

San Mateo County

The San Mateo County Courthouse in Redwood City.

Part 1 of 3: The coastal communities.



San Mateo County

San Mateo County Data

Population: 17,945 (Rank: 52)

Land Area (square miles): 449 (Rank: 56)

San Mateo stretches from San Francisco to Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. The coastal mountains run down the spine of the county. On the west, is the rugged coast. On the east is the coastal, or more accurately, the bay plain. The county is named for Saint Matthew and was created in 1856.

The largest land grant on the Peninsula was the Rancho de las Pulgas, an area of 35,260 acres. It covered all the territory between San Mateo and Menlo Park and Highway 280 and the Bay. It was awarded to the Presidio Commander Don Jose Dario Arguello in 1795. The Arguello family proved their ownership of the grant in 1853 and the family began to subdivide it.

When San Mateo became a county, a road was constructed to Belmont and eventually to San Jose. This opened the Peninsula to San Francisco's wealthy who purchased large tracts of land to build summer residences. Small towns eventually developed around these estates.

Highway 101 runs along the Bay and Highway 280 runs along the edge of the hills and the Bay plain. Along the coast is Highway 1. There are several scenic roads that transverse the Peninsula. Highway 92 connects San Mateo with Half Moon Bay, Highway 84 connects Redwood City with San Gregorio. Scenic Highway 35 connects Highway 92 and Highway 9 in Santa Clara. It runs down the spine of the mountains and gives spectacular views of the Bay and ocean.

For the more adventurous, there are other roads that connect Hwy 35 with Hwy 1. Tunitas Creek and Alpine-Pescadero roads offer scenic views. However, the roads can be treacherous and must be shared with bicyclists.

Most of the people live along the bay side of the mountains. Most of the towns are strung along the El Camino Real (Highway 82) that runs parallel with Highway 101.

Cities: Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Woodside. Towns: Princeton-by-the-Sea, Pescadero, Skyllonda, San Gregorio, El Granada.

Introduction

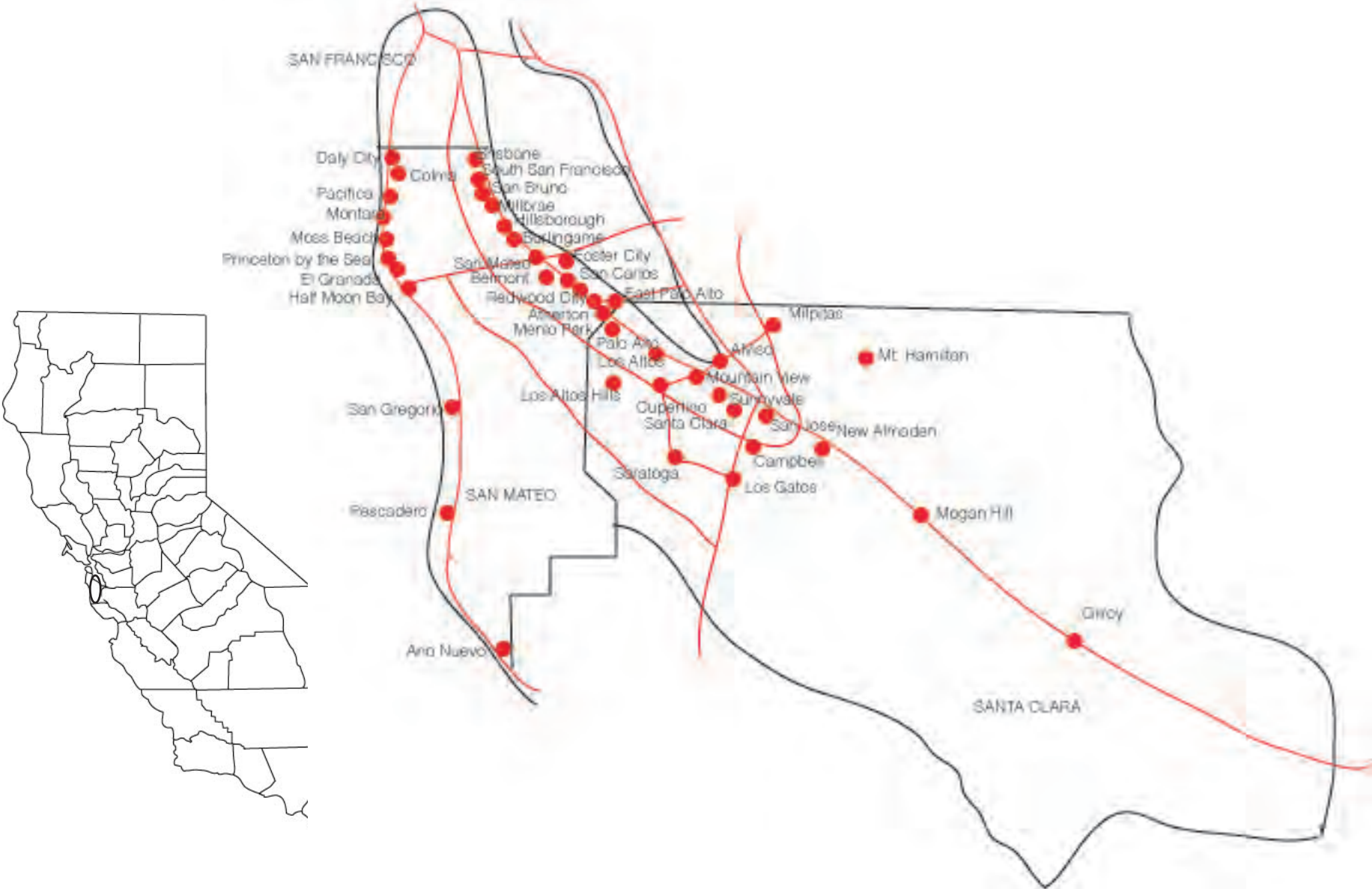
California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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San Mateo County



