

Anza Expedition of 1776



El Puerto Dulce (The Fresh Harbor)



Anza and his men overlooking the Golden Gate from what is now San Francisco.



The Delta as it may have looked one thousand years ago, a maze of tule marsh islands merging with a valley grassland.

In 1775 and 1776, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,800 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey to colonize Spain's "Alta California." Anza then lead a much smaller group to San Francisco to establish a mission and presidio (military base). Later they explored the East Bay to discover the source of the water coming into the Delta.

According to Font, Suisun Bay, just north of Bay Point, was called El Puerto Dulce for "its stillness, and because for quite a distance back the water is fresh and good." At that time, wildlife such as tule elk were bountiful in this marshland region, and thousands of salmon migrated through the Delta to spawning grounds in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems.



A segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic trail located near Suisun Bay, California.



Route of the Anza Expedition 1775-1776

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Dates and stories taken from the diaries of Anza and Font, courtesy of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education, University of Oregon, www.anza.uoregon.edu.

Welcome to the homeland of the Ompin, a Bay Miwok-speaking tribe.