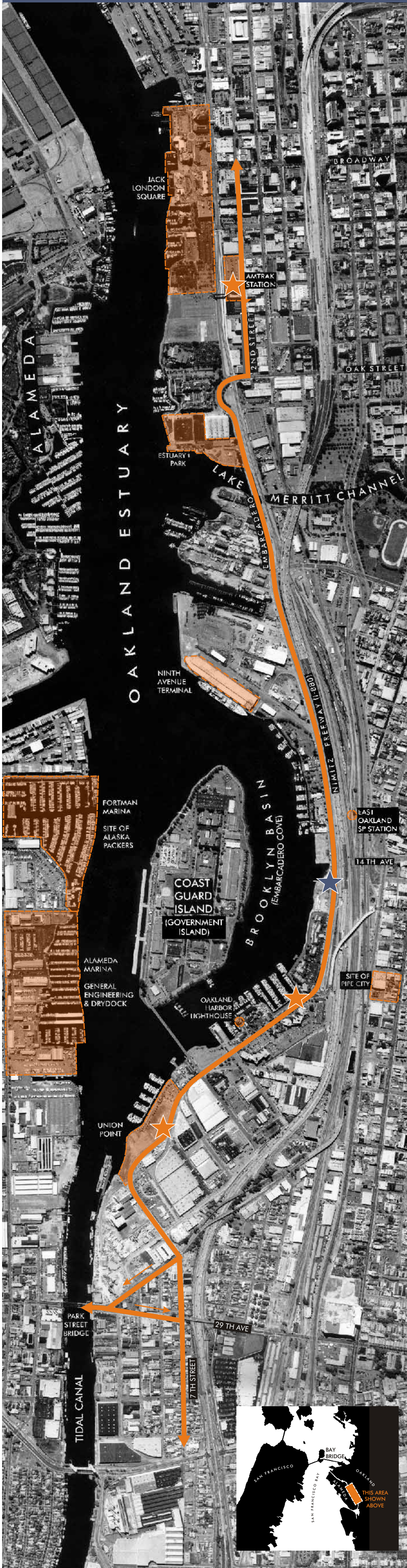


# WATER & RAILS



## Rancho Heritage

Under Spanish and Mexican rule, much of the East Bay, including all of present-day Oakland, lay within the boundaries of Rancho San Antonio. Granted in 1820 to Luis Maria Peralta, this 45,000 acre cattle ranch was one of the largest ranchos on San Francisco Bay.

The Peraltas shipped out cattle hides and tallow from the Embarcadero de San Antonio, a small boat landing located near this spot at the foot of present-day 14th Avenue. These products were sold to British and American traders who sailed around Cape Horn. The hides were used to make shoes and saddles, and the tallow was turned into candles and soap. Look across the freeway to the bluffs that formed the original shoreline--the site of the embarcadero.

During the Gold Rush (1848-1854), two pioneer settlements, San Antonio and Clinton, were established on the cove. The thriving lumber village of San Antonio grew up around the old embarcadero. In the nearby hills were groves of giant redwoods, some of which were large enough to be seen by vessels entering the Golden Gate. By 1860, these trees had all been logged, providing lumber for the new towns and cities around the bay.

## Transportation



East Oakland Station, about 1910

Following the arrival of the railroad in 1869, the shoreline of Brooklyn Basin became an industrial district. By World War I, lumber yards, boat yards, and factories lined the shore. The railroad tracks were built on filled land bordering the original shoreline bluffs. The palm tree marks the site of Southern Pacific's East Oakland station (shown above). The building has been moved to old Embarcadero Cove, a half mile east of here.

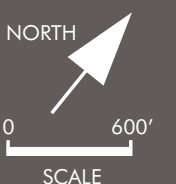


Nimitz Freeway

The East Shore Freeway, now the Nimitz Freeway, was built shortly after World War II. It was the East Bay's first major highway. The view above shows the freeway in the 1950s. The Port of Oakland built a new roadway, the Embarcadero, to improve access between the freeway and the harbor. This is the road that you are now on.

### KEY

- BIKE ROUTE
- YOU ARE HERE
- LOCATIONS OF SIGNS



For more information on the history of Oakland's waterfront, visit the Oakland Library's History Room and the Oakland Museum of California.

DATE OF AERIAL PHOTO: 6/1998