

**ATHERTON • PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**EAST PALO ALTO • REDWOOD CITY**  
**MENLO PARK • WOODSIDE**

# COMMUNITY HANDBOOK



SANDHILL ROAD 1904 — *Menlo Camera Shop*

## A History of South San Mateo County

The history of south San Mateo County, like that of all northern California, is a rich tapestry of Indians, Spanish explorers, mission fathers, Mexican grandes, entrepreneurs, and deserters — many colorful and some unsavory characters.

The original inhabitants, the Costanos Indians, to whom the Spanish brought "Christianity" and "civilization" left few traces. Kitchen middens containing shells, arrow heads, and some human skeletons have been found on the banks of San Mateo Creek and on the ocean side of the county. In Redwood City that part of Main Street between El Camino Real and the railway tracks, formerly called Mound Street, crosses the site of an ancient Indian village. The artifacts that have been found date back more than two thousand years.

In 1603 Don Viscaino, sailing north from Monterey Bay, sighted and named what is today the extreme southwestern point of San Mateo County — La Puente del Año Nuevo — or New Year's Point. Next came an expedition led by Don Gaspar de Portola in 1769, which passed through what is modern Woodside and along today's Cañada Road. On November sixth of that year the party camped on the north bank of San Francisquito Creek, near the huge old redwood tree still known as "The Palo Alto." This is today's southeastern boundary of the county. To this same spot Don Fernando de Rivero y Moncada, with a party of nineteen men, was subsequently sent in 1774 by the Spanish Viceroy of Mexico. Fray Francisco de Palou, a member of that party, found a suitable spot for a

Mission and made a great cross of wood to mark the site. Finally Juan Bautista de Anza followed in 1776, camping again near the Palo Alto.

From 1769 until 1822 the land, apart from sections reserved for the grazing of the king's cattle, was the property of the Catholic Church. A few provisional grants were made, however, including two on the Peninsula to Don Jose Dario Arguello who was commandante of the San Francisco Presidio.

In 1822 Mexico gained independence from Spain. In the following decade all the choice land of the Peninsula passed from the Church into private hands through large land grants. The names of the ranches, with those of their founders, highlight the place names of the county. Pescadero Point, San Gregorio, Cañada de San Andreas, Pilarcitos, Miramontes, Arroyo Verde, Purissima Creek, San Antonio, Butano, Corte de Madera, Cañada de Raymundo de las Pulgas are but a handful of the Spanish names found on a modern map.

The largest grant was given in 1835 to the heirs of Don Luis Arguello, son of Don Jose mentioned above. Don Luis was also the first native governor of California. The Arguello ranch was first called Rancho del Rey, and later Rancho de las Pulgas. Its 32,240 acres extended from San Mateo to San Francisquito Creek, and from the Bay to Cañada Road. The bayside boundary followed the line between dry land and the mud flats, and this line is still marked at several points by levees around the salt ponds.

The title to this rancho, consisting of rich and accessible land, was subject to much misunderstanding and litigation in regard to its western boundaries. Finally in 1856 a patent was issued to the heirs of Don Jose Arguello. This huge grant was subsequently cut into uncounted portions of varying sizes which now include the towns of San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, and Menlo Park, the southern boundary of which, like that of San Mateo County, is San Francisquito Creek.

In 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, and Mexican rule came to an end. Also by this time, because of mistreatment and white men's diseases, the Indians were a dying race.

In 1850 California became a state and in 1851 the counties were laid out with the County of San Francisco extending as far as the Santa Clara County line to the south, and the Pacific coast to the west. The Honorable Horace Hawes, the "Father of San Mateo County," was responsible for the legislation that resulted in the separation of San Mateo County from the northern portion of San Francisco County in 1856.

Disputes over the county seat's location erupted soon after this separation, as San Mateo, Belmont, and Redwood City all claimed it at various elections. Faxon D. Atherton of Redwood City" was one who brought suit against the supervisors to try to prevent an election which would give the decision to San Mateo. The courts decided in favor of Redwood City.

The remainder of the history of south San Mateo County we shall carry on by relating the stories of the towns of Redwood City, Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Woodside, and Portola Valley.



ORIGINAL FRANCISQUITO LIBRARY, 1938 — *Dennis Nolan*

## EAST PALO ALTO

### EARLY DAYS IN EAST PALO ALTO

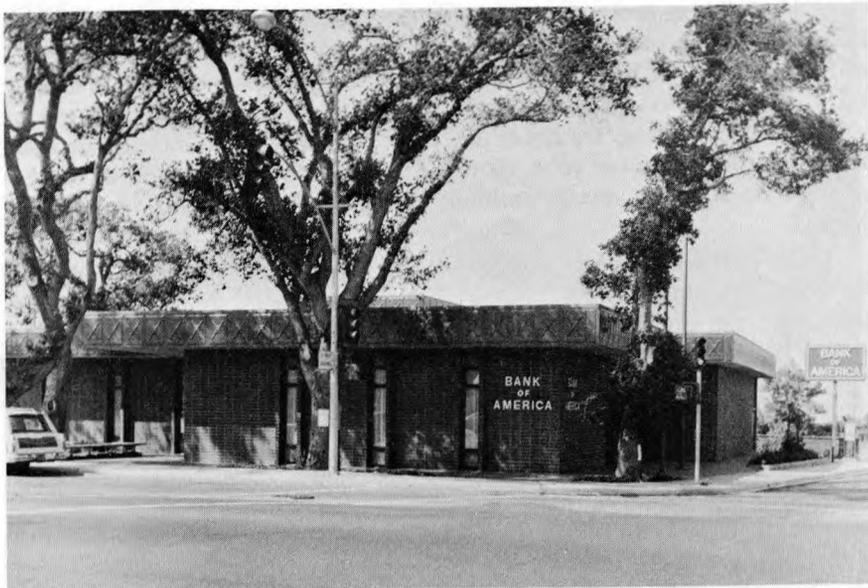
In 1848, the year the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, a wharf was built at the end of Bay Road in the area which is now East Palo Alto. It provided shipping for the lumber from Searsville and Woodside, and for hay and other cargo. It was the first port in what was to become San Mateo County. In 1851 the almost forgotten town of Ravenswood, the first regularly platted town in San Mateo County, flourished for a while as the hub of Peninsula shipping. The steamer "Jenny Lind" plied between San Francisco and Ravenswood, where passengers disembarked and proceeded by stagecoach to San Jose. The site of the old Ravenswood wharf was for many years known as Cooley's Landing, named for Lester Cooley who bought the wharf and surrounding property in 1868. In 1853 the United States Coastal Survey erected near the wharf the sandstone Pulgas Base Monument which is still at the east end of Jack Farrell Park.

