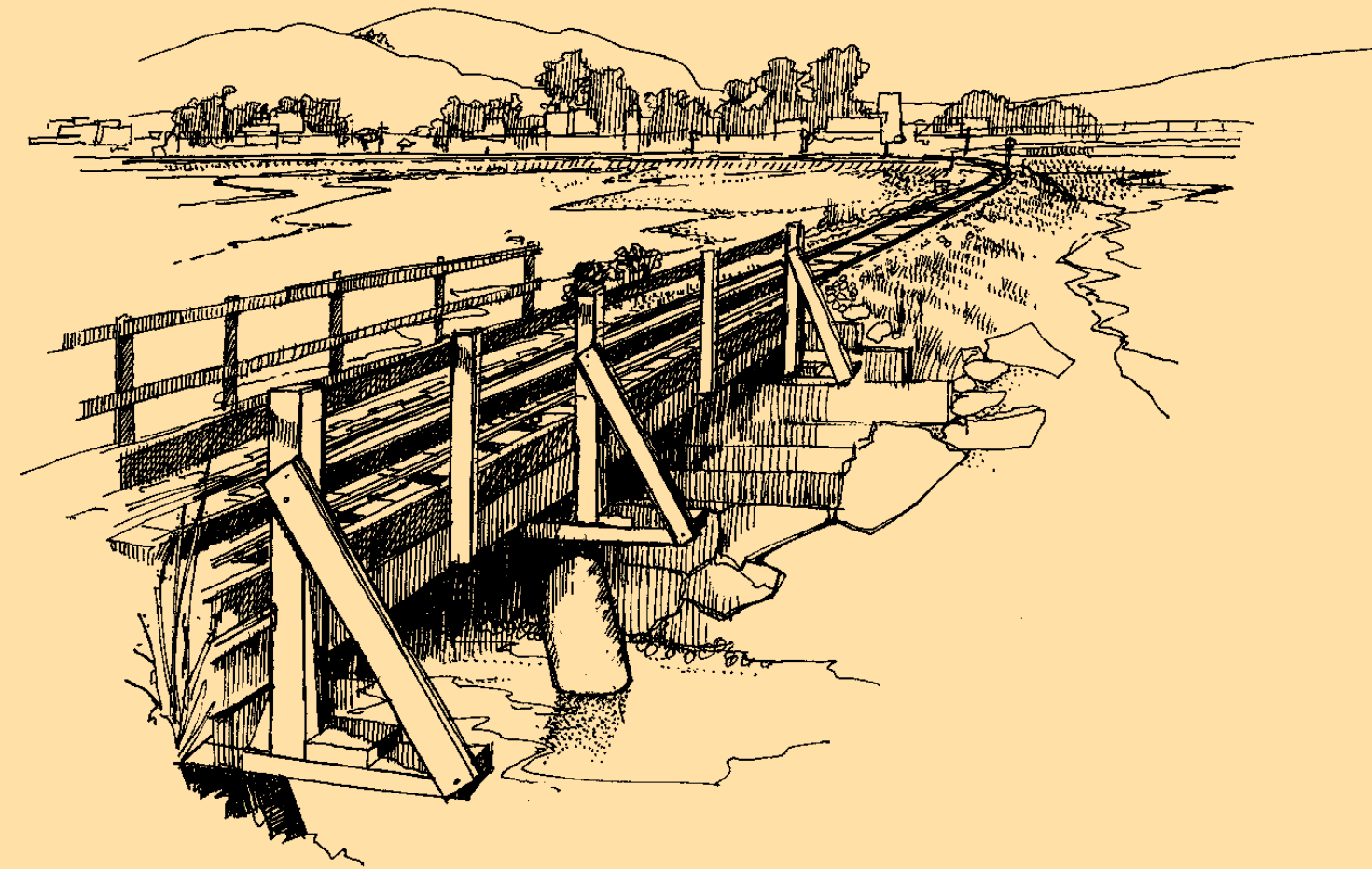




Rails to Trails



This trail was built on an old railroad line. But the trains never ran here.

In 1968, Santa Fe Railroad built a rail spur with the expectation that industry would want to locate in the area and use rail transportation. But the U.S. Postal Service moved in instead, and the railroad tracks were abandoned.

This beautiful and intriguing section of the San Francisco Bay Trail follows the same route of the old rail spur and uses the same timber trestle bridges.



The Pt. Isabel to Miller/Knox trail is part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a hiking and bicycling trail system that extends around San Francisco Bay.

What did this land look like long ago?

<p>1860 SAN FRANCISCO BAY</p> <p>2500 B.C. Huchiun Ohlone settle in this area.</p> <p>1770 Spanish explorers enter San Francisco Bay Area.</p> <p>1823 Mexico's revolt from Spanish rule transfers California to Mexican rule. Don Francisco Maria Castro given 18,000 acres of land in the east bay.</p> <p>1834 Victor Castro inherits what is now Point Isabel, naming it after his wife.</p> <p>1900 Town of Richmond established.</p>	<p>1940 SAN FRANCISCO BAY</p> <p>1917 Marsh and tidelands diked and dredged to facilitate shipping.</p> <p>1921 Point Isabel occupied by explosives manufacturers.</p> <p>1941 Huge expansion of Richmond to meet wartime ship-building demands.</p> <p>1942 Army camps at Golden Gate Fields and builds shooting range on Point Isabel.</p> <p>1945 Richmond shipyards close as war ends.</p>	<p>1968 SAN FRANCISCO BAY</p> <p>1951 Santa Fe removed half of wooded hill on Point Isabel to accommodate Stege Sanitary.</p> <p>1959 Remainder of hill leveled and fill used to double size of Point Isabel. Rail Spur installed.</p> <p>1963 Proposal to fill in the Bay around Point Isabel to create "a wonderland of homes, parks, factories".</p> <p>1965-1968 Conservation concerns grow and grandiose development plans curtailed.</p>	<p>1992 SAN FRANCISCO BAY</p> <p>1972 U.S. Postal Service moves in. Federal Government required to provide public access to shoreline</p> <p>1975 Point Isabel Regional Shoreline Park opens.</p> <p>1992 Point Isabel to Miller/Knox Trail purchased by East Bay Regional Park District for permanent public use. Rails and ties removed.</p> <p>1996 Dedication of Point Isabel to Miller/Knox portion of San Francisco Bay Trail, May 11, 1996.</p>
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Who says people can't make a difference?

In 1959, a resident named Kay Kerr watched in horror as the wooded hill on Point Isabel was bulldozed into the Bay and the harbor filled in. By 1961, Kay and her friends Esther Gulick and Sylvia McLaughlin organized the Save San Francisco Bay Association. Their efforts helped awaken public interest and led to the formation of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the government agency that regulates land uses in all Bay Area Wetlands.



Founders of Save San Francisco Bay Association: Kay Kerr (top), Esther Gulick (middle), Sylvia McLaughlin (bottom).