

# Lafayette, California

## People and Place

### *Location*

The City of Lafayette is located in Contra Costa County, situated approximately 22 miles northeast of San Francisco and 75 miles southwest of Sacramento. Lafayette covers 15.2 square miles of land and lies at 37°53'60"N, 122°05'60"W.

### *Demographic Profile*

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census the population of Lafayette was 23,463. Between 1990 and 2000, U.S. Census data reports that the population of Lafayette increased 1.7%. In 2000 the percentage of males and females was 48.8% and 51.2% respectively. The racial composition of the population was predominantly White (86.8%), followed by Asian (8.2%), Black or African American (0.5%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (0.2%), and Pacific Islander (0.1%). A small percentage, 0.8%, identified themselves as belonging to some other race and 3.3% classified themselves as belonging to two or more races. Overall, 4% of the population identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The median age of the population in 2000 was 42.3 which was higher than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. In 2000 approximately 30% of the population was between the ages of 40 and 54. Of the foreign-born population (10.8%), 17.2% were born in China, 11.8% in the United Kingdom, and 6.8% in Canada. A total of 86.4% of the population of Lafayette were living in family households in 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 97% of the population of Lafayette over 18 years of age had received a high school degree or higher, 65.7% had received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 28.4% received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

### *History*

The first inhabitants of San Francisco Bay Area were the Bay Miwok and Costanoan Indians. The Costanoan Indians, today known as the Ohlone, lived along the coast. Six small Bay Miwok tribes that lived along the Bay shared a common language but delineated separate territories based on local watersheds. The Saclans, a subgroup of the Miwok Indians, were indigenous to the Lafayette area. The other Bay Miwok tribes include the Chupcans, Tatcans, Julpuns, Volvons, and the Ompins.<sup>1</sup> The Miwok are known to be the largest "nation" in California and it is said that a "man of any of their tribes or settlements may travel from the Cosumnes to the Fresno and make himself understood without difficulty, so uniform is their language."<sup>2</sup>

In March of 1772 Captain Pedro Fages led a Spanish expedition into the area to determine if the Bay could be circled on land. The Spaniards in this expedition were the first Westerners the Contra Costa Indians had ever seen. Four years later, in 1776, Mission Dolores was founded in San Francisco and in 1795 hundreds of Tatcan Indians (from the Alamo and Danville area) and Lafayette area Saclans went to Mission Delores. An epidemic swept through the Mission shortly after they arrived, killing many of the Indians. Soon afterwards a large number of Saclans left the Mission and became part of a major organized Indian resistance in the East Bay.<sup>3</sup> Resistance to the Spanish included a number of small battles between 1795 and 1810. One of the most severe conflicts was in 1797, in modern-day Lafayette. The Saclans fought a

two-hour battle and in the end were defeated by the Spanish soldiers, who marched their prisoners to Mission San Jose.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were approximately 3000 Miwok in about 40 villages; each village consisted of 75-100 persons.<sup>4</sup> In 1910 the Miwok population was estimated at 699.<sup>5</sup> The Miwok traveled in boats made from tule reeds from which they traveled around the Bay and to Angel Island, the largest island in San Francisco Bay.<sup>6</sup> The diet of the Bay Miwok consisted primarily of nuts, pinole – a meal made of plant seeds, roots, fruit, jack-rabbit, deer, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and several kinds of fish and shellfish. Annual salmon spawning runs were made through Raccoon Strait, just offshore from Angel Island.<sup>7</sup> Fish were taken by gorge-hook (made from bone) and spear, dip nets (bags of netting attached to wooden frames on a handle), and by narcotization. Woven surf nets were also used to catch fish along the open beaches.<sup>8,9</sup>

In 1847, Elam Brown, one of the first Euro-American settlers in Contra Costa County, led a fourteen family wagon train through the Donner Pass. When Brown arrived he bought a 3329 acre Mexican land grant called Rancho Acalanus, which is now almost all of present-day Lafayette. Brown became a farmer and eventually established a steam powered mill on Lafayette Creek. Once the mill was built the commercial center of Lafayette began to grow. The first businesses consisted of a bar, a blacksmith's shop, a general store, and rooming houses. During the 1850s redwood lumber was harvested in Canyon and Moraga, and Lafayette became an ideal spot for people to rest during their journey to Martinez, where the wood was shipped to San Francisco. Benjamin Shreve came to the area after the Gold Rush and built and ran Lafayette's first school. In 1857 he became the postmaster and named the town La Fayette. In 1932 it was changed to today's spelling. Lafayette remained a quiet farming village until the post-World War II building boom when many houses were built in the area. For more information on the area see the El Sobrante and San Francisco Community Profiles.