With the completion of the railroad from San Francisco to San Jose, transportation was diverted from Ravenswood, and the decline of the port followed.

In 1910 new subdivisions were developed on higher and better drained land than that formerly used. In 1916 Charles Weeks founded the famous Weeks Poultry Colony, a cooperative venture, called Runnymede, which lasted into the 1930's. Its six hundred acres were divided into one and five acre plots. Its colonists prospered, and by 1925 the population of the area reached 918.

A local dispute broke out concerning the name of the school district, which had been Ravenswood since 1882. The Runnymede colonists wanted their own name, but finally in 1923 the County Board of Supervisors voted to preserve the name Ravenswood. The name of the whole area was in dispute also, and at an informal election on December 12, 1925, the compromise choice, East Palo Alto, won the majority of votes. At that time there was talk of annexing to the city of Palo Alto, but though enabling legislation was proposed, it was never enacted.

In the 1940's with the influx of World War II veterans into new subdivisions, the population rose to eight thousand. Flower-growing became the chief agricultural activity in the large-lot areas. The first major industry, an aircraft plant, moved into the area in 1948. However, the section containing this plant and a residential section, Belle Haven, were annexed to Menlo Park in 1949, and another large industrial area also in 1960. Without some of its shoreline and without a base of industrial property to assure a sufficient tax base for incorporation. East Palo Alto is today an unincorporated community, rather than a town, though it is tenth in size among the eighteen cities in San Mateo County.



*Photo Courtesy The Peninsula Bulletin*

## EAST PALO ALTO TODAY

Located at the southerly end of the San Francisco Peninsula's populous bay-side, East Palo Alto is in a warm, pleasant climate with fertile, level land. The Bay lies to the east, industrial sections and the Belle Haven area of Menlo Park to the north, and the Willows section of Menlo Park to the west. San Francisquito Creek is the southern boundary of East Palo Alto and of San Mateo County. Sections of this unincorporated community lie on both sides of the Bayshore Freeway.

East Palo Alto has no legal ties with Palo Alto in Santa Clara County; however, traffic, street patterns, business connections, and newspaper coverage tie the two communities together. East Palo Alto and Belle Haven work together on common projects, such as plans for the improvement of Willow Road.

Community identity has been strengthened through recognition by the County that this area, although unincorporated, is in fact a community. Thus many services formerly based in Redwood City are now to be found in the local shopping center, Nairobi Village.

Largely residential, the area includes both single-family residences and apartments. In 1970, of the occupied housing units 58% were occupied by renters, and 42% by owners. Business districts are located on University Avenue, on Bay Road, and East Bayshore Highway. Steel, paper, chemicals, and research industries are located on Bay Road at Pulgas Avenue; and on Bay Road are electronics

and research plants, also salvage and wrecking companies; west of Bayshore Highway are residential areas, retail businesses, and research activities.

The Ravenswood Post, a weekly newspaper, serves the community, as does the daily Palo Alto Times.

In 1969 a special census showed a population of 18,330; 60.1% Black, 31.9% White, 4.2% Spanish-surnamed, and 3.8% Oriental. The average age was twenty-four years. The average family income was \$7,337, and in numerous families both parents were employed. East Palo Alto residents work in all communities from San Francisco to San Jose.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

The community has many churches, including Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Community non-denominational, Christian Methodist and Episcopal, Baptist, and other smaller denominations.

A church-supported community house coordinates the activities and services of various groups, and serves as a center for numerous community interests.

Another center for the community is the Ravenswood Recreation Center at 550 Bell Street. It has a gymnasium, a meeting hall, social hall, and swimming pool. A wide range of activities is provided for all ages; small fees are charged for most classes. The Center is operated by the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District, see also page 107, which also maintains Jack Farrell Park at University Village. The District provides supervision after school and on Saturdays, and during the summer, at Brentwood and Kavanaugh Elementary Schools and Ravenswood High School.

Two little theaters, Manhattan Playhouse and the Creative Arts Workshop, have their own buildings.

There are numerous active Parent Advisory Committees; the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have units in East Palo Alto. The Boys' Club of America, Youth for Service, Teen Center, Midpeninsula Girls' Club, and Kelly Park Recreation Center, although in East Menlo Park, are all open and available to the youth of East Palo Alto.

Groups with varied interests include a women's club with its own clubhouse (the Tulip L. Jones Women's Club House), the Optimists Club, Bayshore Rotary Club, VFW, Black Businessmen's Coalition, Nairobi Merchant's Association (Nairobi Shopping Center group), and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which is a part of the Menlo-Atherton JC's.

There are institutions and groups with the goal of improving human relations and civil rights. These include open-membership national civil rights groups and church inter-racial groups.

**Campbell's Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Foundation** is located at 1491 East Bayshore Road, East Palo Alto. Telephone is 328-9449. This is a volunteer agency dependent upon private contributions.

**The Community Service Center** at 1641 Bay Road, telephone 325-3625, will provide emergency food, clothing, and furniture. Its resources are donations

from concerned people and volunteers.

**Info East Palo Alto** is a multi-purpose service center for information and referral, and outreach activity. It is located at 1849 Bay Road, telephone 322-1817. It operates on an OEO Federal grant, subject to annual application. It has a staff of three, plus volunteers.

**The Neighborhood Health Center** at 2111 and 2127 University Avenue, telephone 325-6141, is an OEO-funded agency which provides comprehensive screening examinations. The services for residents of East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park include pediatric, dental, pre-natal, obstetric and gynecological, mental health, and social services. This is also an on-the-job training center for nurses, and clerical, family health, and community health workers. A venereal disease treatment program is open to non-residents as well as residents. Trailers house the medical laboratory and social services, and another vehicle to transport patients to a hospital is being added. As of 1971 a sliding fee scale is planned to pay for services which previously had been free. A drug program is planned.

**The Red Cross** maintains an office at 550 Bell Street, telephone 325-9816. It provides information and referral service for civilian and military families, emergency funding for military families, and arranges for food, clothing, and shelter for disaster victims.

