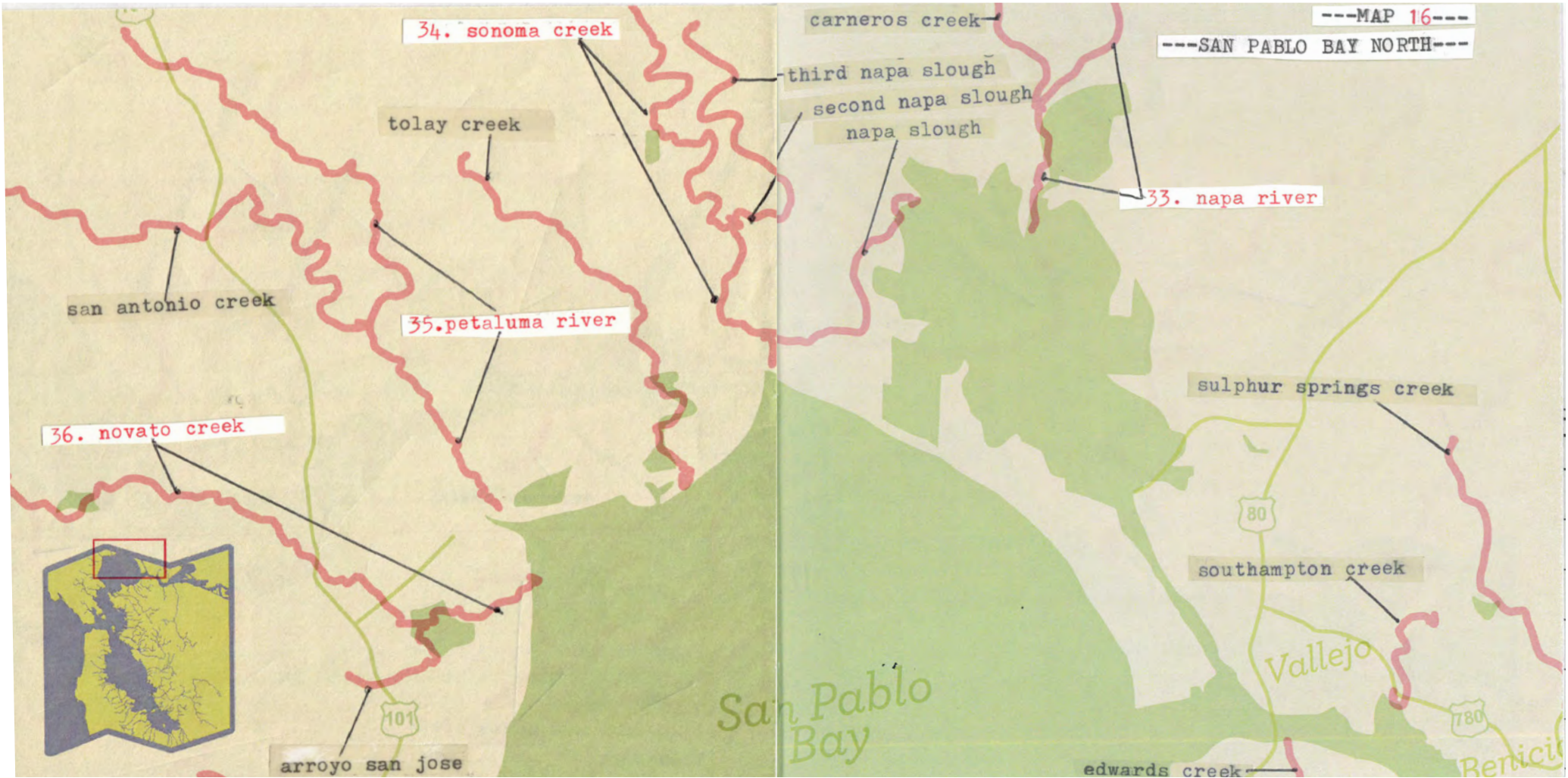


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The Walnut Creek Watershed is the largest watershed in Contra Costa County, totaling 146 square miles or 96,000 acres in size. It has 309 miles of creek channels