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the top three occupations in Lafayette for the eligible labor force 16 years of age and over were "management, professional and related occupations" (64.3%), "sales and office occupations" (20.1%), and "service occupations" (7.8%). In 2002 Contra Costa's top five employers were Bio-Rad Laboratories, Bookside Hospital, Chevron, Color Spot Nurseries, and Contra Costa Community College.<sup>10</sup> At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 12.5% of the city's eligible labor force was employed within local, state, or federal governments, all working outside of natural resource industries (agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining). The 2000 U.S. Census reports that only 0.2% of Lafayette's population was employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census 63.8% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 1.6% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population of Lafayette over 16 years of age 35.2% was not in the labor force, slightly less than the national average of 36.1%. For whom poverty status was determined, 2.9% of the city's population was living below the poverty line in 1999. The median household income in 1999 was \$102,107 and the per capita income was \$54,319. There were 9334 housing units according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The percentage of occupied housing units that were owner versus renter occupied were 76.7% and 23.3% respectively. The percent of vacant housing units was 1.9%, of which 16.5% were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

### *Governance*

The City of Lafayette incorporated in 1968. Lafayette operates under the Council-Manager system of local government and the City Manager is appointed by the City Council. Lafayette levies a 8.25% sales and use tax on regular purchases and a 10% transient lodging tax.<sup>11,12</sup> Under Proposition 13 the maximum property tax rate for Contra Costa County is 1% of the property's net taxable value.<sup>13</sup>

California state law assesses commercial vessels, charter boats, and oceanographic research vessels at 4% of their full cash value.<sup>14</sup> Vessels registered in California with either the Department of Motor Vehicles or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are assessed property taxes by the county tax collector where it is moored.<sup>15</sup> Some commercial vessels are also subject to a Ballast Water Management Fee of about \$500 per voyage.<sup>16</sup> California levies a fuel tax of \$0.18 per gallon, a portion of which goes toward marine safety and education programs and boating facility administration and development.<sup>17</sup>

The State of California levies landing taxes that must be paid by fishermen and fish processors involved in the retail sale of fish products. These taxes vary by species and range between \$.0013 and \$.0125 per pound of fish.<sup>18</sup> The California Department of Agriculture also administers two commodity commissions, the California Salmon Council and the California Sea Urchin Commission, which charge fees for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.<sup>19</sup>

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center has laboratories located 78 miles south in Santa Cruz and there is a NMFS Regional Office located approximately 390 miles south in Long Beach. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has a marine field office located about 43 miles south in Belmont. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is 22 miles southwest in San Francisco. Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held approximately 41 miles southwest in Foster City. Lafayette falls under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay, one of the largest and busiest marine safety units in the Coast Guard.

### *Facilities*

Lafayette is accessible by ground and air. The major roads connecting Lafayette to neighboring cities are State Highway 24 and Interstate 80 southwest to San Francisco, and Interstate 680 south to San Jose. The San Francisco International Airport is located 22 miles southwest of the city. The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District provides bus transportation throughout the area. Lafayette also has a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station offering rail service to San Francisco.

The Lafayette School District serves over 3500 kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Acalanes Union High School District has four high schools, two of which serve the neighborhoods of Lafayette. One high school is located in Lafayette and the other lies 5 miles south in Moraga. Diablo Valley College is located 5 miles northeast in Pleasant Hill. The East Bay Municipal Utility District provides freshwater and wastewater services to Lafayette residents. Electricity is supplied to the community by Pacific Gas and Electric. Public safety in the city is administered by the Lafayette Police Department. The nearest hospital, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, is located 4 miles northeast in Walnut Creek. Additional local facilities include the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, city parks, and community centers. There are

no port facilities located in Lafayette however the Ports of Oakland and San Francisco are located 14 and 22 miles south respectively.

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

Landings data for Lafayette were recorded as part of the Other San Francisco Bay and San Mateo County Ports port group which includes the nearby communities of San Mateo, South San Francisco, Pigeon Point, Point Montara, Pescadero, Point San Pedro, Albany, Pleasanton, Pleasant Hill, Danville, Fairfield, Vacaville, Concord, San Bruno, Rockaway Beach Palo Alto, Los Gatos, Alamo, Fremont, San Francisco area, Oakley, Port Costa, Antioch Bridge, Crockett, Antioch, Rio Vista, Martinez, Pittsburg, Collinsville, Benicia, Bird Landing, Suisun City, Brentwood, Walnut Creek, Pinole, Alviso, Daly City, Campbell, Martins Beach, San Carlos, Moss Beach, Redwood City, Emeryville, McNears Point, China Camp, Vallejo, Rodeo, El Sobrante, Newark, Yountville, Livermore, Glen Cove, Los Altos, Burlingame, Poster City, Pacifica, Sunnyvale, Hayward, Mountain View, San Jose, San Leandro, Napa, El Cerrito, Farallone Island. Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic (confidential/confidential/1), crab (confidential/confidential/1), groundfish (1 t/\$2112/5), salmon (confidential/confidential/3), shrimp (438 t/\$245,851/5), and other species (8 t/\$16,380/12). There are no fish processors operating in Lafayette. See the San Francisco Community Profile for more information regarding processors in the San Francisco Bay Area. See the El Sobrante and San Jose Community Profiles for additional information on these communities.