#### EAST PALO ALTO GOVERNMENT

An unincorporated community, East Palo Alto is under the jurisdiction of San Mateo County. An outline of County government can be found beginning page 11 of this booklet. A more detailed description of County government is available in the San Mateo County League of Women Voters booklet "A Guide to Your County."

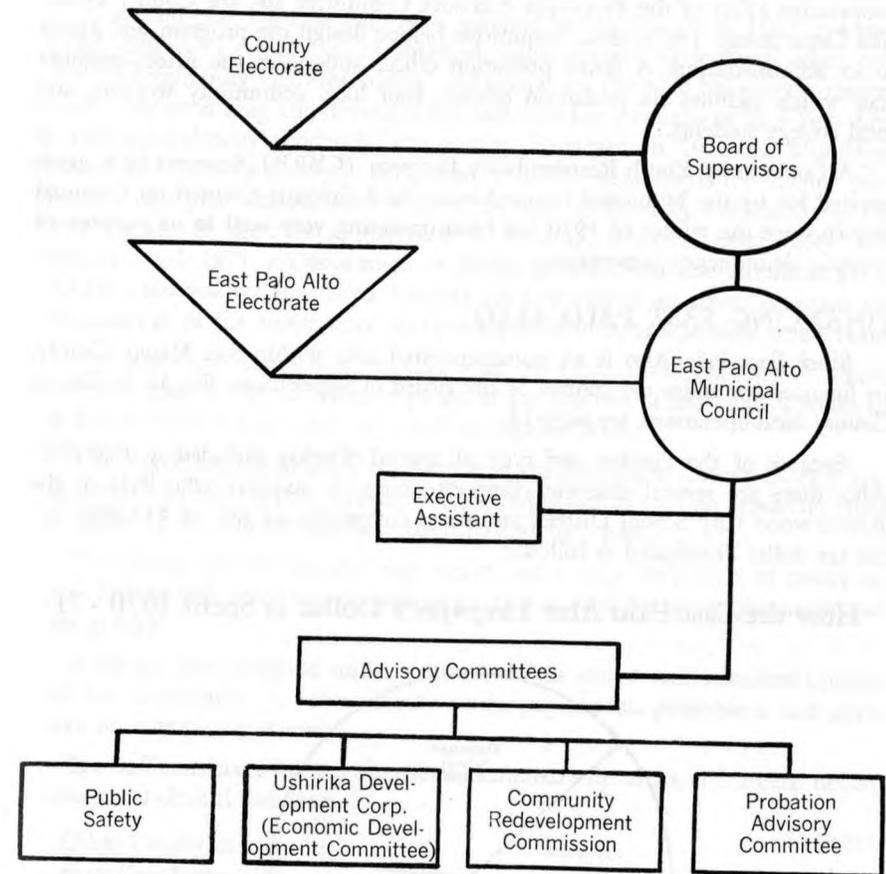
**The Municipal Council of East Palo Alto**, created by resolution of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1966, is the official voice of East Palo Alto. The County Board of Supervisors has generally supported the Municipal Council's recommendations.

The Municipal Council is composed of five members nominated from each of five districts, but elected at large. Each member must reside within his district during the four-year term of office. Vacancies are filled by the Council between elections.

The Council has a full-time staff assigned to it by the County Board of Supervisors. This staff consists of the Executive Assistant chosen by the Council, two secretaries, a Neighborhood Youth Corps worker, and a Student Administrative Aide.

The Council selects one of its members as Chairman and another as Vice-chairman. It holds regular bi-monthly meetings, plus occasional study meetings. Each Councilman has an area of special concern, such as roads and engineering; public safety; health, education and welfare; parks, recreation and beautification; and planning and industrial development.

#### Government Organization Chart East Palo Alto



The Municipal Council appoints members of the community to its advisory committees. In 1970 these committees were: The Public Safety Committee; Ushirika Development Corporation (Economic Development Committee); Community Redevelopment Commission; and the Watoto Project (Probation Advisory Committee).

The Watoto Project, a probation program tailored to the needs of the community's youth, was begun in East Palo Alto in June, 1969, as the result of the cooperative effort of the Probation Advisory Committee and the County Probation Department. The citizens' committee helped design the program and assists in its administration. A Black probation officer supervises the fifteen-member staff which includes six probation officers, four local community workers, and local college students.

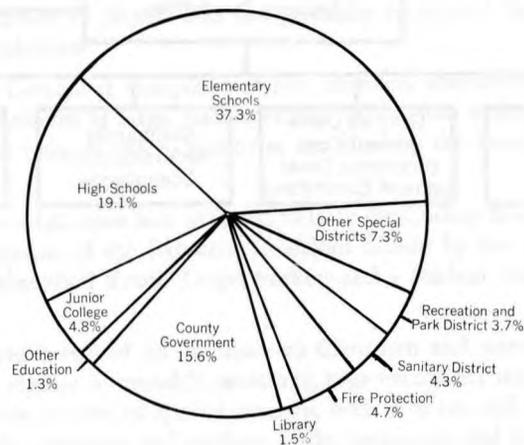
A Community Youth Responsibility Program (CYRP), financed by a grant applied for by the Municipal Council from the California Council on Criminal Justice since the winter of 1970 has been operating very well in its purpose of juvenile delinquency prevention.

### FINANCING EAST PALO ALTO

Since East Palo Alto is an unincorporated area within San Mateo County, its finances are under the control of the Board of Supervisors. For an outline of County fiscal operations, see page 13.

Because of the number and type of special districts included in East Palo Alto, there are several different composite rates. A taxpayer who lives in the Ravenswood City School District and has a composite tax rate of \$13.6897 has his tax dollar distributed as follows:

### How the East Palo Alto Taxpayer's Dollar is Spent 1970 - 71



### SERVICES PERFORMED FOR EAST PALO BY SAN MATEO COUNTY

**Planning and Zoning.** The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has final authority for planning and zoning in East Palo Alto. The Municipal Council and its advisory committees work closely and actively with the County Planning Department in developing special programs and improvements for East Palo Alto. The Council also takes a number of actions to enforce construction and land-use codes in the community.

A general plan for East Palo Alto, adopted by the County in 1963, is based on an analysis of residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural areas, and on 1963 community facilities, streets, and highways. The plan has specific recommendations on zoning and development, and calls for maintaining East Palo Alto as a medium-density residential community. However, in 1970 the Municipal Council and the City of Menlo Park were granted Federal funds for the first year of a two-year planning project for all of the East-of-Bayshore community to involve aspects of economics, government, housing, schools, environment, etc. Also, in April, 1971, a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant for urban renewal was approved, funding the first year of an action program for revitalization of the community, to be completed in approximately seven years.