---MAP 17---
---PETALUMA RIVER---

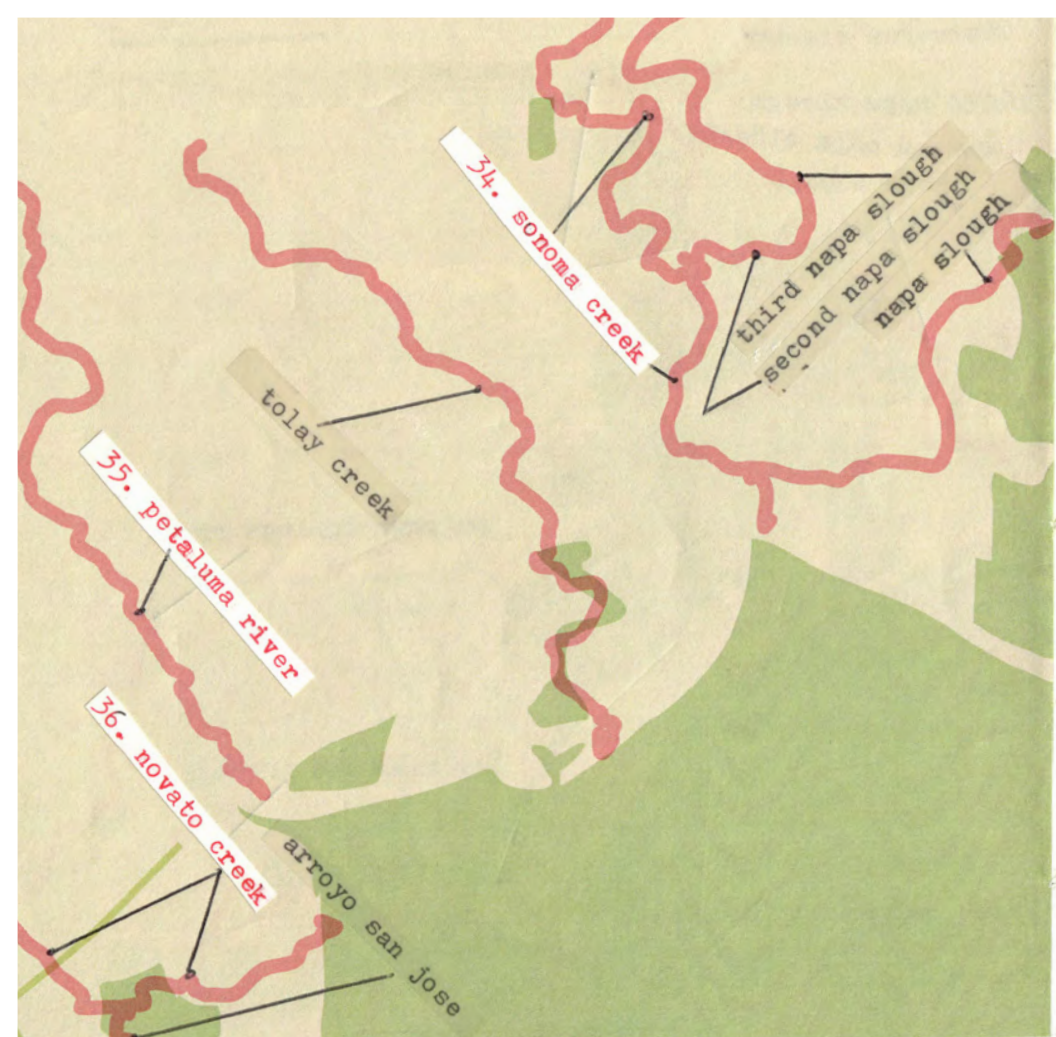


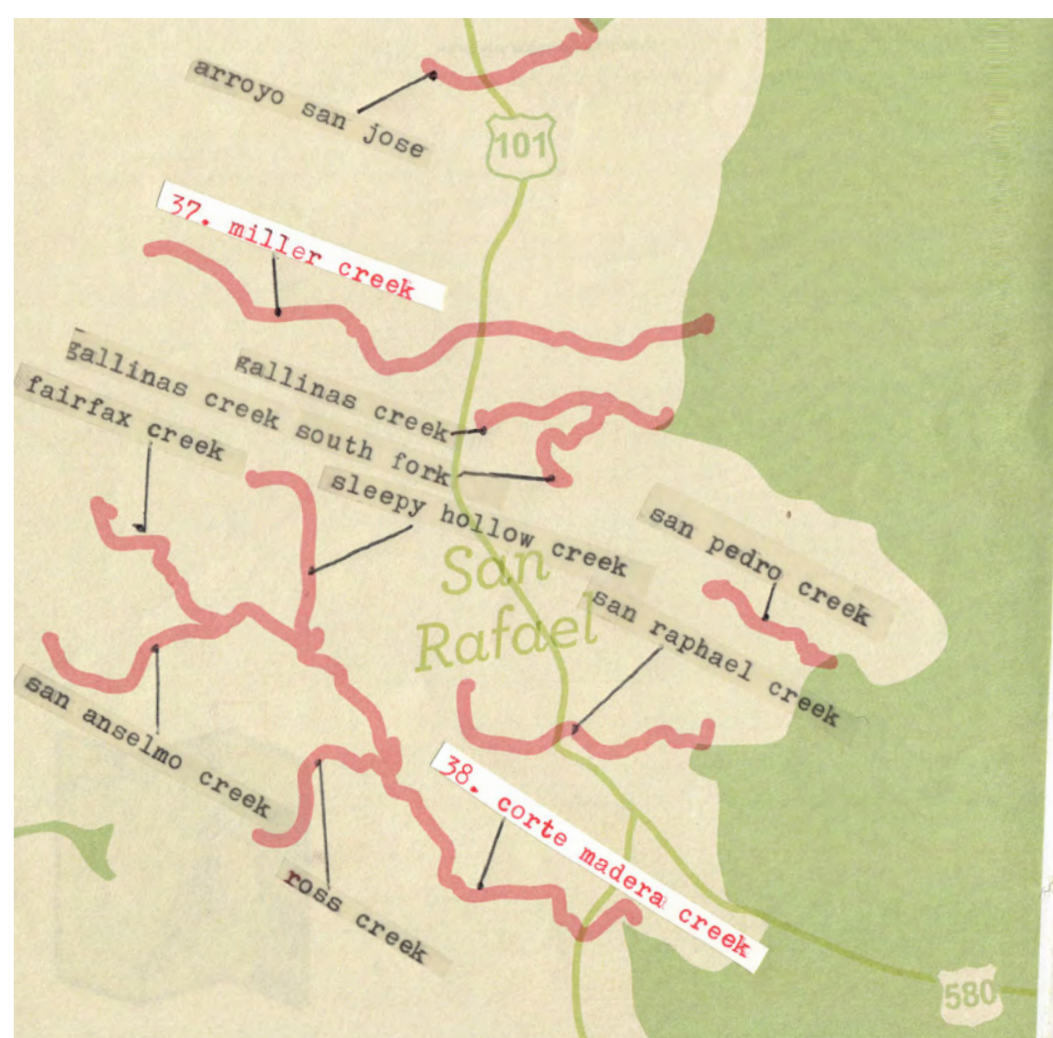
AnonymousEditor95

The Petaluma River Floodplain



Big old oxbow in the Napa River in downtown Napa





---MAP 18---
---SAN QUENTIN---



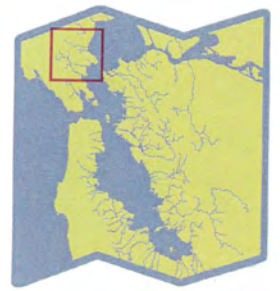
Scott Metcho

The Coast Miwok lived for thousands of years in the Corte Madera watershed, which supports a staggering variety of habitats including: Redwood forest, Serpentine outcrops, Chaparral, Oak woodlands, Grasslands, Riparian forest, Tidal wetlands