Lafayette residents owned three vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including one vessel that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Lafayette residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/1/2), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (0/0/1).<sup>20</sup>

One Lafayette resident held a single Federally Managed Groundfish fishery permit in 2000. In the same year recorded data indicates that the number of Lafayette residents that held permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/0/2), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/7), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/0/2).<sup>21</sup>

According to available data, 15 state permits were registered to Lafayette residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/0/2), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/10), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/0/2).<sup>22</sup>

### *Sportfishing*

In Lafayette sportfishermen are involved in both West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. There are two sportfishing license agents located in Lafayette. There were zero Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels licensed in Lafayette 2002 and 2003.

### *Subsistence*

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Lafayette is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term “recreational” to refer to fishermen that do not earn revenue from their catch

but rather fish for pleasure and/or to provide food for personal consumption. Therefore information on subsistence fishing in California is captured, to some degree, within the above sportfishing data.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 Lafayette residents were scarcely involved in North Pacific fisheries. Lafayette residents owned zero vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries and available data indicates that zero landings were made by community members in 2000.

Two Lafayette residents served as crewmembers in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year one community residents held a single registered state permit, a salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit.

### *Sportfishing*

A total of 76 Alaska sportfishing licenses were purchased by Lafayette community members in 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Cuff, D. 2003. Scholars shed light on ancient residents. *Contra Costa Times*, September 20.

<sup>2</sup> Access Genealogy. 2004. California Indian Tribes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/californiatribes.htm> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>3</sup> City of San Ramon. No date. The Sword and the Cross: The Hispanic era in San Ramon Valley from 1772-1830, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/srhistory/sword1.html> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Rohnert Park Historical Society. 2000. Miwok Villages, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.rphist.org/html/miwok.html> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>5</sup> Curtis, Edward. 1924. The Miwok, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.yosemite.ca.us/history/curtis/> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>6</sup> Angel Island Association. 2003. Miwok Information, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.angelisland.org/miwok.htm> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>7</sup> Angel Island Association. 2003. Miwok Information, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.angelisland.org/miwok.htm> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>8</sup> Curtis, Edward. 1924. The Miwok, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.yosemite.ca.us/history/curtis/> (access date - January 2005).

<sup>9</sup> Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. No date. History of the Coast Miwok at Point Reyes, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science\\_Folder/Coast\\_Miwok.html](http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science_Folder/Coast_Miwok.html) (access date - January 2005).

<sup>10</sup> California Employment Development Department. 2002. Major Employers in Contra Costa County, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/majorer/contrer.htm> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>11</sup> California State Board of Equalization. 2004. California City and County Sales and Use Tax Rates, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub71.pdf> (access date - July 2004).

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- <sup>12</sup> California State Board of Equalization. 2001. California Counties Transient Lodging Tax Revenue, Rate and Date for the Fiscal Year 2000-01, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/adhoc/county/0001cotranslodgtax.pdf> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>13</sup> Office of the County Assessor. 2004. 2004-2005 Annual Report, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.scc-assessor.org/scc/assets/docs/653748ARfinal0405.pdf> (access date - November 2004).
- <sup>14</sup> State of California Board of Equalization. No date. Property Tax Rules, Rule 151. Vessels Subject to the Four Percent Assessment, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/r151.pdf> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>15</sup> California Department of Motor Vehicles. 2003. How to register a vessel, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/boatsinfo/boatreg.htm#how> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>16</sup> State of California Board of Equalization. 2004. Ballast Water Management Fee, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/bllstweb12.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation. 2001. Provisions Governing the Distribution of State Motor Fuel Tax Receipts: California, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hwytaxes/2001/california.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>18</sup> State of California. No date. Fish and Game Code Section 8040-8070, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycod?section=fgc&group=08001-8070> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>19</sup> State of California Department of Agriculture. 2004. List of Marketing Programs, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/mktbrds.html> (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>20</sup> 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- <sup>21</sup> 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- <sup>22</sup> 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.