The Municipal Council is working with the County and the City of Menlo Park on a massive storm drainage program for the two flood control zones of the Ravenswood Slough and the San Francisquito Creek.

**The Francisquito Library** is a branch of the San Mateo County Library System, located in the Nairobi Center at 1659 Bay Road. It is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library has audio-visual equipment and a large collection of books on Black history and literature. Its meeting room is used by many discussion and study groups.

A library bus, acquired under a grant, makes initial and sustained contact with the community. It offers library cards, paperbacks, pamphlets, and giveaways on community events.

The staff consists of branch librarians, a children's librarian, and several library trainees and clerical assistants.

Other County services include:

**Building Inspection**

**Civil Defense**

**Engineering and Public Works**, including operation of County-governed special districts.

**Parks and Recreation** in areas not included in the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District (see pages 37 and 107).

**Public Health and Welfare**

**Public Protection**

**Tax Assessment and Collection**

## SERVICES PERFORMED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

**Education.** Day care centers as of April 1971 are as follows: Ravenswood Children Center, at 2110 Euclid, serves 122 to 150 children, including two classes at Belle Haven Center. Charges are on a sliding scale. There is an all-day program for working mothers.

Opportunities Industrial Center West (OICW) Family Child Care Center, at 1039 Newbridge, cares for thirty-five children of students of the OICW program in Menlo Park. There is no fee.

The Annette Latorre Nursery School at 2358 University Avenue is part of the Head Start program. It accepts twenty children, and there is no fee.

The Ravenswood Parents Co-op Nursery School at 2441 Gonzaga street operates under the Sequoia Union High School Adult Education program. It accepts twenty-five children, and includes parents in its educational program. It is dependent upon sufficient parent enrollment for continuation. Charges range from \$8.00 to \$20.00 per month.

The Nairobi School has pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, and high school students. It can accept a hundred students. The system is funded by tuition charges, contributions, and money-making activities.

Nairobi College is a two-year college preparatory institution which started in the summer of 1969. Enrollment, not restricted as to race, totalled approximately two hundred as of April, 1971. The faculty of twenty-five includes five full-time and two part-time teachers, and volunteers. It is funded by tuition fees, grants from private foundations, and a Federal grant.

The Black Student Volunteer Service, at 1898 Bay Road, telephone 323-3114, is a student-operated organization funded by Stanford University. There is a staff of twelve full-time and three part-time workers, plus approximately a hundred and twenty-five volunteers, which provides a specialized tutorial program to help overcome the particular educational deficiencies of any child needing assistance. There is no racial restriction.

The Opportunities Industrial Center West (OICW) is a private non-profit job-training and placement institution open to residents of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County. 80% of its funds come from Federal sources. In addition it receives private contributions. Its open-ended program provides for approximately three hundred students. There is no tuition.

**Garbage and Trash Collection** are provided for a fee by the San Mateo County Scavenger Company, which contracts with the County for the East Palo Alto area. The company also pays to use the dump operated by the South County Garbage and Refuse Disposal District.

**Gas, Electricity and Telephone.** Gas and electricity are supplied by the privately owned Pacific Gas and Electric Company; telephone service is furnished by the privately owned Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. The Public Utilities Commission regulates both companies by setting rate charges and defining the operating procedures.

**Transportation.** The principal public transit facility for East Palo Alto residents is the bus service operated by Peninsula Transit Lines, a privately owned company regulated as a "certified carrier" by the Public Utilities Commission. The City of Palo Alto subsidizes the company by paying the difference between operating costs and the income from fares.

Service between cities is provided by Western Greyhound Lines buses and Southern Pacific Railroad trains.

**Water.** Two private companies supply water to small sections of East Palo Alto not served by special districts. The O'Connor Tract Mutual Water Company serves an area bounded by Menalto Avenue, Donohoe Street, Euclid Avenue, and San Francisquito Creek. The Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company service area is bounded by Menalto Avenue, Donohoe Street, Bay Road, and Glen Way.

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS SERVING RESIDENTS OF EAST PALO ALTO

East Palo Alto Drainage Maintenance District  
Palo Alto Gardens Drainage Maintenance District  
Menlo Park Fire Protection District  
South County Garbage and Refuse Disposal District  
North Palo Alto Lighting District  
Ravenswood Highway Lighting District  
Ravenswood Recreation and Park District  
East Palo Alto Sanitary District  
Menlo Park Sanitary District  
East Palo Alto County Waterworks District

Ravenswood City Elementary School District  
Sequoia Union High School District  
San Mateo Junior College District  
For County and Regional District and Agencies, see beginning page 109.

## EAST PALO ALTO CIVIC CALENDAR

The Municipal Council meets on first and third Mondays at 8 p.m. at the Municipal Center, 1657 Bay Road.

