

THE EAST BAY SHORELINE
Selected Environmental Issues

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Cover by David Olson

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STATEMENT ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This study was undertaken by seniors of the Environmental Studies Group Major at the University of California, Berkeley. The Environmental Studies Group Major offers three fields of specialization, physical science, biological science, and social science, from which the student selects an area of concentration. All members of the major participate in a two-quarter group study in their senior year. The purpose of the study is to provide members of the major with an opportunity to gain experience in the field work, general research practices, and group dynamics, as well as to examine practical environmental problems.

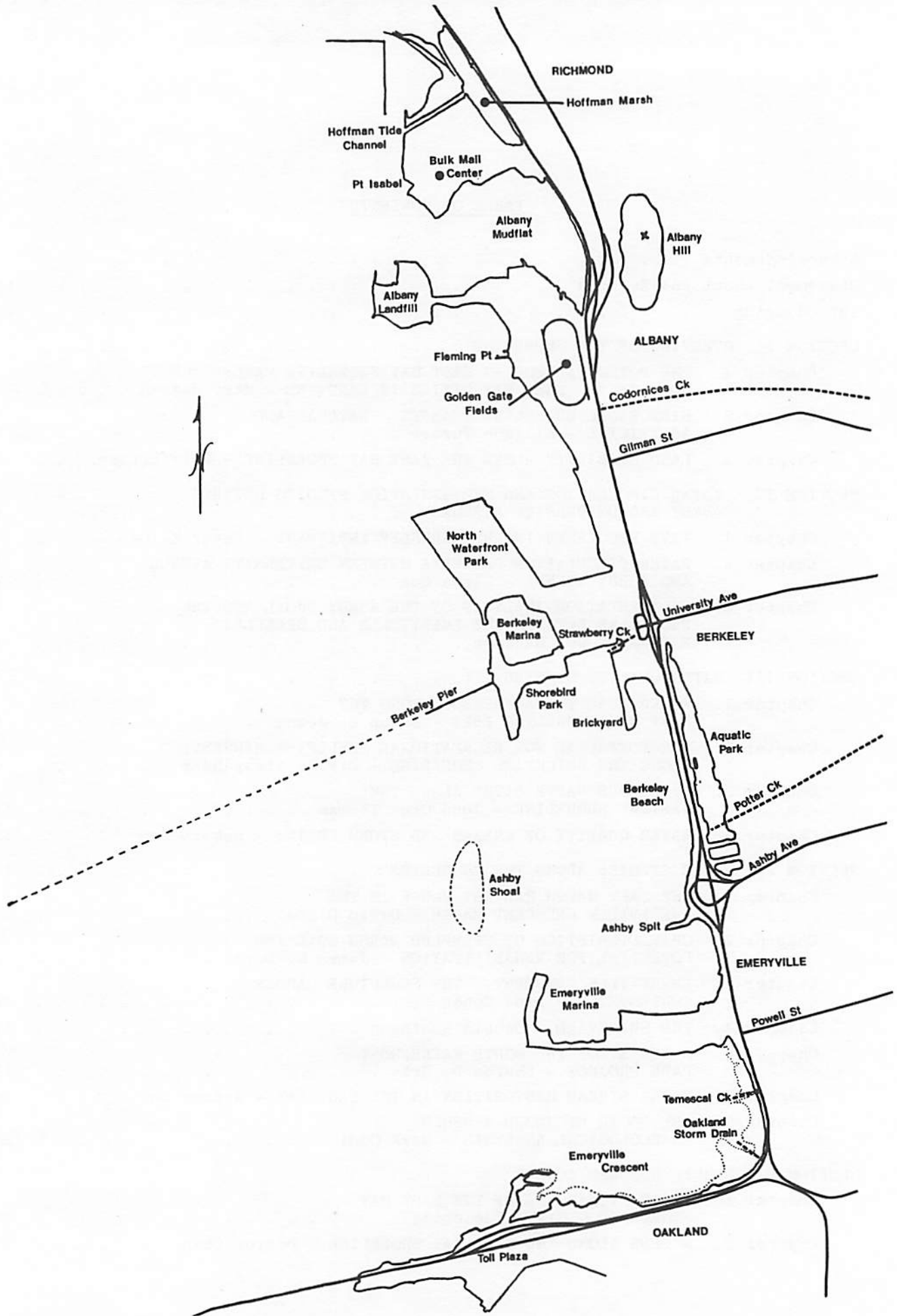
A study of The East Bay Shoreline was conducted by this seminar because we felt a more complete reference was needed to provide information upon which to base future decisions involving human intervention with the natural processes of the bay and adjacent marsh. It is hoped that this study will be useful to all those involved in these decisions and will increase the awareness of those previously uninformed about the vital functions of this natural resource.

The report was edited by Doris Sloan, and base maps were prepared by Allison Turner, unless otherwise indicated. The following students contributed both their time and effort to this project:

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FRONTISPIECE. East Bay Shoreline, showing localities mentioned in report.

INTRODUCTION

The shoreline of San Francisco Bay from Emeryville to Albany has been proposed for a new state park. This waterfront, adjacent to the large urban populations of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, has magnificent vistas across the bay and many opportunities for public access and recreational use.

The park potential of this area has been recognized by far-sighted citizens and organizations for several decades. With the passage in 1980 of the State Park Bond Act (Proposition 1), funds became available for land acquisition and park development. The shoreline from Emeryville to Albany was given top priority for Alameda County funds. In 1981 and 1982 the state Coastal Conservancy sponsored a series of public workshops to get citizen input into planning for the shoreline. In April 1982 the state Department of Parks and Recreation released a preliminary feasibility study that explored the possibility of acquiring and developing various areas along the shore. Many of its recommendations resulted from the public workshops.

The Department of Parks and Recreation recommended that (1) fee title should be acquired to all privately-owned shoreline properties from the Bay Bridge to the Contra Costa County line; (2) the Emeryville Crescent and Albany Mudflats be acquired and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the state Department of Fish and Game with controlled public access; (3) a shoreline trail corridor be established linking the Albany peninsula with the Emeryville fill; and (4) studies be undertaken to determine the feasibility of beach restoration along the shore.

The state legislature has made the sum of \$4,000,000 available in the 1982-83 state budget for the first phase of park development, which is proposed to include the Brickyard area and the waterfront from University Avenue to Emeryville.

The 1981-82 Senior Seminar in Environmental Sciences chose the East Bay Shoreline as its topic because of the importance and timeliness of the park proposal. Furthermore, the need for more detailed information on many aspects of the shoreline became clear during the public hearings. Our report addresses biological, social and physical questions, reflecting the three emphases of the Environmental Sciences major. Specific reports deal with water quality, stability of the shoreline, access, preservation of vital marsh habitat, zoning and questions of land use. We hope that our report answers some of the questions which have been raised about the shoreline and contributes to the development of a park along this important waterfront.

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