San Anselmo Historical Museum



1925 San Anselmo Creek flood



---MAP 19---

---MARIN SOUTH---

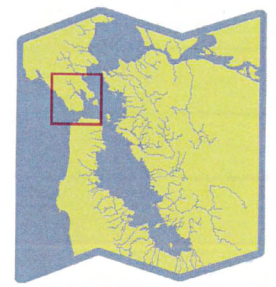


Mill Valley Public Library

From the 1890s: Mill Valley's name comes from its most famous man-made landmark, the mill on Old Mill Creek.



Yes, this is the other Coyote Creek



ABOUT

This atlas is part of The Forty Creeks Project, a limited edition box set of art objects based on the essential watersheds that drain into the San Francisco-San Pablo Bay system in California. An interdisciplinary collaboration between visual artists Lauren Hartman and Jon Fischer, each box set consists of:

Zine: This atlas of research and original maps.

Banner: Handmade for each creek in the collection.

Enamel pin: Limited edition & screen printed.

Box: Screen printed map resolves when the box is closed.

Google Doc: Open source resource with over sixty pages of compiled research and resources.

Lauren Hartman teaches visual art to seafarers at California State University Maritime Academy. Her art practice combines embroidery, bookmaking, and archival research to document the intersection of nature and human activity. Oceans are a platform to discuss global issues, physically linking us all through international waters.

📍 **societyofsubmergedculture**

Jon Fischer teaches Marine Engineering Technology at the California State University Maritime Academy. His interdisciplinary art practice explores ecology, topography, and place through printmaking, film, and installation. Recent projects focus on the Humboldt Bay and Crete.

📍 **feather2pixels**



Bay Area Watersheds – Compiled research of creeks that drain into the San Francisco/San Pablo Bay system

A useful atlas by Jon Fischer & Lauren Hartman

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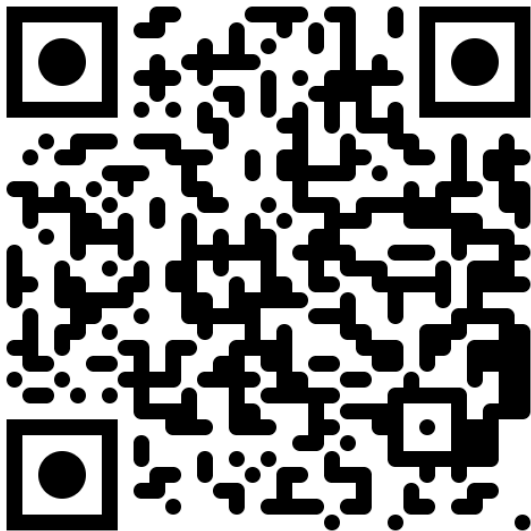
1. Watersheds and Hydrology 2. San Francisco Bay Area 3. Maps

Printed in the United States of America

Thanks: California State University, California Maritime Academy, Pete and Sparrow Belkin, San Francisco Art Book Fair, many excellent mapping and history resources that are credited here and on our Google Doc.

This project was made with support from the California State University and the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo California.

Link to an open source Google Doc with over sixty pages of compiled research, resources, maps:



The original maps in this zine were made by combining digital tools with traditional drafting techniques. Digitally created spreads were printed out and overlaid with typewriter, pens, and correction tape. The images in this zine are original except where credited. For a full list of the sources used to compile this work, see the link above.