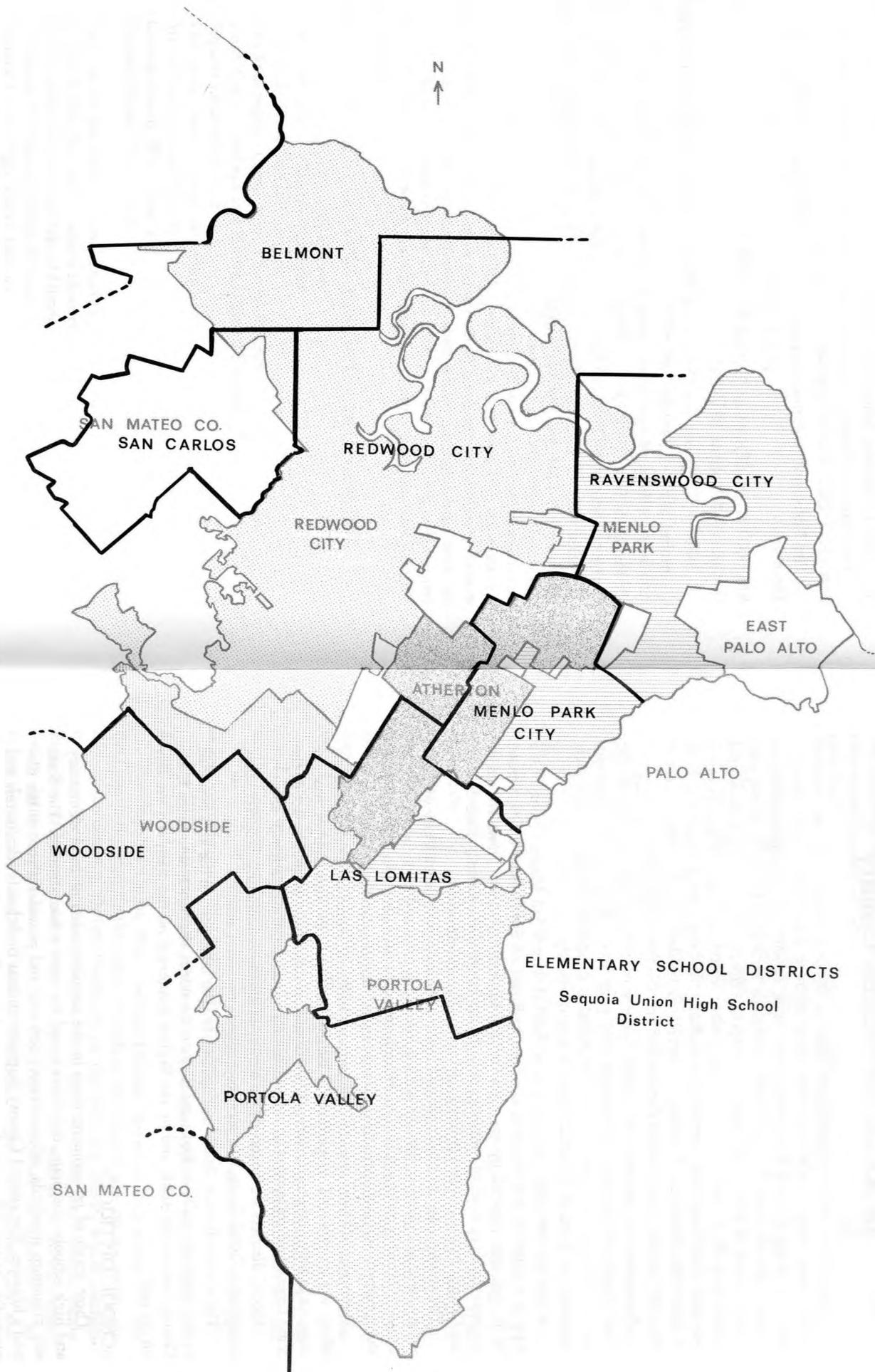
The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Supervisors' Chambers. Study sessions are held as business warrants on second and fourth Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

## TELEPHONES

East Palo Alto Municipal Council — 324-1308  
Police — East Palo Alto Substation, San Mateo County Sheriff's Department — 364-1811  
Fire Department — Menlo Park Fire Protection District  
For fire only — 323-2404  
For business only — 323-2407  
Info East Palo Alto — 322-1817



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# Special Districts In South San Mateo County

Special districts are governmental entities which perform a limited number of functions, usually only one. Since these districts were formed from time to time according to need and with no particular relation to the incorporation of towns and cities, their boundaries are arbitrarily formed and usually do not conform to town or county boundaries. If a special district is providing a municipal service (e.g. fire protection) at the time a town including its area is incorporated, the town is not required to assume responsibility; by simply not acting in this field, it allows the district to continue its service to residents of the town. There is extensive cooperation between the districts and the towns and county.

Formation or alteration of special districts must have the approval of the Local Agency Formation Commission (see page 109). State law also provides for the consolidation, annexation, or dissolution of special districts, or for their surrendering parts of their functions to city or county.

There are two basic types of special districts within San Mateo County. One type is formed by resolution of the County Board of Supervisors and governed by it, and administered by the Office of the County Engineer. These are single purpose districts, most of which serve only a portion of the County. One district, the County Flood Control District, serves the entire County.

The second type is usually formed by local election, with a majority of those voting needed to form a district. Such a district is governed by a locally elected board. If there is no opposition to incumbent board members of special districts, the members are automatically declared elected, and no election is held.

Some special districts are single-purpose districts, including school districts. Many are empowered to perform a variety of functions, although in practice they act in only one area. Occasionally a district is specifically created by act of the State Legislature, its powers being particularly tailored to the area it will affect.

Special districts are financed by a variety of methods, including property taxes, assessments, bond issues, and service charges.

The special districts listed here operate, for the most part, in the area bounded by the northern limits of Redwood City on the north, the San Mateo-Santa Clara County line on the south, and by the Skyline Boulevard on the west, and the Bay on the east.

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Three levels of government share in the administration of local elementary and high schools: the State, the County, and the local school districts. The State sets minimum standards, offers advisory services, and provides a part of the district's finances. The elected **County Superintendent of Schools** administers and supervises certain educational programs, and his office acts as a resource center with specialists in administration, curriculum, guidance, and special education.

The seven-member elected County Board of Education has parallel duties. Local school districts have the final operational responsibility for education, based on the minimum standards set by the State. They may, of course, raise the minimum educational pattern of the State and County, and adapt their programs to their own needs. Local property taxes are a substantial part of school financing.

Some school districts are governed by a Board of Education, some by a Board of Trustees. In all cases, the five-member Boards are unsalaried and elected biennially at large in the district for staggered four-year terms. A Board of Trustees has less authority over the course of study than a Board of Education, and it purchases certain supplies through the County. Both types of Boards develop policy for the district, evaluate the administration, appoint the superintendent, and approve the budget. Boards are required to meet monthly, but some meet more often. All meetings are public except when personnel matters are under discussion.

Menlo Park City Elementary School District and Redwood City Elementary School District are governed by Boards of Education. The rest of the School Districts listed below are governed by Boards of Trustees.

Attendance areas within the districts, and grade levels in particular elementary schools, are subject to change according to shifts in student population patterns.

**The San Mateo Junior College District** serves all of San Mateo County except Pescadero. All residents of the district who have high school diplomas may attend the college, as well as those over eighteen years of age who can profit from instruction. The college offers the first two years of the baccalaureate program, awarding an Associate of Arts degree which can qualify the student for entrance in the State University and Colleges for the last two years of the baccalaureate program. There are also general education and vocational technical courses. There is a community education program which offers concerts, lectures, and discussion courses. The College District operates a television station (KCSM-UHF Channel 14) and a radio station (KCSM-FM, 90.1 kilocycles).

