

Process Paper

Although I live in Southern California, I have visited the San Francisco Bay Area many times, and I was pleased to discover that although eight million people live there, there is much open and natural space. When I first read about the Bay, I was instantly captivated by the story of how it had been heavily polluted and filled from the 1850s through the 1960s, until people protested against its continued destruction. I was inspired by Sylvia McLaughlin, Kay Kerr, and Esther Gulick's stand in history.

I watched the excellent documentary *Saving the Bay* and did online research about conservation of the Bay. I discovered that the archive is kept at U.C. Berkeley, and I visited libraries there, the Bancroft Library/University Archives and the Bioscience and Natural Resources Library. I found a wealth of information in the BL/UA, including original newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photos from Save San Francisco Bay Association. From the BNRL I obtained the 28th Albright Lectureship in Conservation, a lecture given by the women. A U.C. Berkeley librarian pointed me to useful online audiovisual archives: the California Light and Sound Archive and Calisphere. I visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model, a huge hydraulic scale model of San Francisco Bay, built in the 1950s to test the environmental outcomes of proposed changes to the Bay before there were computer models. I visited the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, a reclaimed landfill restored to an ecosystem for native plants and animals. I interviewed David Lewis, Executive Director of Save the

Bay, Dr. Terry McAteer, the son of Senator McAteer who passed the McAteer-Petris Act, and William Angeloni, former Bay Model Chief Engineer. David Lewis provided me with excellent information about the motivation and inspiration of the women. Dr. Terry McAteer gave me insight into his father's work as a lawmaker, a businessman, and not necessarily an environmentalist. William Angeloni provided me with excellent information about the Bay Model. He worked there from the 1950s-1990s and was a first-hand witness to how the Bay Model was used to test various plans. I also exchanged emails with Jeanie Shaterian, Sylvia McLaughlin's daughter, who gave me information about how the women viewed themselves and their cause.

I chose to do a website because I like working with computers, and I am fairly competent with them. I also wanted to explore the possibilities of an interactive multimedia presentation, like embedding videos and audio, in my project.

My topic connects to the theme because these women took a stand against the destruction of the Bay at a time when established environmental groups were more focused on conservation of pristine wilderness, rather than urban areas. Although they were not environmentalists, they motivated many other citizens to join their cause and used their personal connections and skills to convince lawmakers to produce impactful laws. Their lasting legacy of a restored bay and increased awareness of Urban Conservation is their gift for generations to come.