Daly City

Daly City is the largest city in San Mateo County. It has about 101,000 residents and was incorporated in 1911. (January 2004)



Daly City

(January 2004)



Daly City

(January 2004)



Colma

Colma was founded in 1924 and today has a population of about 1,800. It is mostly cemeteries. San Francisco passed an ordinance banning cemeteries in the city. (January 2004)



Colma

(January 2004)



Colma

(January 2004)



Pacifica

Pacifica stretches along six miles of coast. It is divided into several neighborhoods. This is the Rockaway Beach area. (January 2004)



Pacifica

(January 2004)



Pacifica

(January 2004)



Pacifica

(January 2004)



Pacifica – Sanchez Adobe

The adobe is a fine example Mexican Rancho architecture. It was the house of Francisco Sanchez, commander of the San Francisco Presidio. It was completed in 1846. (January 2004)



Pacifica

(January 2004)



Pacifica

(January 2004)



Pacifica

Pacifica became a city in 1957. (February 2007)



Pacifica

(February 2007)



Pacifica

(February 2007)



Pacifica

(February 2007)



Pacifica

(February 2007)



Pacifica

(February 2007)



Montara

The community has about 2,900 residents. (February 2007)



Montara

(February 2007)



Montara

(February 2007)



Montara

(February 2007)



Moss Beach

Moss Beach has a population of 3,100. (February 2007)



Moss Beach

(February 2007)



Moss Beach

(February 2007)



Moss Beach

(February 2007)



Moss Beach

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(February 2007)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(August 2003)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(August 2003)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(August 2003)



Princeton-by-the-Sea

(August 2003)



Princeton-by-the-Sea



Half Moon Bay

The community began to develop as a fishing town in the 1840's. It became a city in 1959. It now has a population of 11,000. (February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(February 2007)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



Half Moon Bay

(September 2002)



San Gregorio

This town dates back to the 1850's. Today it has 287 inhabitants.
(January 2004)



San Gregorio

(January 2004)



San Gregorio

(January 2004)



Pescadero

Pescadero dates back to the 1850's. Its beaches attract weekend tourists but its population is only 643. (January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Pescadero

(January 2004)



Año Nuevo

This is a state park where elephant seals haul out to moult and mate. These are among the largest mammals in the world. Males can grow to 16 feet long and almost three tons in weight. (January 2006)



Año Nuevo

(January 2006)