There is a campus in San Mateo; one (Cañada) between Woodside and Redwood City on Farmhill Boulevard; one (Skyline) in San Bruno. Another site on the Coastside has been purchased for future building.

The Board of Trustees meets on second and fourth Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1700 Hillsdale, San Mateo.

The 1970 - 71 tax rate was \$.6604 on an assessed valuation for the district of \$1,892,557,198.

**The Sequoia Union High School District** serves an area which includes the City of Belmont on the north, extends to the County line on the south, the Bay on the east, and Skyline Boulevard on the west. Elementary school districts in the area are Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Las Lomitas, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, and Ravenswood. As of 1970, the schools are: Menlo-Atherton in Atherton; Ravenswood in East Palo Alto; Woodside on Alameda de las Pulgas directly adjoining the Town of Woodside; Sequoia in Redwood City; and Carlmont and San Carlos in the Belmont-San Carlos area. All are ninth through twelfth grade schools.

Financing is largely through the property tax. In 1970 - 71 the tax rate was \$2.6149 per \$100 assessed valuation. Total assessed valuation for the district was \$672,914,484.

The Board of Trustees meets on first and third Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at District Headquarters, 480 James, Redwood City.

**The Las Lomas Elementary School District** includes parts of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside, Ladera, and unincorporated areas. As of 1970, schools are; Ladera and Las Lomas, kindergarten through sixth grades; La Entrada, seventh and eighth grades.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$2.9209 on an assessed valuation of \$50,785,165.

The Board of Trustees meets on second Wednesdays at District Headquarters, 2071 Avy Avenue, Menlo Park.

**The Menlo Park City Elementary School District** includes most of Menlo Park and parts of Atherton. As of 1970, schools are: Hillview and Oak Knoll, kindergarten through eighth grade; Laurel, kindergarten through third grade; Encinal, fourth through eighth grades. There is one other school, Fremont, kindergarten through sixth grade, which may be phased out because of declining school population.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$1.9120 on an assessed valuation of \$87,331,217.

The Board of Education meets on first and third Mondays at 8:00 p.m. at the District office, 555 Glenwood Avenue, Menlo Park.

**The Portola Valley Elementary School District** includes Portola Valley and parts of Woodside. As of 1970, the schools are: Corte Madera and Ormondale, kindergarten through fifth grade; Portola Valley, sixth through eighth grades.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$3.2934 on an assessed valuation of \$28,246,743.

The Board of Trustees meets on first and third Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Little Red School House, 775 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

**The Ravenswood City Elementary School District** includes all of East Palo Alto, large sections of Menlo Park, and unincorporated areas on both sides of Bayshore Freeway. As of 1970, schools are: Brentwood, Costano, Kavanaugh, and Runnymede, all in East Palo Alto, and all kindergarten through sixth grade; Garden Oaks and Green Oaks in East Palo Alto, both seventh and eighth grades; Belle Haven, O'Connor and Willow, all in Menlo Park, and all kindergarten through sixth grade; Menlo Oaks in Menlo Park, seventh and eighth grades; and James Flood in unincorporated area surrounded by Menlo Park, a kindergarten through sixth grade school.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$4.1604 on an assessed valuation of \$62,091,414.

The Board of Trustees meets on second and fourth Mondays at 8:00 p.m. at the District Office, 2160 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto.

**The Redwood City Elementary School District** serves Redwood City, and parts of Atherton and Woodside, and unincorporated areas, also parts of San Carlos.

As of 1970, schools are: Clifford, Roy Cloud, Edison, Fair Oaks, Henry Ford, Benjamin Franklin, Garfield, John Gill, Hawes, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Selby Lane, Taft, and Washington, all kindergarten through sixth grade; Hoover, kindergarten through eighth grade; Kennedy and McKinley, seventh and eighth grades.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$2.3073 on an assessed valuation of \$244,990,636.

The Board of Education meets on second and fourth Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the District Office, 815 Allerton Street, Redwood City.

**The Woodside Elementary School District** serves most of Woodside and has one school, the Woodside School.

The 1970 - 71 property tax rate was \$2.1983 on an assessed valuation of \$15,740,660.

The Board of Trustees meets on first and third Mondays at 8:00 p.m. at the school.

#### **DRAINAGE DISTRICTS** drain land and protect from overflow.

**Arrowhead Meadows Drainage Maintenance District** serves an area of ten square miles, including incorporated areas of Portola Valley. It is governed by the Portola Valley Town Council. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$280. Its source of income is assessment.

**The Atherton Channel Drainage District** serves 4.2 square miles including part of incorporated areas of Atherton, Menlo Park, and Woodside, and unincorporated areas. It is governed by the Atherton Town Council. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$179,875. The tax rate was \$.4999 on an assessed valuation of \$35,926,682.

**The East Palo Alto Drainage Maintenance District** serves portions of the East Palo Alto area. It is governed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$1,830. The property tax rate was \$.0098 on an assessed valuation of \$8,593,115.

**The Lorelei Manor Drainage Maintenance District** serves several blocks of Menlo Park in the Belle Haven area. It is governed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$1,830. Secured valuation was \$539,175. Funding was through County operating funds.

**The Palo Alto Gardens Drainage Maintenance District** serves Palo Alto Gardens east of Palo Alto. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$9,494. The property tax rate was \$.1071 on an assessed valuation of \$2,784,305.

**The University Heights Area Drainage Maintenance District** serves unincorporated area surrounded by Menlo Park. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$7,470. The property tax rate was \$.0425 on an assessed valuation of \$9,045,565.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS** provide fire protection service.

In some cases, the service is contracted for with other districts.

The **Dumbarton Fire Protection District** serves .37 square mile triangle south of Redwood City from Douglas Street south and east to Marsh Road, bounded by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District on the south and Bay Road on the north. It contracts with Redwood City for service.

The District is governed by a three-member Board elected biennially for three-year staggered terms. Members are paid \$10.00 per monthly meeting.

Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$70,800. The property tax rate was \$.8071 on an assessed valuation of \$5,989,407.

The **Menlo Park Fire Protection District** serves an area of twenty square miles which includes Menlo Park except tidelands, Atherton, East Palo Alto, the Sequoia tract, North Fair Oaks, Sharon Heights, and other unincorporated areas.

It is governed by a three-member unsalaried Board of Directors elected biennially for three-year staggered terms. Its budget for 1970-71 was \$2,107,451. The property tax rate was \$.6061 on an assessed valuation of \$193,232,112.

The **Woodside Fire Protection District** serves a thirty square-mile area including the Towns of Woodside and Portola Valley, and portions of the surrounding unincorporated area. It is governed by a three-member unsalaried Board of Directors elected biennially for three-year staggered terms. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$832,204. The property tax rate was \$.8263 on an assessed valuation of \$59,510,273.

**FLOOD CONTROL ZONES** are administered by the County.

The **Ravenswood Slough Flood Control Zone** serves three square miles which include all area tributary to Ravenswood Slough, from Ringwood Road on the north, to Middlefield Road on the east, and to Bayshore Park on the south. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$9,700. The property tax rate was \$.0096 on an assessed valuation of \$30,205,711. It is governed and administered by the County.

The **San Francisquito Creek Flood Control Zones 1 and 2** serve part of East Palo Alto around San Francisquito Creek. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$7,600. The property tax rate was \$.1371 on an assessed valuation of \$4,719,265.

**THE SOUTH COUNTY GARBAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL DISTRICT** operates disposal facilities on Bay lands in Belmont and Menlo Park. It serves fifty square miles, including most of the Bayside area of the County up to and including Belmont, except Atherton. It is governed by an unsalaried seven-member Board serving staggered four-year terms. Members are appointed, one for the County, and one for each City in the district. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$537,660. There is no tax rate, as the district is financed by a charge on materials dumped.

**THE SEQUOIA HOSPITAL DISTRICT** operates the Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. It serves an area of one-hundred seven square miles which includes Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Emerald Lake, and Woodside, Cañada Road to Bayshore, and Redwood Shores.

The District is governed by a five-member unsalaried Board of Trustees elected biennially for four-year overlapping terms. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$1,188,508. The tax rate was \$.1937 on an assessed valuation of \$559,819,346. Other revenue came from charges made to patients and general obligation bonds.

**LIGHTING DISTRICTS** are governed and administered by the County Board of Supervisors. Their function is the lighting of public highways.

The **Emerald Lake Lighting District** serves an area which includes the Emerald Lake area west of Redwood City, and Greenwood Terrace. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$22,500. The property tax rate was \$.1065 on a secured assessed valuation of \$13,292,734.

The **Menlo Park Highway Lighting District** serves unincorporated areas of North Fair Oaks and Menlo Oaks surrounded by Menlo Park and Atherton. Its budget for 1970-71 was \$37,460. The property tax rate was \$.0882 on a secured assessed valuation of \$22,199,470.

The **North Palo Alto Lighting District** serves a triangular area bounded by Bay Road, Bayshore Freeway, and Menalto Avenue, and part of Menlo Park. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$530. The property tax rate was \$.0930 on a secured assessed valuation of \$257,195.

The **Ravenswood Highway Lighting District** serves the entire East Palo Alto area with the exception of the area served by the North Palo Alto Lighting District. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$54,290. The property tax rate was \$.1859 on a secured assessed valuation of \$21,886,681.

**RECREATION DISTRICTS**

The **Ravenswood Recreation and Park District** provides a wide range of recreation activities for all ages throughout the year. It serves two and a half square miles including the unincorporated area of East Palo Alto. It is governed by a five-member Board elected every two years for four-year staggered terms. Board members are paid \$10.00 per monthly meeting. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$307,668. The property tax rate was \$.5000 on a secured assessed valuation of \$22,445,486.

The **Ladera Recreation District** operates a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a recreation center. It serves a half square mile area including the unincorporated subdivision of Ladera and parts of Portola Valley and Menlo Park. It is governed by a five-member unsalaried Board elected every three years for staggered terms. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$62,198. The tax rate was \$.2523 on a secured assessed valuation of \$5,760,405.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS**

The **Wayside Road Maintenance District** serves portions of Portola Valley. It is governed by the Portola Valley Town Council. Its 1970 - 71 budget for Zone 1, \$552.30; for Zone 2, \$2,023. The property tax rate was \$2.00. Funds are for materials only. Repairs are performed by residents.

The **Crescent Avenue Maintenance District** serves part of Brookside Park, Woodside, through where Crescent Avenue runs. It is governed by the Portola

Valley Town Council. This district at the time of writing has recently divided into four zones. Tax rates and valuations are still to be figured.

**SANITARY AND SEWER MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS.** Sewage treatment plants are operated by the City of Palo Alto, which serves the East Palo Alto Sanitary District; and by the Menlo Park Sanitary District.

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District serves a four and a half square mile area bounded by Menalto Avenue, Woodland Avenue, and Bay Road to the Santa Clara County line. It is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected biennially for four-year staggered terms. Members receive \$25.00 compensation for each monthly meeting. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$352,852. The property tax rate was \$.6000 on an assessed valuation of \$20,003,679.

The Emerald Lake Heights Sewer Maintenance District serves parts of Emerald Lake Heights west of Redwood City. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$10,900. The tax rate was \$.5899 on a secured assessed valuation of \$1,364,645.

The Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District serves Woodside Heights, parts of Atherton, North Fair Oaks, and parts of Belle Haven. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$435,300. The tax rate was \$.7466 on a secured assessed valuation of \$59,733,370.

The Kensington Square Sewer Maintenance District serves several blocks of unincorporated area surrounded by Redwood City. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$6,500. The tax rate was \$1.0906 on a secured assessed valuation of \$393,995.

The Menlo Park Sanitary District serves thirteen square miles including Menlo Park, Sharon Heights, Stanford Hills, Ladera, the Sequoias, Brookside Orchard, Brookside Park, and portions of East Palo Alto and Atherton. It is governed by a five-member Board elected every two years for four-year staggered terms. The Board meets twice a month; members receive \$25.00 per meeting. The District Engineer is the Secretary of the Board. The budget for 1970-71 was \$1,407,637. The tax rate was \$.6000 on a secured assessed valuation of \$156,781,174.

The Oak Knoll Sewer Maintenance District serves several blocks of unincorporated area surrounded by Redwood City. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$2,300. The tax rate was \$.6326 on a secured assessed valuation of \$229,590.

The Scenic Heights County Sanitation District serves several blocks of unincorporated area surrounded by Redwood City. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$15,000. The tax rate was \$.3766 on a secured assessed valuation of \$368,360.

**WATER DISTRICTS** supply water, which is sometimes purchased from other systems, such as the California Water Service Company or the City of San Francisco.

The Cañada County Water District serves two-thirds of a square mile including part of incorporated Woodside near Raymondo Road. It is governed by a five-man unsalaried Board elected for four-year staggered terms. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$2,000. The tax rate was \$.1993 on a secured assessed valuation of \$1,008,563.

The East Palo Alto County Waterworks District serves much of the East Palo Alto area. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$389,400. There is no tax rate; costs and operating expenses are charged to residents of East Palo Alto.

The Los Trancos County Water District serves a half square mile area which includes tracts in unincorporated areas of Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde. It is governed by a five-member unsalaried Board elected biennially for four-year staggered terms. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$26,793. The tax rate was \$1.50 on a secured assessed valuation of \$1,988,650.

The San Mateo County Waterworks District Number 3 serves an unincorporated area west of Redwood City. It is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$83,100. The tax rate was \$.4374 on a secured assessed valuation of \$1,502,810.

The Skyline County Water District serves a twenty-five square mile unincorporated area in mountainous terrain surrounding a ten-mile stretch of Skyline Boulevard. It is governed by a five-member unsalaried Board of Directors elected every two years for staggered terms. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$17,910. The tax rate was \$.4649 on a secured assessed valuation of \$4,272,906.

## COUNTY AGENCIES

**The Local Agency Formation Commission.** In 1963 State legislation required that each county in the State except San Francisco form a Local Agency Formation Commission. Among the objectives of the Commission is contribution to the logical and reasonable development of local government agencies, and to shape their development so as to provide advantageously for present and future needs of the County and its communities.

Each Commission has county-wide jurisdiction and supervises the formation, modification, dissolution, or annexation to other government entities of special districts, except school districts; the incorporation or disincorporation of cities; and the exclusion of territory from a city.

LAFCO assigns spheres of influence in unincorporated areas to cities on the basis of a city's ability to provide necessary municipal services, and in the case of adjacent cities, which one can best cope with local problems. Assignment of a sphere of influence is not an annexation. Procedures for annexation to a city include approval by LAFCO, a petition by the residents of the area to be annexed, a hearing by the Council of the City involved, and an election in the area to be annexed in which the majority of votes cast is in favor of annexation.

A city to which an unincorporated area has been assigned as a sphere of influence may pre-zone the area to conform to its own standards.

**The San Mateo County Harbor District** includes all of San Mateo County. It is responsible for construction and maintenance of harbor facilities within the Pillar Point breakwater on the Coast. The five-member unsalaried Board of Commissioners is elected biennially to four-year staggered terms. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$232,500. It is financed by the property tax at a rate of 1c per \$100 assessed valuation.

**The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District** covers a hundred and sixty-three square miles, including San Francisco Airport, and extending south to the County line and west to Skyline Boulevard. It is charged with the abatement of mosquitoes, yellow jackets, and black gnats. It is governed by an eleven-member unsalaried Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Supervisors for two-year staggered terms. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$215,147. The property tax rate was \$.0168.

**The San Mateo County Soil Conservation District** serves all coastal agricultural area in the County, with a small part of Woodside included. It provides assistance to property owners in dealing with problems of conservation. It is governed by a five-member elected Board. Its budget for 1970 - 71 was \$25,931, with a property tax rate of \$.0200.

**The San Mateo County Regional Planning Committee** is composed of a supervisor and planning commissioner from the County, a councilman and planning commissioner from each city, and the State Senator and State Assemblymen who represent San Mateo County. The Committee considers such planning and development problems of inter-jurisdictional scope as may be referred to it by responsible governmental agencies. These matters include development of Bay front lands, preservation of open spaces, and coastside development.

**REGIONAL AGENCIES** are set up to solve problems which go beyond local boundaries, such as air pollution. They have authority over two or more counties in their area of responsibility.

The nine Bay Area Counties, referred to in the descriptions of some agencies, are: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.

**The Airport Access Study Committee of BART** (Bay Area Rapid Transit District) has a representative from San Mateo County although the County is not a member of BART. The function of this committee is to study the feasibility of extending the BART line from its station in Daly City to San Francisco International Airport. San Mateo County's share of the funding comes from residue of funds collected for the West Bay Rapid Transit Authority study, which was voted down by the public. Representation on the Committee is from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco Airport Commission, and BART.

**The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)** became a legal entity in 1961 under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act. It is a voluntary association, not a government. It is designed to include the nine counties of the Bay Area and their

ninety-one cities. As of March 1970, all nine counties and eighty-four cities are represented.

The general purpose of ABAG is to study regional problems and suggest solutions. It has no enforcement powers, but is recognized by the Federal Government as a regional agency through which funds are allocated for approved projects in the Bay Area. It has completed a Master Plan for the Bay Area for 1970 - 1990 to be used as a guideline by cities and counties for future development. Subcommittees study a wide variety of regional problems.

The General Assembly, ABAG's official policy-making body, meets twice a year. It consists of a supervisor from each county and a mayor or councilman from each city. Members serve for one year. An Executive Committee holds meetings, open to the public, the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley.

Financing comes from assessment of member governments based on population, and from Federal funds for its regional planning function.

**The Bay Area Air Pollution Control District** consists of all nine Bay Area counties. It was established by the State Legislature in 1955 to study air contaminants and control air pollution by passing and enforcing regulations. It has authority over stationary sources of pollution, but not moving vehicles, which are subject to State control. It has enforcement powers over violators and is required to make public monthly an inventory of companies or individuals violating pollution standards.

It is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of two members from each county appointed by local jurisdictions. The budget for 1970 - 71 was \$1,963,465, of which San Mateo County's share was \$205,556, representing a property tax rate of \$.0113.

**The Bay Area Council**, although its function is largely covered by ABAG, works to develop the civic and economic health of the Bay Area. It covers all nine Bay Area counties, and is funded by \$1,000 annual contribution from each county.

**The Bay Area Water Quality Control District** serves an area which approximates the natural drainage area around San Francisco Bay. The eleven directors are appointed from the region by the Governor, with each member having pertinent special knowledge.

The District was established in 1949 to abate, prevent, and control pollution of Bay and coastal waters. Since then its policy-making and enforcement powers have been widened and increased. Financing is by State legislative appropriation and Federal grants.

**The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)** was established by the State legislature in 1965 to prepare a comprehensive, enforceable plan for the control of Bay fill, dredging, and shoreline development. It became permanent in November 1969 with jurisdiction extended a hundred feet landward from the shoreline, and over salt ponds and managed wet lands adjacent to the Bay.